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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 7, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

We give You thanks O God for giving us another day. Please help us to use it well.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given. Help them to meet their responsibilities during these days, to attend to the immediate needs and concerns of the moment, all the while enlightened by the majesty of Your creation and Your eternal spirit.

We give You thanks that we all can know and share the fruits of Your spirit, especially in this time the virtue of tolerance and reconciliation, of justice and righteousness, of goodwill and understanding, of patience and loving care for others.

Watch over this House and cause Your blessing to be upon each Member, that they might serve all the people with sincerity and truth.

May all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

PRESIDENT FAILS YOUNG AMERICANS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released the latest jobs report. Sadly, for the past 39 months, our Nation's unemployment rate has remained at or above 8 percent. It is gruesomely clear that the President's failed policies are not working for young Americans but, instead, are destroying jobs, with 54 percent of college graduates under 25 unemployed or underemployed.

The most recent report confirmed that more than 500,000 of discouraged Americans have given up searching for a job in the last 2 months. If the labor force remained the same size as 2009, when the President was sworn into office, our Nation's unemployment rate would be at 11 percent. The President's policies are failing young Americans with shrinking jobs and growing deficits with devastating interest payments.

It is past time for the liberal-controlled Senate to take up the House Republicans' more than 30 bills which will help create jobs.

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

CONGRATULATING ZIPPO MANUFACTURING COMPANY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Zippo Manufacturing Company, which is located in the Fifth District of Pennsylvania, city of Bradford, McKean County.

Zippo employs approximately 900 people in Bradford, which is a community of approximately 8,000 people, making it the largest employer in the county.

Zippo has been making lighters since 1895 and became very popular during World War II. Next month, Zippo will celebrate the production of its 500 millionth windproof pocket lighter at the company's manufacturing plant. The actual 500 millionth Zippo lighter will be classic brushed chrome with two-tone engraving and an individual serial number of ''1.''

But it's not just the number that Zippo and its employees will celebrate; it's that over the years Zippo has developed an iconic brand; it's that consumers in over 160 countries around the world buy Zippo products; it's that despite the drastic downturn in the economy, Zippo, through hard work and innovation, has continued to successfully grow its business, support our domestic manufacturers and the strength of our communities.

For these reasons, Zippo CEO Gregory Booth was recently nominated to serve on the U.S. Department of Commerce's Manufacturing Council.

Printed on recycled paper.

I want to congratulate Zippo on this tremendous accomplishment.

HONORING LEONA MARTENS

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Leona Martens of Greeley, Colorado.

Leona faithfully served the community of Weld County for 22 years as the executive director of the Weld County Food Bank. While Leona lost her battle against cancer, her legacy and influence will continue the fight against hunger for generations to come. Under Leona's leadership, the Weld Food Bank grew its annual distribution from 40,000 to 8 million pounds of food. She expanded their operating facilities to 35,000 square feet, where they serve more than 10,000 residents each month.

The tremendous leadership, dedication, and passion she held for the citizens of Weld County is unrivaled, and the county has truly reaped the benefit of her work.

I had the opportunity to tour the food bank—part of it is named after her and in her memory—this past December and fully agree with her colleagues and friends who described Leona as ''an amazing leader with tremendous vision,'' a ''tireless worker,'' and ''true friend.''

Thanks to Leona's passion and tireless effort, Weld County citizens are ensured continued service and dedication.

It is my honor to stand here today to remember and recognize Leona Martens for her incredible vision, hard work, and passion to improve the lives of the citizens of Greeley, Colorado.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE KAY GRANGER, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable KAY GRANGER, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
April 26, 2012.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, for deposition testimony.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is not consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

KAY GRANGER,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE PETE SESSIONS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable PETE SESSIONS, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, for deposition testimony.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is not consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

PETE SESSIONS,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM SPECIAL ASSISTANT, THE HONORABLE ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Harry T. Spikes, II, Special Assistant, the Honorable ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 27, 2012.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for documents and testimony issued by the District Court of Maryland, Baltimore County, in connection with civil litigation currently pending before that court.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that because the subpoena is not ''material and relevant,'' compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

HARRY T. SPIKES, II,
Special Assistant.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 27, 20912.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for documents and testimony issued by the District Court of Maryland, Baltimore County, in connection with civil litigation currently pending before that court.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that because the subpoena is not ''material and relevant,'' compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS,
Member of Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 105) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 105

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

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR EVENT TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for an event on June 24, 2012, to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARPER. 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 Mississippi.

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 105, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall on June 24 to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha, a legendary figure in Hawaiian history and culture.

On June 11, the people of Hawaii will celebrate the 96th annual Kamehameha Day, commemorating the life of Kamehameha the Great, who between 1795 and 1810 unified the islands into the kingdom of Hawaii. Known for being a fierce warrior who fought for unity and independence, King Kamehameha was highly regarded for ruling with fairness and compassion. His law, known as the Law of the Splintered Paddle, specifically protected civilians in wartime and is today a model for human rights throughout the world.

A statue of King Kamehameha graces the Capitol Visitor Center as part of the National Statuary Hall Collection. In adopting the resolution, we will authorize the use of this space for the celebration of his life and accomplishments.

I thank the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) for introducing this concurrent resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 105 authorizes the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a celebration on June 24, 2012. This will be the 43rd time that we have celebrated the birthday of King Kamehameha in the Nation's Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, Hawaii has a unique history. We are, of course, the 50th State, and we are the only State that comes with a kingdom as part of our history. June 11 is the recognized State holiday. King Kamehameha was born around 1758, and he unified the eight Hawaiian Islands by 1810. He is also known as King Kamehameha I. His birthday has been celebrated for about 140 years in my State, beginning in 1871 by his great-grandson King Kamehameha V.

The statue that you see in the Capitol Visitor Center today has also a fascinating history. It was commissioned for the then-kingdom by Thomas Gould, and he finished it in 1880. It was made in Italy. He was an American sculptor. The ship actually sank that was bringing the first Kamehameha statue to Hawaii, and in 1883, the second statue made its way to Hawaii. What stands in Emancipation Hall today is molded from the second statue. That is the official statue that stands in front of what we call Ali'iolani Hale, which is the home of the Hawaii Supreme Court. The first statue was discovered and stands in the Big Island, which is the birthplace of King Kamehameha.

As you look at the statue—and I invite everyone to do that—you will see that it stands approximately 8½ feet tall. He has a helmet and a feather cape, and they are made from very rare bird feathers. His left hand has a spear, and that was his statement that he was ready to defend his kingdom. But his right hand is open in a gesture, and that is to welcome people, and that is what we call the gesture of, of course, aloha.

Lei draping is the customary celebration which will also happen on June 24 here, and what you see there is a tradition that has become almost uniquely Hawaii's. Lei is the way that we bond. And the lei draping is symbolic of the bonds that people have in Hawaii, and it is a very close and strong bond. The act of presenting a lei is something that many identify with Hawaii as they come to visit our beautiful islands.

As we all know, the President was born in Hawaii, and on June 20, 2010, he issued Proclamation 8534 in honor of the bicentennial of the uniting of the islands by King Kamehameha. This is what the President had to say in that proclamation:

> On this bicentennial King Kamehameha Day, we celebrate the history and heritage of the Aloha State, which has immeasurably enriched our national life and culture. The Hawaiian narrative is one of both profound triumph and, sadly, deep injustice. It is the story of Native Hawaiians oppressed by crippling disease, aborted treaties, and the eventual conquest of their sovereign kingdom. These grim milestones remind us of an unjust time in our history, as well as the many pitfalls in our Nation's long and difficult journey to perfect itself. Yet, through the peaks and valleys of our American story, Hawaii's steadfast sense of community and mutual support shows the progress that results when we are united in a spirit of limitless possibility.

This particular celebration is also very special for the people of Hawaii, and I believe for Members of this House as well. Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA will be retiring at the end of his term, and as many of you are aware of, he served 14 years in this House and the last 22 in the United States Senate. He is the epitome of aloha. He is the epitome of everything that is good about Hawaii.

In honor of him, I would like to read a portion of what he said in the June 2009 Kamehameha Lei Draping Ceremony here because I think he gave a different perspective of King Kamehameha that many of us do not know.

□ 1610

He said:

> As a military leader and statesman, Kamehameha was a brilliant visionary who pursued opportunities for progress. He pioneered military strategies that included unique flanking tactics and the use of cannons on the bow of his canoes. Those revolutionary concepts enabled Kamehameha to succeed in battle and are principles recognized and taught to this day at West Point. Beyond his military accolades, Kamehameha understood that if his people were going to thrive, they must be unified. Through governance, Kamehameha brought Native Hawaiians together and established an environment where they could perpetuate their heritage and way of life. Under his leadership, the government strengthened its autonomy and self-sufficiency. These actions set the kingdom's framework for international commerce and diplomacy that brought peace and prosperity to his people.

As we all know, Senator AKAKA is the only Native Hawaiian who serves in the Congress of the United States.

It is very important for us to know that King Kamehameha was very thoughtful, even in the days that he was uniting the Hawaiian Islands. He is known in Hawaii for the Law of the Splintered Paddle, also called Kanawai Mamalahoe. What he basically said was that we have a responsibility to protect civilians at the time of war, that every human life was precious, and it was wrong for the powerful to mistreat the weak.

The context of this story is also very moving. Someone who didn't know who he was actually hit him on the head with a paddle and, of course, it splintered. When they found out that they had hit him, they all thought that their lives would come to an end. But instead, he decreed the Law of the Splintered Paddle. This is the visionary who united the Hawaiian Islands.

By this resolution, we honor this great person and also all that makes Hawaii special and unique.

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

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 105, to authorize the use of the Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the Lei Draping Ceremony on June 24, 2012, to celebrate the birthday of the great warrior, King Kamehameha.

I want to thank my colleagues, Ms. HANABUSA and Ms. HIRONO, for their leadership, and to all the members of the Hawaiian congressional delegation for their support of this important legislation. I also want to take this opportunity to commend my good friend, Senator DANIEL AKAKA, for his stewardship on this and many other issues benefiting the people of Hawaii. Senator AKAKA has been an integral part of the Lei Draping Ceremony for the past 36 years, and it is befitting that his outstanding service and dedication to the people of Hawaii will be recognized in next month's ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 40 years, the Hawaiian congressional delegation and the Hawaii State Society of Washington, D.C., has hosted the Lei Draping Ceremony on or about the second week of June to coincide with the celebration of King Kamehameha Day in

the State of Hawaii. Because King Kamehameha's statue has been moved to the Emancipation Hall of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, it now requires the enactment of a congressional resolution to authorize this annual celebration; hence, House Concurrent Resolution 105 is being considered before the House today.

Mr. Speaker, for some 2,000 years, the Hawaiian Islands existed under some tremendous rivalries among the Native Hawaiian warring chiefs. After almost 10 years of fighting, King Kamehameha brought all of the Hawaiian Islands under one rule, thus fulfilling an ancient prophecy that one day a high chief will be born and will defeat the chiefs of the other islands and thereby bring all the eight Hawaiian Islands under one rule.

Mr. Speaker, King Kamehameha, while a mountain of a man—standing at 6 feet, 8 inches tall and weighing about 300 pounds and a great warrior of many feats—perhaps is better known for his foresight and for the peace and stability he brought to the Hawaiian Islands. He was shrewd in building prosperity for his people by encouraging agricultural development and promoting commercial trade in Europe, and even with the United States.

While he was open to new ideas, he was cautious and circumspect in the old ways. It was said that before the unification of the Hawaiian Islands in 1782, King Kamehameha, during a raid, came across two unarmed fishermen, and as he attempted to slay the fishermen, his foot was caught between two rocks. In defending themselves, the two fishermen immediately hit King Kamehameha on the head with a large paddle, broke it, and left him for dead. King Kamehameha survived, and some 12 years later, the fishermen were caught and brought before the King. Rather than seeking revenge on the fishermen, King Kamehameha set them free with gifts. From then on, King Kamehameha, declared what is known now today in Hawaiian history as the Law of the Splintered Paddle, or Mamalahoe, as known among the Hawaiian people. The Law of the Splintered Paddle has become the basis of many modern human rights laws regarding the treatment of unarmed men, women, and children and that they are not to be harmed when traveling along the roadside.

In his time, King Kamehameha strived to maintain the sovereignty of his people. He created a unified legal system and did not allow non-Hawaiians to own land. These efforts came at the height of colonialism in the Pacific region, when one after another Pacific island succumbed to the colonial powers.

Mr. Speaker, I submit to you and to my colleagues and to the American people that the Native Hawaiian, King Kamehameha, was one of the greatest warrior chiefs who has ever lived among the Polynesian people. For anyone who has ever visited the Hawaiian Islands—now, proudly, the 50th State of our Nation—just think that during the late 1700s, he, with a fleet of some 900 war canoes and with some 20,000 warriors, embarked upon one of the greatest feats in military history—to unite the Hawaiian Islands under Kamehameha's rule, which took almost 10 years to achieve. And for some 100 years, King Kamehameha and his descendents ruled the Hawaiian Islands as an independent and sovereign nation.

King Kamehameha, indeed, was a true warrior of the first order. He was a master of the ancient Hawaiian martial arts, known to the Hawaiians as lua. We Samoans call it limalama. He fulfilled another prophesy, whereby anyone who would move what was known as the Naha Stone, which weighed only 4,500 pounds—Kamehameha moved the stone, again, fulfilling another prophecy that whoever was able to move the Naha Stone would rule the Hawaiian Islands. Kamehameha fulfilled that prophesy.

Of interest also, Mr. Speaker, King Kamehameha's military tactics are still being studied at our West Point Military Academy at New York.

In sports, he was a master surfer. In those days, the surfboards weighed over a hundred pounds. Can you imagine a 6-foot, 8-inch man surfing with a board that is about a hundred pounds in weight?

Another famous ancient Hawaiian sport was to jump off the high cliffs just to jump in the ocean. But one of the sports that King Kamehameha was very famous for—specialized in—was the idea that three spears would be thrown at you, and what he would do is let two spears pass you, then he would carry two spears, catch the other two spears, and bury the remaining two spears. Try that, Mr. Speaker, and see if you might be able to do this.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is I want to thank the gentlelady from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) for her sponsorship of this legislation. Let's pass House Concurrent Resolution 105.

And I thank my friend from Mississippi for his assistance in managing this bill.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. However, I would like to, first of all, thank the gentleman from Mississippi for managing this legislation and bringing it to the floor; Speaker BOEHNER, Chairman LUNGREN, and Ranking Member BRADY for allowing it to come forward as well; and the Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Police, and all others who will assist in this matter. And, of course, the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we'll pass this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, Aloha. I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 105, which authorizes the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor's Center for the annual Kamehameha Day Lei Draping on June 24, 2012.

The event has been held on or around June 11th to coincide with the celebration of Kamehameha Day, a state holiday in Hawaii. The Kamehameha Day Lei Draping has been hosted by the Hawaii Congressional delegation and the Hawaii State Society of Washington DC since 1969; it parallels the lei draping ceremonies taking place at the Kamehameha statues on the islands of Oahu and Hawaii.

Commonly believed to be born in about 1758, Kamehameha came from a family of alii (chiefs) on the island of Hawaii and was raised to become a skilled warrior in the traditional ways of combat. In 1778, as a young man, Kamehameha met the world-renowned navigator, Captain James Cook, the first European to visit Hawaii. Kamehameha later led a successful campaign for control of his native island of Hawaii and subsequently conquered the islands of Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe, and Oahu. With the agreement by King Kaumualii of Kauai to accept Kamehameha's rule in 1810, the island chain became a united kingdom for the first time. The islands became known collectively as Hawaii from that point on.

Under Kamehameha's reign, the islands became more involved in international commerce and a center for the sandalwood trade. As his kingdom opened up to the world and began adopting many western ways, Kamehameha remained an ardent defender of traditional Hawaiian culture and way of life, including restoring sacred sites. In the words of famed British explorer Captain George Vancouver, King Kamehameha was a man with "an open, cheerful and sensible mind; combined with great generosity of disposition." Greatly mourned at the time of his passing in 1819, he continues to be revered in Hawaii and remains a respected historical figure today. A holiday in his honor was decreed by Kamehameha V, his great-grandson, in 1871.

This year marks the 43rd year of the annual Kamehameha Lei Draping Ceremony, which brings together people from Hawaii from all over the Washington area. Many also travel from the islands to take part in this beautiful showcase of traditional Hawaiian culture, including hula performances, traditional Hawaiian music, and honorary chants.

This yearly celebration would not be possible without the help and assistance of the outstanding staff of the Committee on House Administration, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and the Office of the Sergeant At Arms. We thank them again for their support this year.

A concurrent resolution must be passed to authorize the use of the space for this event due to the Kamehameha statue location in Emancipation Hall.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 105.

□ 1620

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 105.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 106) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 106

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

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

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

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on June 16, 2012, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

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

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

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

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

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

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

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

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

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 106.

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

There was no objection.

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

H. Con. Res. 106 would authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on June 16, 2012.

This event occurs annually on the Capitol Grounds. The Soap Box Derby allows children to show off their dedication, hard work, and creativity as they compete for trophies. And as someone who has participated in derbies myself, Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. The winners of each division are then qualified to compete in the National Soap Box Derby.

I am excited to urge my colleagues to support passage of this resolution.

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

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

I am delighted to support House Concurrent Resolution 106 which authorizes use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on June 16, 2012. I would also like to offer my appreciation to the majority and to acknowledge the efforts of Mr. HOYER, who has been a consistent champion for his constituents in this event, and the entire delegation from this region, who supports this event every year.

On the date of the event, children and young adults from the Greater Washington area race down Constitution Avenue to test their craftsmanship in hand-designed and -constructed soap box vehicles in the Annual Soap Box Derby. Children between the ages of 8 and 17 will be competing for the opportunity to race in the National All-American Soap Box Derby held every August in Akron, Ohio.

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

I strongly support H. Con. Res. 106 and urge passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. I thought that was compelling, Mr. Speaker, and I am very excited that we are going to hear next from a gentleman who has been a big champion of the Soap Box Derby for many moons now.

With that, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. HOYER. I thank the Representative of Washington, D.C., for yielding to me, the distinguished gentlelady, Ms. NORTON, and I want to thank my friend, Congresswoman HERRERA BEUTLER from Washington State who chairs the subcommittee, and thank her very much for facilitating this coming to the floor and thank her very much for her kind remarks as well.

Mr. Speaker—and I am pleased to call you ''Mr. Speaker''—I rise in strong support of this resolution which I am proud to sponsor, and I have sponsored for many, many years. This resolution allows the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to hold its 71st Annual Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on the Capitol Grounds on June 16.

This is, and I think everybody who has been involved with the Soap Box Derby knows, a wonderful tradition that brings young people from around the area to the Capitol for a fun and educational event. It has taken place since 1938, when Norman Rocca won the inaugural race, besting 223 other contestants as his soap box racer crossed the finish line.

That race has continued for over 70 years, and it has inspired thousands of the region's young people to learn the physics behind gravity racing and the engineering used to design soap box racers.

As a Nation that wants to make things—and as the Speaker knows, I have a Make It in America agenda that I keep trying to sell that is bipartisan, and I think all of us agree that we want to make more things in America—if we are going to make more things in America and be able to export them, we will have to have people who make things. What a wonderful opportunity this is for young people to participate in making something that will then have them be successful, or, in this sense, in the race, make it, win the race.

So I think this is a wonderful enterprise. It brings young people together with their parents and teachers, and it teaches sportsmanship and hard work and pride of accomplishment. America's soap box derbies have been called the ''greatest amateur racing event in the world,'' and we continue celebrating that tradition June 16 here in Washington.

The spirit of competition that fuels these racers is the same spirit that has long energized our Nation's entrepreneurs and innovators. The young people who participate in these derbies are often sponsored by groups from their communities who recognize in them great promise for the future.

I continue to be incredibly proud of those from Maryland's Fifth District who participate, but, indeed, from the District of Columbia, Virginia, the surrounding areas. We have celebrated a number of soap box derby champions from the Fifth District, including the

winners from 2007, 2008, and 2009. We have broken our string, but maybe we will get it back. But everybody is a winner. The winners in 2007 and 2008, Kacie Rader and Courtney Rayle, respectively, went on to win the national championship.

I want to thank those Members who have cosponsored this resolution, my good friends from our area, not only Ms. NORTON, who has been one of our leaders, but also Representatives GERRY CONNOLLY, DONNA EDWARDS, JIM MORAN, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and FRANK WOLF. And again, I thank my good and dear friend from Washington State for her leadership on this; and my colleague and fellow Washington area representative, we are a team on this, and I want to thank Ms. NORTON for her extraordinary leadership for not only the District of Columbia but of our region, and on so many important issues to this country.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the bipartisanship of this bill. To my good friend, the minority whip from Maryland, I can only say that the championship that your own district brought back is enough to make us think that our area teams might one day have a championship.

□ 1630

We know this much: these students have to construct these soap boxes themselves. I mean, this is your STEM leaders still to come, the engineers of the future.

I have no further speakers, and I appreciate all of the support of our good friends on the other side.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage of this resolution. And with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 106.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4097) to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4097

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 ''John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2012''.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION PROJECT FOR JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

Section 3 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76i) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) EXPANSION PROJECT.—

''(1) AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of this subsection, the Board may undertake such activities as may be necessary to construct the expansion project.

''(B) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD.—The Board may construct the expansion project, and shall be responsible for the planning, design, engineering, and construction of the expansion project.

''(C) LIMITATIONS.—

''(i) MISSION.—All activities carried out under this paragraph shall be within the mission of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to serve as the national center for the performing arts.

''(ii) FUNDING.—The costs of planning, design, engineering, and construction of the expansion project shall be paid for using non-appropriated funds.

''(2) ANNUAL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.—

''(A) ESTIMATES.—Before awarding a contract for construction of the expansion project, the Board shall estimate any additional annual operations and maintenance costs (or savings) associated with the project.

''(B) BUDGET REQUESTS.—The Board shall account for any additional costs identified under subparagraph (A) in making a budget request for fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year thereafter.

''(C) BUDGET PRIORITIES.—The Board shall base a final determination on whether to proceed with the expansion project on the ability of the Board to accommodate any additional costs identified under subparagraph (A) within the other budget priorities of the Board.

''(3) ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Board may acknowledge private contributions used in carrying out the expansion project in the interior of the project, but may not acknowledge such private contributions on the exterior of the project. Any acknowledgment of private contributions under this paragraph shall be consistent with the requirements of section 4(b).

''(4) EXPANSION PROJECT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'expansion project' means an addition to the south end of the building of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts that—

''(A) is less than 100,000 square feet;

''(B) will improve the existing (as of the date of enactment of this subsection) accessibility and education functions of the Center; and

''(C) will become part of the existing (as of the date of enactment of this subsection) structure of the Center.''.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 13 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76r) is amended by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

''(a) MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND SECURITY.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Board to carry out section 4(a)(1)(H) $22,379,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

''(b) CAPITAL PROJECTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Board to carry out subparagraphs (F) and (G) of section 4(a)(1) $13,588,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014.''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4097.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, today I am pleased to stand before you and offer for consideration of the House H.R. 4097, which would reauthorize the John F. Kennedy Center through 2014.

Everyone knows the Kennedy Center. It is one of the most outstanding national and cultural treasures that we have in our Capital City. I am pleased to be the sponsor of what I consider important legislation for several reasons.

First of all, in Congress, we get to do some exciting things. As chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, within our committee we have six subcommittees, and one does oversee public buildings. We've had a lot of public consternation—and rightfully so—with some of our public buildings programs under the General Services Administration. I was home last week, and everybody in America recalls the guy in the hot tub thumbing his nose at Congress and the taxpayers. That's a bad example of behavior and wasteful expenditures of taxpayers' dollars. But I'm pleased to be here to say that there are many in government that do have programs that are very beneficial for the country, and one is the Kennedy Center. What an incredible institution.

As the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I get to sit on their board of trustees. Actually, I've gone to their meetings and see how they operate. Most people don't know, but most of their programs are funded through private donations, not public donations, although the building does stay under the responsibility of the Federal Government.

A lot of folks don't know a lot about the history of the Kennedy Center. The Kennedy Center—and I learned this being on the board—was actually an idea of a Republican President. Dwight David Eisenhower, in the 1950s, was determined to create a national cultural center in our Nation's Capital. This center was the idea and the genesis of one of our Presidents. Probably most people don't know that. I learned that in the rededication of the Eisenhower Theater within the Kennedy Center. After many years, it was renovated, again, mostly through private funds and donations.

I actually saw an old clip of President Eisenhower when he came up with a plan for a national cultural center. Subsequently after that, of course, we had the assassination of our beloved President Kennedy. In 1964, they began work. In 1971, they actually opened the center and named it the Kennedy Center in honor of our late President. But a little bit about the history.

I'm also excited about this proposal because this legislation authorizes one of the first additions I know of. I know we've done some repairs and some renovations, but we're actually talking about an addition to the Kennedy Center, and it's going to be funded with private money. Only private funds will be raised for this. So it's exciting to see a public-private partnership and the great leadership of the Kennedy Center.

I have to pay a little bit of tribute to Michael Kaiser, the president. This guy works day and night to make everything happen at the Kennedy Center. And he, of course, reports to the chairman of the board, who is David Rubenstein. He does a magnificent job corralling some of the leaders of our Nation, those in business and free enterprise that come in and through their donations support the Kennedy Center.

It's incredible—Washington, D.C. programs. It truly has made the Nation's Capital a center for a whole host of cultural activities—dance and theater and symphonic music, and the list goes on and on. And many people across the Nation get to see it in their own living rooms. They don't always get to come to our Nation's Capital, but we've seen those performances that are televised. So it is a rich part of our Nation's Capital, and certainly a rich part of our Nation's culture, and we are now seeing for the first time an addition.

This addition will support the center's educational mission, and that's very important. It will be a benefit, again, both for Washington, D.C., our Nation's Capital, and for the Nation. And internationally they have programs today. The purpose of the expansion is to provide improved facilities of the Kennedy Center by adding approximately 56,000 square feet of space for classrooms, rehearsal rooms, event spaces, and offices. And for the first time, they will have a dedicated area for educational purposes, as I've outlined; other rehearsals and other functions and activities and things that don't fit into some of the theater and some of the existing facilities that they have already in the main building. So the expansion will permit the center to address its growing needs and provide greater accessibility for the center's programs and performances for the general public.

So I'm pretty excited about this proposal. Most people don't know that we worked some years, 15 years, on the visitors center. We also were raising funds. Part of the construction of that visitors center was raising funds privately. Most people wouldn't know that the author of the visitors center was Newt Gingrich, the former Speaker of the House, who made an agreement that half the funds would be raised privately for that visitors center here at the Capitol, and also some public funds. Of course, all that changed with September 11, when the Capitol was attacked and our Nation was attacked, and we had to make some dramatic changes in that whole funding, and security issues that were raised there. But, like the visitors center, we're raising funds. This is totally, again, the private sector that is building this facility and great addition to the Kennedy Center.

So with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The Kennedy Center, a Presidential memorial, is one of the Nation's busiest arts facilities, presenting more than 2,000 performances annually and hosting thousands of theater-goers, visitors, and tourists. In fact, it is considered by many to be the greatest performing arts center in the world.

The Kennedy Center also provides educational programs for both teachers and students from pre-kindergarten through college across the United States.

H.R. 4097 is a bipartisan bill that authorizes the Kennedy Center for a total of $36 million for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 for maintenance, repair, and capital projects only.

□ 1640

These authorization levels are derived from the Kennedy Center's 2001 comprehensive building plan, and the funding is being held flat for fiscal year 2013 and 2014.

The bill also authorizes the Kennedy Center to construct a 100,000-square-foot addition for educational programs, using no Federal funds, and with the same restrictions on naming rights as the rest of the building.

In addition to the Kennedy Center's responsibility to run a national program promoting the arts, it is, first and foremost, a Presidential memorial, and we have a responsibility to fund its maintenance consistent with the dignity of a Presidential memorial. This memorial remains a fitting tribute to President John F. Kennedy, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4097.

Mr. Speaker, I am cosponsor of this bill, but I am pleased to note that the Kennedy Center has gone very national, and it has taken not only its own programs nationally, but it aids arts programs throughout the United States. It raises its own funds, but of course, even if this weren't a Presidential memorial, it is very hard to raise private funds for maintenance and repair of a memorial in Washington. So I think that the flat funding for 2013 and '14 is more than justified.

I'd like to commend President Michael Kaiser, yes, and the board of trustees, once again, on the art services, the cultural services they are bringing across the Nation, as well as to the Nation's Capital.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. In closing, again, I think this is a very significant piece of legislation that does authorize the first addition that I know of to the Kennedy Center. Not only does it do that, it does it with the whole expansion being done with private funds. But we do have to authorize that. Again, the Federal Government is the custodian and trustee of the center.

Also, I think this bill is brought forward in a fiscally responsible approach for maintaining the facility, and we authorize the capital repair and maintenance program for the Kennedy Center at the requested level, and also in a reduction from current spending levels.

So whether it's the cultural center of the Nation, the Kennedy Center, and all other government programs either partially funded, like this, or publicly funded, we've got to do more with less taxpayers' money in a responsible fashion. This legislation does that, and I'm pleased to offer it for consideration of the House.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4097.

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.

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 117) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 117

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

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

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary (in this resolution referred to as the ''sponsor'') shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the 31st Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service (in this resolution referred to as the ''event''), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2011.

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on May 15, 2012, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives

and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

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

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

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

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

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

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

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENHAM. 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 H. Con. Res. 117.

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

There was no objection.

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

H. Con. Res. 117 would authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on May 15, 2012. I'm pleased to be a sponsor of this important resolution.

In 1962, May 15 was designated by President Kennedy as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which it falls as Police Week. The memorial service began in 1982 as a gathering in Senate Park of just 120 survivors and supporters of law enforcement. Today, National Police Week draws tens of thousands of law enforcement officials and their supporters from around the world who travel to the Nation's Capital to participate in events that honor our fallen officers.

The National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, which is sponsored by the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, is one in a series of events which includes the candlelight vigil and seminars. These important events help us to honor and remember the sacrifice of those members of law enforcement around our Nation who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Back home in my district, we recently felt the pain of losing a respected member of the law enforcement community, Deputy Robert Paris. He was slain in the line of duty just a few weeks ago. He was the third sworn officer to be killed while serving with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department. He was known in the community to volunteer for the dangerous work and had requested an assignment in the Civil Division.

When any community loses an officer, it is a tragedy, both for the family and for those whose lives benefited from their service.

Deputy Paris is survived by his parents, Robert, Sr. and Jane; sister, Krista; brother, Eric; and two children.

By passing this legislation, we will be honoring Deputy Paris and all of those who came before him. I urge my colleagues to support passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

House Concurrent Resolution 117 authorizes use of the Capitol Grounds for the 31st Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on May 15 on the West Front of the Capitol, a solemn and respectful public event in our Nation's Capital honoring our heroic law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty in 2011.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, last year, 173 brave men and women were killed in the line of duty. Unfortunately, however, the number of officers killed in the line of duty increased 13 percent from 2010, with this year marking the first time in 14 years where more officers died from firearms-related incidents than from traffic-related incidents. Over 19,000 law enforcement officers have been killed while on duty since the first law enforcement death was recorded in 1791.

The National Peace Officers' Memorial Service is a fitting tribute to the 900,000 current law enforcement officers and all Federal, State, and local peace officers who give their lives in the daily work of protecting our families, our homes, and our workplaces. We honor these officers and their families on the Capitol Grounds for both their service and the ultimate sacrifice that some pay to maintain peace in communities across America.

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

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, these important events help us to honor and remember the sacrifice of the members of law enforcement around our Nation that have made this ultimate sacrifice.

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. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 117.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1650

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 118) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 118

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR DC SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN.

On June 1, 2012, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may jointly designate, the 27th Annual District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (in this resolution referred to as the ''event'') may be run through the Capitol Grounds as part of the journey of the Special Olympics torch to the District of Columbia Special Olympics summer games.

SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITY OF CAPITOL POLICE BOARD.

The Capitol Police Board shall take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the event.

SEC. 3. CONDITIONS RELATING TO PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS.

The Architect of the Capitol may prescribe conditions for physical preparations for the event.

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 118.

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

There was no objection.

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

H. Con. Res. 118 would authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run that will be held on June 1, 2012.

As in years past, the Torch Run will be launched from the West Terrace of the U.S. Capitol and continue through the Capitol Grounds as part of the journey to the 27th Annual D.C. Special Olympics Summer Games.

The Special Olympics is an international organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adults with disabilities through athletics and competition. The Law Enforcement Torch Run began in 1981 when the police chief of Wichita, Kansas, saw an urgent need to raise funds for and to increase the awareness of the Special Olympics. The Torch Run was then quickly adopted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Today, the Torch Run is the largest grassroots effort that raises funds and awareness for the Special Olympics program. The event in D.C. is one of many Law Enforcement Torch Runs throughout the country and across 35 nations.

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

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

This year marks the 27th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit the District of Columbia Special Olympics. The torch relay event is a traditional event organized by law enforcement personnel for the D.C. Special Olympics, which takes place at Catholic University later this month. This event has become a popular event on Capitol Hill and is an integral part of the fundraising efforts for the D.C. Special Olympics, raising thousands of funds through their own sales of t-shirts. Torch Run participants will assemble at the U.S. Capitol Building on June 1, 2012, for opening ceremonies, and then they will proceed to run or walk a 2.3-mile course to Fort McNair.

Each year, approximately 2,500 Special Olympians compete in over a dozen events in the District of Columbia, and more than 1 million children and adults with special needs participate in Special Olympics programs worldwide. The goal of the competitions is to allow mentally challenged individuals to participate in events where they are accepted and respected. Confidence and self-esteem are the building blocks for the Special Olympic Games. The Special Olympics of the District of Columbia have been operating for 43 years and have been providing services to a wide swath of D.C. residents. All programs offered to Special Olympics' athletes are always free of charge.

I am truly and personally pleased to support such a worthwhile organization, and I urge Members of the House to support House Concurrent Resolution 118 as well.

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

Mr. DENHAM. 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. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 118.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CONVEYANCE OF PARCEL, TRACY, CALIFORNIA

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1302) to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1302

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PARCEL, TRACY, CALIFORNIA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) CITY.—The term ''City'' means the city of Tracy, California.

(3) PARCEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''Parcel'' means the approximately 150 acres conveyed to the City for educational or recreational purposes pursuant to section 140 of division C of Public Law 105–277 (112 Stat. 2681–599; 113 Stat. 104; 118 Stat. 335).

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''Parcel'' does not include the approximately 50 acres conveyed to the City for economic development, in which the United States retains no reversionary interest, pursuant to section 140 of division C of Public Law 105–277 (112 Stat. 2681–599; 113 Stat. 104; 118 Stat. 335).

(b) CONVEYANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (c) through (f) of section 140 of division C of Public Law 105–277 (112 Stat. 2681–599; 113 Stat. 104; 118 Stat. 335) and subject to subsection (c), the Administrator may offer to enter into a binding agreement with the City, as soon as practicable, but not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, under which the Administrator may convey to the City, through a deed of release or other appropriate instrument, any reversionary interest retained by the United States in the Parcel, and all other terms, conditions, reservations, and restrictions imposed, in connection with the conveyance of the Parcel.

(2) SURVEY.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the exact acreage and legal description of the Parcel shall be determined by a survey that is satisfactory to the Administrator.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (b), the City shall pay to the Administrator an amount not less than the appraised fair market value of the Parcel, as determined by the Administrator pursuant to an appraisal conducted by a licensed, independent appraiser, based on the highest and best use of the Parcel, as determined by the Administrator.

(2) TREATMENT.—The determination of the Administrator under paragraph (1) regarding the fair market value of the Parcel shall be final.

(d) COST OF CONVEYANCE.—The City shall be responsible for reimbursing the Administrator for the costs associated with implementing this section, including the costs of each applicable appraisal and survey.

(e) PROCEEDS.—

(1) DEPOSIT.—The net proceeds from the conveyance under this section shall be deposited in the Federal Buildings Fund established by section 592(a) of title 40, United States Code.

(2) EXPENDITURE.—The amounts deposited in the Federal Buildings Fund under paragraph (1) shall be available to the Administrator, in amounts specified in appropriations Acts, for expenditure for any lawful purpose consistent with the authority of the Administrator.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Administrator may establish such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (b) as the Administrator considers to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) NO EFFECT ON COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act affects or limits the application of or obligation to comply with any environmental law, including section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. 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 California?

There was no objection.

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

S. 1302 would direct the General Services Administration to sell 150 acres of land in Tracy, California, to the city of Tracy for not less than its appraised fair market value. This property is undeveloped land that was once under the custody and control of the Federal Government. However, the Federal Government maintains a reversionary

interest in the property based on certain usage restrictions.

Through three separate pieces of legislation enacted since 1999, Congress has conveyed the 150 acres to the city of Tracy and has restricted its use of the land to educational and recreational uses only. Over the past decade, the city of Tracy has determined that these uses are no longer feasible, and it would like to utilize the land for economic development, thus adding to its base and to the welfare of the citizens of Tracy. In fact, the city expects significant commercial interest in the property and is optimistic that future development on the land will create hundreds of much-needed jobs.

S. 1302 would remove all restrictions currently imposed on the property by Congress and would transfer complete ownership of the land from the Federal Government to the city of Tracy. Additionally, this legislation advances the goal of the disposing of unneeded Federal property, which is something that Mr. DENHAM, who is with me today, has been very active in.

As we look at the Senate bill passed by the Senate unanimously in August of last year, I believe we see a win-win. The Federal Government takes a piece of land it has no further interest in and that it has, through congressional acts in the past, locked up for specific uses not likely to occur, and we receive full fair market value for the property. This is the way Federal land in excess should be disposed of—sold at fair market value or above and assured to be put to good use by the recipient, which, in this case, is the city of Tracy.

I urge support for this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of this important legislation, which would result in the efficient disposal of a parcel of Federal real property to the city of Tracy, California. It has been outstanding for some years.

The city of Tracy, with a population of 80,000, has been hard hit by the economic recession. Unemployment in and around Tracy stood at 16.2 percent a year ago, a level far higher than the national average. The people of Tracy are looking for every available avenue to revive their economy, and they have found such a stimulus in the potential construction of a solar field.

Congress can assist Tracy in its economic recovery by supporting S. 1302. This bill authorizes the city of Tracy to purchase, without restriction, 150 acres of Federal land previously conveyed by Congress for a specific public benefit use. The city would pay the Federal Government fair market value for the release of this reversionary interest.

□ 1700

The conveyance of land would permit Tracy to build a solar field at the site, a use which enjoys strong local support.

Tracy estimates that construction of a solar field will create approximately 200 jobs, which are much needed in the city. The project will also generate cleaner sources of energy and will alleviate the air-quality challenges that presently afflict that area. These are all powerful reasons to support the legislation.

I urge passage of S. 1302, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from California (Mr. DENHAM), who has been a strong advocate for both the disposal of property in a profitable way and in particular contacted us and asked us to move this legislation with a powerful and convincing argument.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1302, a bill to convey a parcel of land in the city of Tracy.

S. 1302 is commonsense legislation that will be a win for the Federal taxpayer, the local community, and private enterprise. Simply put, this bill allows the city of Tracy to purchase at fair-market value a parcel of land from the Federal Government.

Currently, the government has a reversionary interest in a vacant parcel of its land, and the community of Tracy deeply needs it. The city would like to purchase the land from the government at fair-market value and eliminate the reversionary interest so that the local community can decide what's best for the land. This land will then be leased to a private company to develop a solar project that will provide renewable energy and economic activity to the local community.

I had the opportunity to tour this location with the mayor of Tracy, Brent Ives, who's been working on this for quite some time. He showed how this project will provide a significant economic impact to a community struggling with high rates of unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will solve another problem created by too much government. Local control of this property will put people back to work, benefit the local economy, provide a source of renewable energy, and turn a profit for the taxpayer.

I was proud to be a cosponsor of the House version of this legislation introduced by Mr. MCNERNEY, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and I again urge passage of S. 1302 and yield back the balance of my time.

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

Although this is a small piece of property, it's part of a vast amount of property the Federal Government currently owns, controls, and does not use. So as we take this step today, I hope all of my colleagues in the House and the Senate will look at this as at least a small contribution to a direction we should go, find ways to take government-owned property, get it in private hands, paying property tax, being developed, and creating jobs throughout the areas in which it lies.

As I urge support, I would like to thank my colleague, the gentlelady from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), for her work; I would like to thank the Senate cosponsors, including Senator BOXER, for getting this to us; and I would like to thank Mr. DENHAM for brining it to the floor at this time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for S. 1302, an important bill to facilitate a land transfer in Tracy, California. I was proud to introduce identical companion legislation in the House of Representatives last year, and I am glad to see S. 1302 on a path to final enactment.

S. 1302 allows the city of Tracy to purchase 150 acres of property from the Federal Government. Congress previously conveyed the parcel to the city but placed certain restrictions on its use. This legislation waives these restrictions so long as the city purchases the property at fair market value.

Tracy has long-standing plans to build a solar energy project at the site. Building this solar field will create nearly 200 jobs, improve air quality, and increase the availability of renewable energy in California. S. 1302 will also generate revenue for the Federal treasury. This bill is a win for Tracy and a win for the taxpayers.

S. 1302 is being passed today in the spirit of bicameral, bipartisan cooperation. I would like to thank Senators BOXER and FEINSTEIN for their support of this initiative in the Senate as well as Representatives DENHAM and ISSA for their work here in the House. I look forward to seeing the President sign S. 1302 into law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1302.

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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5326, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013; WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112–464) on the resolution (H. Res. 643) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Concurrent Resolution 105, by the yeas and nays;

House Concurrent Resolution 117, by the yeas and nays;

House Concurrent Resolution 118, by the yeas and nays.

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

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 105) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 376, nays 0, not voting 55, as follows:

[Roll No. 196]

YEAS—376

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moran
Mulvaney
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—55

Ackerman
Bonner
Brown (FL)
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Coble
Ellmers
Filner
Flake
Flores
Frank (MA)
Gallegly
Gosar
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hanna
Hinojosa
Hoyer
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan
Kind
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Landry
Lummis
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
McCarthy (CA)
McHenry
Moore
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Olver
Pascrell
Paul
Pence
Perlmutter
Platts
Poe (TX)
Rohrabacher
Rothman (NJ)
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Slaughter
Speier
Tiberi
Towns

□ 1855

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 196, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 117) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 377, nays 0, not voting 54, as follows:

[Roll No. 197]

YEAS—377

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—54

Ackerman
Andrews
Bonner
Brown (FL)
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Coble
Ellison
Ellmers
Filner
Flake
Frank (MA)
Gosar
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hanna
Hinojosa
Hoyer
Johnson (IL)
Jones
Jordan
Kind
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Landry
Lummis
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
McCarthy (CA)
McHenry
Moore
Murphy (CT)
Olver
Pascrell
Paul
Pence
Perlmutter
Platts
Poe (TX)
Rohrabacher
Rothman (NJ)
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Slaughter
Speier
Tiberi
Towns

□ 1903

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 197, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 118) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 0, not voting 56, as follows:

[Roll No. 198]

YEAS—375

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
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Heinrich
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Herrera Beutler
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Himes
Hinchey
Hirono
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Honda
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)

Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
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Tonko
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—56

Ackerman
Andrews
Bonner
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Coble
Costello
Ellmers
Filner
Flake
Frank (MA)
Gosar
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hanna
Hinojosa
Hoyer
Johnson (IL)
Jones
Jordan
Kind
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Landry
Lummis
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
McCarthy (CA)
McHenry
Meeks
Moore
Murphy (CT)
Olver
Pascrell
Paul
Pence
Perlmutter
Platts
Poe (TX)
Rohrabacher
Rothman (NJ)
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Slaughter
Speier
Tiberi
Towns
Walberg

□ 1910

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 198, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House chamber today. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 196, 197 and 198.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, today, May 7th, I missed the three rollcall votes of the day. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea," H. Con. Res. 105—Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha; "yea," H. Con. Res. 117—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service; "yea," H. Con. Res. 118—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on May 7, 2012, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 196–198 because of my primary election in Indiana. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 196, "yea" on rollcall No. 197, and "yea" on rollcall No. 198.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 07, 2012 I had obligations that necessitated my attention in Sydney, Illinois, in my district and missed suspension votes on H. Con. Res. 105 Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall to celebrate King Kamehameha, H. Con. Res. 117 Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for National Peace Officers Memorial Service, H. Con. Res. 118 Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the DC Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the above stated resolutions.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 361

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 361.

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

There was no objection.

IN HONOR OF EAGLE SCOUT RALPH BOYS

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I rise today to honor Eagle Scout Ralph Boys, aged 93, who has finally been recognized for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America 78 years after meeting the requirements for this distinguished rank.

Ralph had met all of the requirements for the rank of Eagle as a sophomore in high school in 1933, but his family relocated, and he was never able to appear in his Court of Honor to receive his badge. After college, Ralph enlisted in the Army and served many assignments throughout his military career, including on General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters staff during the Philippine campaign of World War II. After the war, Ralph served at posts in Germany, Vietnam, and the Pentagon, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1967.

After his retirement, he began a search to find the records of his qualification for the rank of Eagle. After several dead ends and ultimately finding that the last of his scouting records had been consumed in a fire several years earlier, he went through the requirement list with a family friend and found that Ralph's merit badges and military career of 28 years more than qualified him for the distinguished rank.

On December 22, 2011, Ralph became the third generation of his family to receive Scouting's highest honor. He had been preceded by his son, Dr. John Boys, and by his twin grandsons, John Franklin and Austin.

As an Eagle Scout myself, I would like to welcome Ralph to the ranks of Eagle Scout. Congressman MICK MULVANEY also asked to associate himself with these remarks.

EDINA SCHOOLS GAIN FIRST MINNESOTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Edina High School teacher Jackie Roehl for being named this year's Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

Out of more than 300 teachers who were nominated, Jackie was recognized for her outstanding work in reducing the achievement gap. By using teaching methods that engaged different students from differing skills and backgrounds, she was able to teach her students more effectively and help improve test scores. After several years of researching teaching methods, surveying students as well as parents, Jackie and her team recently gained the approval to merge advanced placement classes and regular English classes into one course to make sure that all students she teaches are able to be challenged and are able to excel.

Mr. Speaker, Jackie has absolutely shown an incredible passion for her profession, for her students, and for her community. I congratulate her on her much-deserved recognition as she continues her success in teaching, in leading, and in inspiring Minnesota's youth.

THE ANNUAL NATIONAL SUBSTITUTE TEACHER RECOGNITION WEEK

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. This week, in conjunction with Teacher Appreciation Week, is National Substitute Teacher Recognition Week, recognizing the 270,000 men and women who fill in for permanent teachers every day in the United States.

Research by the Substitute Teacher Institute at Utah State University shows that approximately 1 year of every kid's K–12 education is conducted by those extraordinary individuals who are willing to take on the challenge of providing quality education when the permanent teacher is out of the classroom. I taught for 28 years. I have substituted for my colleagues' classes—it is a miserable job—but these members of the community who fill the void in education are worthy of our recognition.

I would also like to recognize and commend the Substitute Teacher Institute, which since 1995 has been providing activities and techniques to substitutes and has been providing leadership in its service to districts and substitute teachers nationwide. The Substitute Teacher Institute works to revolutionize the role of substitute teachers into opportunities for educational excellence.

I commend them, and I wish to commend all of those people who are substitutes in our Nation's school systems.

THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS: VOTER PROTECTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. This evening, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be anchoring the Congressional Black Caucus hour on voter protection.

At the same time that I have the privilege of hosting this very important discussion, let me make note of the fact that our very distinguished Member, Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL, is being toasted and recognized by our Members. I know that many of them will be commemorating Congressman RANGEL, who is a dear friend of mine. He served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and as a Korean War vet, and understands, when soldiers go to battle, they go to battle so that others might have the opportunity for freedom. Certainly embodied in freedom has to be the idea of being able to vote.

So this evening, as I discuss these issues, I am delighted to acknowledge him as well as to acknowledge that this is really a bipartisan concern—and it should be a bipartisan concern, because, in essence, we should not be at this moment speaking about who you vote for as much as we are speaking about allowing you to vote for the person of your choice and to be able to cast your vote unfettered.

Mr. Speaker, that is what my discussion will be about tonight. As I do so, allow me just for a moment to be able to share, if you will, a point that I hope that we all can adhere to.

This is going to be a tough election season. There are many actors, if you will, who will be involved in this process. This is a Presidential year, so it's going to get particularly feisty. But I do believe that there is a certain collegiality and collaboration as it circles around voting and the idea of voting and of voting with equal opportunity.

□ 1920

Even in our words, we need to try and make sure that we're lifting the voters up.

I heard a comment from someone introducing the intended Republican nominee—though it was tongue in cheek with a little humor—who indicated in his remarks very loudly, ''Osama is dead.'' And in the midst of it, he indicated, ''I mean Osama bin Laden.'' I assume he was trying to make a play on words, but I really hope that we can stay above the line of decency as we recognize that we live in difficult times.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, we just heard publicly about a particular effort to attack our aviation assets, which was just announced today as breaking news, and we realize that we live in challenging times. For that reason, I think this discussion on voter protection is extremely important.

So let me just say to my friends that until now, historically, the voting franchise has only been expanded. This is most evident in the constitutional amendments that have been passed to protect and expand the right to vote. And since the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, it really has been a bipartisan congressional prerogative to ensure access to the ballot.

President Lyndon Baines Johnson, one of the Presidents who has been touted as having the greatest legislative record, had to cobble together Republicans and Democrats from the Deep South—then called the Dixiecrats—and moderate Republicans from the North and Midwest. He successfully passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and successfully passed the 1965 Voting Rights Act. It was a bipartisan effort.

And I might say that many Members who have reflected to have had a chance to encounter—some are still in this House. I remember, most famously, Jack Brooks, after it was all said and done, felt that they had done the right thing.

Today I was at a middle school, and I indicated to them that I would be on the floor of the House discussing voter protection. I was inspired by those young people, middle schoolers, who were attentive to learn what their government did. As I left, telling them not how to vote but that they must vote, there was a great excitement in the room. I'm on this floor today for them and all middle schoolers, high schoolers, college students, senior citizens, new immigrants who have taken the oath with great pride, long-time voters, new voters. Those are voters who have the right to vote. That's what we're talking about.

Unfortunately, a series of laws do not go after those who did not have the right to vote, but these series of voter ID laws and new rules and regulations to stop people from voting goes after documented, legal voters with legal voting certificates who have done nothing wrong. Shame on those who would do so.

I just read, recently, that the lead person opposing the voter ID law in Pennsylvania, if I am correct—it's my recollection now—would be 93 years old. That's who we're hurting: senior citizens, people who have toiled and worked and paid their taxes, paid into Medicare. And now, because of when they were born, such as my mother Ivalita Jackson, they do not have a birth certificate. We tried, we looked, and we still have an inquiry in. God bless her.

My mother has since passed while we were in the midst of looking for the certificate for a number of reasons, but she had her voting card and she was eligible to vote. But under new voting ID laws, she would not be eligible to vote. And here is a woman who raised her children, paid her taxes, self-educated herself, achieved a status of a vocational nurse in times when education was not gifted to her.

A recent report by the Brennan Center for Justice of NYU Law School concluded that the newly enacted State laws that would affect more than 5 million eligible voters will disproportionately disenfranchise young, low-income, elderly, and minority voters. In 2006, the Brennan Center completed a nationwide survey of voting-age citizens and found that African American voters are more than three times as likely as Caucasians to lack a government-issued ID.

The real nonsense of it all is that voter IDs are to avoid voter impersonation, and voter impersonation is a finite part of any kind of voter fraud. In fact, under the Bush administration, there was less than 20, if you will, that were prosecuted. We're talking about a country of 300 million. And this is by recollection: I think there were some 180 cases that were brought forward, and they only wound up prosecuting a finite number.

The heavy burden on minority voters seems patently unfair, and it seems to be a direct result of the great enthusiasm of all voters in 2008. I want to see that all the time. Sometimes we win and sometimes we lose.

Isn't it interesting, when the wave of Tea Party voters had such an impact in 2010 and many of them were new voters, I didn't fare well in that, meaning my party's particular position, but it was the American way. All of the sudden, even with these new voters and the will of the people being adhered to, all of the sudden these new laws come out of the very people who are new to the voting process—many of them—and were excited about voting in 2010. Now comes a sledgehammer to prevent others from voting.

In Texas, thanks to new voter ID, students may not use their school-

issued IDs to vote, which is part of an effort to restrict student IDs as a valid form of identification to vote. This is the same State that will allow Texans with a concealed weapons permit to use their permits to vote, but a student who is trying to get an education, who has a State-issued ID card is not afforded the same privilege to use their student IDs.

Mind you, the Prairie View A&M case established a Supreme Court case that students could vote where they go to school. I remember that because we marched some 7-plus miles down an interstate to Prairie View A&M, thousands of us, to determine that students have a right at Prairie View A&M, that set a historical Supreme Court decision.

By the way, this was not, in essence, a liberal court. This decision was made under the Bush administration that determined that students can vote, and now the State of Texas is suggesting that they can't use their ID. Shame on them. Frankly, this seems out of whack. A student should be able to use their ID to vote.

Eleven percent of U.S. citizens, or more than 21 million Americans, do not have government-issued photo identification. Also, as many as 25 percent of all African American citizens of voting age do not have government-issued IDs.

Mandating voter IDs has a disproportionate and unfair impact on low-income individuals and racial and ethnic minorities. This also has a heavy burden on Hispanic voters in Texas. We found out that many Hispanic voters live in counties where there is no Department of Public Safety office for them to even go to.

Mr. Speaker, do we get an airplane, a helicopter? What do we tell individuals who have toiled, who have worked and are second- and third-generation Texans that just because of their aging status, maybe because of health reasons, they cannot get a voter ID? Senior citizens, voters with disabilities, and many other individuals do not have government-issued ID or the money to even acquire one.

Yes, under Texas law they can vote by mail, but I tell you, getting information to people is very hard. If you're used to going and voting on a Sunday, if you're used to being taken when your family members have the time to take you—which is weekend voting—and you're used to taking your voter certificate and now the new law says no, what an outrage.

□ 1930

But I have relief. As it relates to Texas, I have just spoken to the Justice Department and have been reissued a letter that indicates that the Texas voter ID law is invalid as it relates to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a cause for celebration. Our primary will be May 29. That law will be invalid for both the primary and the runoff.

I've asked the State of Texas to not hide that information and to come out with a clear enunciation—not a negative announcement—that says that the Justice Department has stopped the Texas voter ID law. That doesn't help anybody understand anything. Your duty is to be impartial as a State election officer, and you are to come out and say that the current law stands—not the voter ID law that is invalid under the Voting Rights Act—until a further court determination can be made, which is not until the July 2012 court hearing.

It is important for us to work together, as State officials, to let everyone know your voting certificate is an appropriate document to allow you to vote. That is what government is supposed to do, give fair and impartial information no matter where it falls. And I look forward to working with our State government to ensure that impartial information is now promoted to all people, everyone.

Your voting certificate is a legitimate document. And if you do not have a State-issued voter ID, you can vote in your primary, whether it is Republican, Democratic, or any other primary that is viable in the State of Texas. Why is that so difficult to do? More than 21 million Americans do not have government-issued photo identification, which includes, again, 25 percent of African American voting age citizens, or more than 5.5 million people; 15 percent of those earning less than $35,000 a year; 18 percent of those age 65 and above—and more than 6 million voters; 20 percent of young voters ages 18 to 29, and it is much higher in the Hispanic community.

The photo ID proposals are not new, with calls for strict voter identification laws emerging out of the 2000 Presidential election, when conservative watchdog groups contended that laws intending to facilitate voting, such as the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, known as ''Motor Voter,'' had opened the doors to illegal voting.

That's impossible, Mr. Speaker. It didn't look like the folks who thought that they were losing suffered too much in the 2000 Presidential election. The candidate of their choice was elected and ascended to the presidency. I can't imagine why they would feel that they had been violated by the 1993 Motor Voter law, which means that you could just register to vote at your various sites around the community, including the motor vehicle department.

The Justice Department, under Attorney General Ashcroft, pledged that cracking down on so-called voter fraud would be a top priority of the Bush administration Justice Department, though ultimately, the Department's own extensive analysis found little evidence of voting improprieties. Congress passed the Help America Vote Act in 2002, establishing uniform minimum voter identification requirements, prompting calls that States should go further.

Mr. Speaker, this is for everybody. I can't stop or investigate who is coming to the polls and suggest that if you are this party or that party, stay away. Why wouldn't we want to help everyone?

Since 2001, more than 700 voter identification bills have been introduced in 46 States, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. A dozen States have passed new voter ID laws since 2003, but only eight States require a photo ID of voters, and only two have laws as strict as those being proposed this year. That was before. Now we have, in essence, a new day. We have some tough laws that are hurting voters. We're talking about voter protection, but we have to overcome voter suppression.

If you look at this map, you will see that we are being overwhelmed by voter photo ID requirements. I would say almost two-thirds of the States have inappropriately and incorrectly believed that they are going to make voting far more secure.

Let me tell you what an ID does: It stops you from impersonating another person. That has been the lowest level of voter fraud because you are silly to impersonate because you are going into a place that might subject you to an arrest. In the State of Texas, precinct judges have the status of a district judge on election day.

This map will show you how bad it is. Look at the red. It requires voter ID. Big Texas: that's why I need the State to announce that the voter ID law is invalid for the May 29 primary, because it looks as if we have a requirement that does not exist for this primary. Someone hear me. We are obligated to tell the 21 million-plus Texans that they have the right to vote with a voting certificate if they are registered to vote for the May 29 primary. That red is getting pretty strong. Blue, photo ID requested. The red is require photo ID only; nothing else. How absurd.

In essence, we're taking a match and burning the voting certificates that people worked so hard to get, that allow people to vote—that you tell people to register again. It also disallows organizations like the League of Women Voters and puts a very heavy hand on what happens when you register people to vote and how you have to get those registrations in. The big ''stop'' sign. That's why it's red. It's the ''stop people from voting'' law.

Then look at the photo ID requested, blue States. Then look at the photo voter ID legislation proposed. It covers 90 percent of America. How absurd. And I would be open to finding a way to ensure that that diminished, limited amount of fraud is taken care of. But this is what it does: It puts up a red stop sign. It stops people from voting. It frightens people from voting. It keeps people from voting.

And then, of course, this is another big, fat, red map which shows the States where voting changes were pursued and the types of changes enacted.

I'll show it in a moment. It includes legislation introduced. Big red photo ID requirements—passed. Proof of citizenship—passed. Restrictions on voter registration—passed. Restrictions on early absentee voting—passed. Executive action, making it harder to restore voting rights. You can see the country is predominantly red with a big ''stop'' sign, stopping people from voting.

I beg of you, why would we, who have the privilege of having a document that gave citizens due process, gave us the freedoms of speech, petition, assembly, all having to do with petitioning your government, and then we have a movement that literally stops us in our tracks. Then we have Citizens United that dumps money into elections and literally skews who gets to be selected by the people.

I want everyone to see how much we need to overcome voter suppression by, in essence, protecting everyone's right to vote. I want to be very clear on this: Everyone's right to vote.

A dozen States have passed, as I have said, new voter ID laws since 2003. But voter ID proposals have a forceful momentum this year not seen in years passed—this year, meaning 2012, 2011, and going back to 2010. This is part of a broader legislative movement to limit access to the political process for disenfranchised groups at a level not seen since post-Reconstruction Era laws implementing poll taxes and literacy tests.

Now we have to know that there are those of us who come from States where the literacy tests and poll tax have not gone away even for 60 years, meaning that we have not even had that relief for 60 years.

□ 1940

There were lawsuits in the 1940s that ultimately generated an opportunity for constituents not to pay a poll tax. I remember the late Beulah Shepard, who came to Texas. If there ever was a person that talked about voting, it was sister Beulah Shepard out of Acres Homes. She always used to recite a poem about just one vote, and she gave a whole list of what one vote, one person could do. She proudly talked about the fact that she paid a poll tax to vote. And she paid a poll tax, I think she said, for her husband and others who needed to vote.

That wasn't too long in America's history and future, Mr. Speaker. What a shameful turn of events that now the late Beulah Shepard is no longer here, and how she'd be crying, turning over in her resting place, to realize that all the toiling that she did to register people to vote, to empower those who had been disenfranchised, now could not vote.

Susan B. Anthony and the Suffragettes, Sojourner Truth, who suffered because women could not vote. They were not landowners. And they tried and worked and toiled and were ridiculed, and finally women could vote. And to find now some elderly woman who does not have her voter photo ID—and I say this. Let the listening public hear. You cannot get a voter ID if you don't bring something like a birth certificate. And this is where our seniors either can't get there or they're too elderly to have access to their birth certificate. Maybe they were, in essence, brought into this world by a volunteer or midwife or family members. There's no birth certificate. Maybe it's in the deep country in the dark of night, where mom and baby did not get recognition until days or weeks afterward. Or, living as long as they lived, the birth certificate has been lost. Mr. Speaker, I've heard of veterans whose documents were burned up in a fire. They were still veterans. They still served their country. We see them every day.

And so here we have a situation where you're disenfranchising groups at a level not seen, as I said, since post-Reconstruction era laws implementing a poll tax and a literacy test. Just over the first 2 months of 2011, photo ID proposals have been introduced in 32 States and passed out of one legislative chamber in 12 States. Lawmakers across the Nation have pinpointed photo ID as a top legislative priority. The Governor of Texas designated photo ID as a legislative emergency in order to allow it to be procedurally fast-tracked to the legislature. Photo ID proposals were pre-filed before legislative sessions began in half a dozen States. And secretaries of State in a number of States have listed photo ID as a top priority.

Let me thank Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER for leading out not only members of the Congressional Black Caucus but collaborating with other organizations, and let me thank my colleagues who have worked so hard on this issue. Let me thank Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN, who is detained at a matter that she had to attend, who's been anchoring these hour-long discussions with the American public.

But we better beware, because what you do to others comes back to you. The idea of limiting a person's access to voting and being able to vote on the cause of how you think they will vote and how you don't want those people to vote comes back to Americans who want to vote in whichever way they do. Stop me from voting, you get stopped from voting.

The idea of a photo ID is not a respecter of race. And if you're elderly and can't get to the Department of Public Safety office or in another State you can't get somewhere, if you're inhibited or prohibited, it is an impact on you no matter what background you come from.

Thank God for the Congressional Black Caucus that is a respecter of the rights of all people. We are fighting for our children. We're fighting for young people, the elderly, the disabled. And no matter who you are, if you're blocked to vote because of the voter ID, this is voter suppression—and we want to have voter protection.

The Governor of Texas designated photo ID as a legislative emergency in order to allow it to be procedurally fast-tracked through the legislature. Photo ID proposals were pre-filed before legislative sessions began in half a dozen States. I don't know why that happened. We're bogged down with the redistricting case.

The secretaries of State in a number of States have listed photo ID as a top priority. Mr. Speaker, it does nothing. The Bush administration showed they couldn't find any fraud worth prosecuting for people who were impersonating a voter. Photo ID proposals have garnered significant momentum in a very mistaken matter—that it's going to do something. It is not.

Let us point out voter fraud. Let us, in essence, carve it out. But you are not going anywhere with voter ID laws who discriminate against the elderly, who discriminate against minorities, who discriminate against those individuals who have lived long enough and served their country long enough that they just might not remember where their birth certificate is—or even their marriage certificate.

Significant momentum is going on this, and it is wrongheaded. Opponents are having difficulty waging effective counterattacks to curb the movement on these bills as majority leaderships, emboldened by their increased numbers following in the 2010 midterm elections, are more committed than they ever have been.

Let me congratulate the State of Ohio and Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, where the people of that State defeated that draconian law and they will not have the burden of their voter ID law in the 2012 Presidential election. Yay for them. A battleground State where the people can vote as they choose. And we're going to all realize that Ohioans will not be encumbered by draconian laws. They will battle it out in the democratic process and they will vote, and no one can block them from voting.

In 1890, the State of Mississippi, although African Americans made up 58 percent of the population, due to the structure of voting laws that year in Mississippi, of the 134 elected delegates, only one was African American, and that was during Reconstruction. It does not take a genius to recognize that the African American vote was diluted.

We cannot allow history to repeat itself. That is why we have the Voting Rights Act and why we are ever vigilant to guard against any encroachments on the right to vote.

And so my argument is, today, that we're going to go across America—and I appreciate my colleagues who have joined in this effort to go across America—and we're going to introduce voting protection seminars to ensure that every voter—minority voters and elderly voters—has a right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very glad to have spoken to my State officials today. I

will place this letter to Texas State officials in the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 7, 2012.

Hon. HOPE ANDRADE,
Secretary of State,
Austin, Texas.

DEAR SECRETARY ANDRADE: Thank you for taking my call today Monday, May 07, 2012 regarding the status of election law to be utilized in the 2012 Texas Primary and on a possible run off date. A formal public announcement must be made along with the production of public awareness advertisements outlining that the current law is still in place and operational.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Perez ''with regard to Section 9 and 15 of S.B. 14, concerning photographic identification, I cannot conclude that the state has sustained its burden under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Therefore, on behalf of the Attorney General, I must object to Sections 9 and 14 of S.B. 14.'' In effect, the currently proposed photographic identification requirements and related changes may not be implemented and are not legally enforceable. The public must be made aware of the current voting requirements.

The trial date is set for Monday, July 9, 2012 and therefore all means currently permissible should be utilized to ensure the public is made aware that there is currently no requirement in the State of Texas for a state issued photographic identification in order to vote in the upcoming elections. Thank you for your cooperation and I look forward to working with you.

Very Truly Yours,

SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
Member of Congress.

With that in mind, in the name of so many great leaders, from our early Presidents who valued this historic democratic process to the drafters of the Constitution that began to open the words of this great book with the words, We have come together to establish justice, to form a more perfect Union, to ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity to ordain and establish the Constitution of the United States, voter ID laws do not equal to liberty. They do not equal giving our posterity to our children, grandchildren, the grandchildren's children and grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren. The voter ID law is oppressive and it denies the right to vote.

I cry in my heart, Mr. Speaker, for we have fallen victim to a distortion of the right of people to vote and the distortion of the blame game. And so State legislatures have attempted to say they're doing something and, Mr. Speaker, they are not. They are not.

I would like to put into the RECORD a letter from the Department of Justice dated May 4, 2012.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS,
WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 4, 2012.

Hon. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN JACKSON LEE: This responds to your recent inquiry to Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Thomas E. Perez, regarding implementation of Texas S.B. 14 (2011).

On March 12, 2012, the Attorney General interposed an objection, pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, to S.B. 14's photographic identification requirements for in-person voting. The Attorney General's objection letter is enclosed.

The photographic identification requirements and related changes in S.B. 14 therefore may not be implemented, and are legally unenforceable, until either the Attorney General's objection is withdrawn, or until Texas obtains a judgment from the United States District Court for the District of Columbia preclearing these changes under Section 5. Texas has sought such a judgment from the district court in State of Texas v. Holder. No. 1:12–cv–00128 (D.D.C. filed Jan. 24, 2012), and that case is currently set for trial beginning July 9, 2012.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

RONALD WEILCH,
Assistant Attorney General.

Enclosure.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION,
WASHINGTON, DC, MARCH 12, 2012.

Mr. KEITH INGRAM,
Director of Elections, Elections Division, Office of the Texas Secretary of State, Austin, Texas.

DEAR MR. INGRAM: This refers to Chapter 123 (S.B. 14) (2011), which amends the Texas Transportation Code relating to the issuance of election identification certificates, and which amends the Texas Election Code relating to the procedures for implementing the photographic identification requirements, including registration procedures, provisional-ballot procedures, notice requirements, and education and training requirements, for the State of Texas, submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 U.S.C. 1973c. We received your response to our January 9, 2012 follow-up to our September 23, 2011 request for additional information on January 12. 2012; additional information was received through February 17, 2012.

According to the 2010 Census, the State of Texas had a total population of 25,145,561, of whom 9,460,921 (37.6%) were Hispanic, 2,975,739 (11.8%) were black, 1,027,956 (4.1%) were Asian, and 11,397,345 (45.3%) were Anglo. Texas's total voting-age population was 18,279,737, of whom 6,143,144 (33.6%) were Hispanic, 2,102,474 (11.5%) were black, 758,636 (4.2%) were Asian, and 9,074,684 (49.6%) were Anglo. The five-year aggregate American Community Survey (2006–2010) estimates that Texas had a Hispanic citizen voting-age population of 25.5 percent.

We have carefully considered the information you have provided, as well as census data, comments and information from other interested parties, and other information, including the state's previous submissions. Under Section 5, the Attorney General must determine whether the submitting authority has met its burden of showing that the proposed changes have neither the purpose nor the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color or membership in a language minority group. Georgia v. United States, 411 U.S. 526 (1973): Procedures for the Administration of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 28 C.F.R. 51.52(c). With regard to Sections 9 and 14 of S.B. 14, concerning photographic identification 51.52(c). With regard to Sections 9 and 14 of S.B. 14, concerning photographic identification requirements for in-person voting and acceptable forms of photographic identification, I cannot conclude that the state has sustained its burden under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Therefore, on behalf of the Attorney General, I must object to Sections 9 and 14 of S.B. 14.

We start our analysis recognizing the state's legitimate interest in preventing voter fraud and safeguarding voter confidence. Crawford v. Marion County Election Bd., 553 U.S. 181 (2008). In that vein, the state's sole justifications for changing the current practice to require photographic identification to vote in person that appear in the legislative proceedings and are presented in its submission are to ensure electoral integrity and deter ineligible voters from voting. At the same time, we note that the state's submission did not include evidence of significant in-person voter impersonation not already addressed by the state's existing laws.

The voting changes at issue must be measured against the benchmark practice to determine whether they would ''lead to a retrogression in the position of racial minorities with respect to their effective exercise of the electoral franchise.'' Beer v. United States, 425 U.S. 130, 141 (1976). In support of its position that this proposed requirement will not have such a prohibited effect, the state provided two sets of registered-voter data, which were matched with two different data sources maintained by the state's Department of Public Safety (DPS). One set was current as of September 16, 2011, and the other as of early January 2012. The September data reported that there were 12,780,841 registered voters, of whom 2,785,227 (21.8%) were Hispanic. The January data reported that there were 12,892,280 registered voters, of whom 2,810,869 (21.8%) were Hispanic.

There is, however, a significant difference between the two data sets with regard to the number and characteristics of those registered voters without a driver's license or personal identification card issued by DPS. The September data indicate that 603,892 (4.7%) of the state's registered voters do not have such identification; this population consists of 174,866 voters (29.0% of the 603,892 voters) who are Hispanic and 429,026 voters (71.0%) who are non-Hispanic. The January data indicate that 795,955 (6.2%) of the state's registered voters do not have such identification; this population consists of 304,389 voters (38.2%) who are Hispanic and 491,566 voters (61.8%) who are non-Hispanic. The state has not provided an explanation for the disparate results. More significantly, it declined to offer an opinion on which of the two data sets is more accurate. Accordingly, we have considered both in reviewing your submission.

Starting our analysis with the September data set, 6.3 percent of Hispanic registered voters do not have the forms of identification described above, but only 4.3 percent of non-Hispanic registered voters are similarly situated. Therefore, a Hispanic voter is 46.5 percent more likely than a non-Hispanic voter to lack these forms of identification. In addition, although Hispanic voters represent only 21.8 percent of the registered voters in the state, Hispanic voters represent fully 29.0 percent of the registered voters without such identification.

Our analysis of the January data indicates that 10.8 percent of Hispanic registered voters do not have a driver's license or personal identification card issued by DPS. but only 4.9 percent of non-Hispanic registered voters do not have such identification. So, Hispanic registered voters are more than twice as likely as non-Hispanic registered voters to lack such identification. Under the data provided in January, Hispanics make up only 21.8 percent of all registered voters, but fully 38.2 percent of the registered voters who lack these forms of identification.

Thus, we conclude that the total number of registered voters who lack a driver's license

or personal identification card issued by DPS could range from 603,892 to 795,955. The disparity between the percentages of Hispanics and non-Hispanics who lack these forms of identification ranges from 46.5 to 120.0 percent. That is, according to the state's own data, a Hispanic registered voter is at least 46.5 percent, and potentially 120.0 percent, more likely than a non-Hispanic registered voter to lack this identification. Even using the data most favorable to the state, Hispanics disproportionately lack either a driver's license or a personal identification card issued by DPS, and that disparity is statistically significant.

The state has provided no data on whether African American or Asian registered voters are also disproportionately affected by S.B. 14.

Sections 9 and 14 of S.B. 14 would also permit a voter to vote in person using military photographic identification, a United States citizenship certificate that contains the person's photograph, a United States passport, or a license to carry a concealed handgun. The state has produced no data showing what percent of registered voters lack a driver's license or personal identification card issued by DPS, but do possess another allowable form of photographic identification. Nor has the state provided any data on the demographic makeup of such voters. In addition, when the Texas Legislature was considering S.B. 14, there were a number of legislative proposals to expand the forms of identification that could be used by voters to meet this new requirement—including proposals to allow any state-issued or tribal identification with a photograph to be used for regular voting—but those proposals were rejected.

In view of the statistical evidence illustrating the impact of S.B. 14 on Hispanic registered voters, we turn to those steps that the state has identified it will take to mitigate that effect.

You have informed us that the DPS-issued ''free'' election identification certificate, which is proposed to be implemented by Section 20 of S.B. 14, would protect voters who do not already have another acceptable form of identification. The application process for these certificates will mirror the manner in which a person obtains a driver's license. First-time applicants will be required to furnish various supplemental documents and undergo an application process that includes fingerprinting and traveling to a driver's license office.

An applicant for an election identification certificate will be required to provide two pieces of secondary identification, or one piece of secondary identification and two supporting documents. If a voter does not possess any of these documents, the least expensive option will be to spend $22 on a copy of the voter's birth certificate. There is a statistically significant correlation between the Hispanic population percentage of a county and the percentage of a county's population that lives below the poverty line. The legislature tabled amendments that would have prohibited state agencies from charging for any underlying documents needed to obtain an acceptable form of photographic identification.

As noted above, an applicant for an election identification certificate will have to travel to a driver's license office. This raises three discrete issues. First, according to the most recent American Community Survey three-year estimates. 7.3 percent of Hispanic or Latino households do not have an available vehicle, as compared with only 3.8 percent of non-Hispanic white households that lack an available vehicle. Statistically significant correlations exist between the Hispanic voting-age population percentage of a county, and the percentage of occupied housing units without a vehicle.

Second, in 81 of the state's 254 counties, there are no operational driver's license offices. The disparity in the rates between Hispanics and non-Hispanics with regard to the possession of either a driver's license or personal identification card issued by DPS is particularly stark in counties without driver's license offices. According to the September 2011 data, 10.0 percent of Hispanics in counties without driver's license offices do not have either form of identification, compared to 5.5 percent of non-Hispanics. According to the January 2012 data, that comparison is 14.6 percent of Hispanics in counties without driver's license offices, as compared to 8.8 percent of non-Hispanics. During the legislative hearings, one senator stated that some voters in his district could have to travel up to 176 miles roundtrip in order to reach a driver's license office. The legislature tabled amendments that would have, for example, provided reimbursement to voters who live below the poverty line for travel expenses incurred in applying for the requisite identification.

The third and final point is the limited hours that such offices are open. Only 49 of the 221 currently open driver's license offices across the state have extended hours. Even Senator Troy Fraser, the primary author of this legislation in the Senate, acknowledged during the legislative hearing that. ''You gotta work to make sure that [DPS offices] are open.'' Despite the apparent recognition of the situation, the legislature tabled an amendment that would have required driver's license offices to be open until 7:00 p.m. or later on at least one weekday and during four or more hours on at least two Saturdays each month.

The legislation mandates a statewide voter-education effort concerning the new identification requirement, but does not provide specific standards for the program. The state, however, has yet to approve a final version of the materials designed to accomplish that goal, either for voters or for election officials. The state has indicated that it will implement a new educational program: but as of this date, our information indicates that the currently proposed plan will incorporate the new identification requirement into a general voter-education program.

The legislation requires that poll-worker training materials reflect the new identification requirements. This is particularly vital because a poll-worker can permit a voter to cast a ballot if the name as listed on the documentation is ''substantially similar to but does not match exactly'' the name on the voter registration list, and if the voter also submits an affidavit stating that he or she is the person on the list of registered voters. Though the Secretary of State's office has adopted an administrative rule to guide poll-workers in determining when names are substantially similar, the rule gives poll-workers a great deal of discretion. The state has provided no enforcement guidelines to prevent the vagueness of this standard from leading to inconsistency or bias in its application.

Even after submitting data that show over 600,000 registered voters do not have either a driver's license or personal identification card issued by DPS—and that a disproportionate share of those registered voters are Hispanic—the state has failed to propose, much less adopt, any program for individuals who have to travel a significant distance to a DPS office, who have limited access to transportation, or who are unable to get to a DPS office during their hours of operation. This failure is particularly noteworthy given Texas's geography and demographics, which arguably make the necessity for mitigating measures greater than in other states. The state also has not developed any specific proposals to educate either voters about how to comply with the new identification requirement or poll officials about how to enforce the proposed change.

In conclusion, the state has not met its burden of proving that, when compared to the benchmark, the proposed requirement will not have a retrogressive effect, or that any specific features of the proposed law will prevent or mitigate that retrogression. Additionally, the state has failed to demonstrate why it could not meet its stated goals of ensuring electoral integrity and deterring ineligible voters from voting in a manner that would have avoided this retrogressive effect. Because we conclude that the state has failed to meet its burden of demonstrating that the proposed law will not have a retrogressive effect, we do not make any determination as to whether the state has established that the proposed changes were adopted with no discriminatory purpose.

Under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the submitting authority has the burden of showing that a submitted change has neither a discriminatory purpose nor a discriminatory effect. Georgia v. United States, 411 U.S. 526 (1973): 28 C.F.R. 51.52. In light of the considerations discussed above, I cannot conclude that your burden has been sustained in this instance. Therefore, on behalf of the Attorney General, I must object to the changes affecting voting that are occasioned by Sections 9 and 14 of Chapter 123 (S.B. 14) (2011). Sections 1 through 8, 10 through 13, 15, and 17 through 22 of S.B. 14 are directly related to the procedures for implementing the photographic identification requirements, including registration procedures, provisional-ballot procedures, notice requirements, and education and training requirements. Accordingly, no determination by the Attorney General is required or appropriate under Section 5. 28 C.F.R. 51.22 and 51.35.

We note that under Section 5 you have the right to seek a declaratory judgment from the United States District Court for the District of Columbia that these proposed changes neither have the purpose nor will have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race, color, or membership in a language minority group. 28 C.F.R. 51.44. In addition, you may request that the Attorney General reconsider the objection. 28 C.F.R. 51.45. However, until the objection is withdrawn or a judgment from the United States District Court for the District of Columbia is obtained, the submitted changes continue to be legally unenforceable. Clark v. Roemer, 500 U.S. 646 (1991): 28 C.F.R. 51.10. To enable us to meet our responsibility to enforce the Voting Rights Act, please inform us of the action that the State of Texas plans to take concerning this matter. If you have any questions, you should contact Robert S. Berman (202/514–8690), a deputy chief in the Voting Section.

Because the Section 5 status of this legislation is presently before the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in State of Texas v. Holder, No. 1:12–cv–00128 (D.D.C.), we are providing the Court and counsel of record with a copy of this letter.

Sincerely,

THOMAS E. PEREZ,
Assistant Attorney General.

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Finally, as I said, Mr. Speaker, as I hold this Constitution in my hand, I certainly want to add to my plea an extended hand to ensure that what our Founding Fathers wanted—to ensure domestic tranquility, to establish justice, to secure the blessings of liberty—will be found in the 2012 election, and

that because of one's ethnic or racial background or age or gender or whether you live in the country, meaning in the rural areas of the Nation, that you will not have a stop sign, a red stop sign that will be standing at the door of a courthouse or the place where you vote. You will not have a stop sign that says: Stop, you don't deserve the blessings of liberty. You deserve to be treated in the ways of yesteryear when people were second-class and third-class citizens.

I pray, as I know my Founding Fathers would offer, prayerful prayers for all of America that we take this red map and turn it to a map of brightness with a big sign: The door is open for legal voting, unoppressed. You are protected and you are given the blessings of liberty.

I thank my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus. I thank all those who are working on this issue, and I look forward in the State of Texas that we work together that you can vote under the old laws and you can vote on Sunday and you can go out and vote and you can have the blessings of liberty that the Constitution has so given us.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the name of justice and to protect the right to vote for all citizens. I am joined by fellow members of the Congressional Black Caucus to speak about the need to protect our democracy, to protect the voice of the American people, and to ensure the right to vote continues to be treated as a right under the Constitution rather than a privilege afforded to the chosen few.

Today I join the CBC to bring additional scrutiny to the significant changes being made to voting laws across our country. We must protect the rights for all eligible citizens to vote. The right to vote is a precious and sacred one in our country. Over the past few decades, minorities in this country have witnessed a pattern of efforts to intimidate and harass minority voters through so-called "Voter ID" requirements. I am sad to report that as we head into the 21st century, these efforts continue.

I am well versed in the arguments both for and against Voter IDs. Often the arguments for Voter IDs include the notion that we must protect against fraud, yet there is little to no real evidence that rampant voter fraud exists or that it would be prevented by Voter ID cards. On balance there is significant evidence that minorities would be negatively impacted by voter ID requirements.

As a Senior Member of the House Judiciary Committee, I called for an immediate investigation of these instances. Many of these incidents of voter intimidation were occurring in predominately minority neighborhoods and have been directed at African-Americans and Latinos. It is unconscionable to think that anyone would deliberately employ the use of such forceful and intimidating tactics to undermine the fundamental, Constitutional right to vote. However, such conduct has regrettably occurred in Houston, and I urge you to take appropriate action to ensure that it does not recur.

Instances of voter intimidation are not long ago and far away. Just last year I sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to draw his attention to several disturbing instances of voter intimidation that had taken place in Houston. In a single week there were at least 15 reports of abuse of voter rights throughout the city of Houston.

I am here once more in the name of freedom, patriotism, and democracy. I am here to demand that the long hard fought right to vote continues to be protected.

TEXAS LEGISLATION, SB14

I am a Representative from the State of Texas and as you are all aware, my State has recently adopted a voter identification law that is among the most restrictive in the Nation. This law passed both chambers of the Texas legislature after lengthy floor debates. The Texas House approved the measure 101–48 late in the night after more than eleven hours of debate that included some 40 proposed amendments. Although it was evident that this bill had significant opposition, the bill was fast-tracked as a "legislative emergency." The Voter ID bill was fast-tracked at a time when there were urgent threats to state services due to a $10 billion budget shortfall.

Under SB14, would require Texas voters to show a non-expired:

Texas driver's license,
state ID card,
military ID,
US passport or
citizenship ID to vote.

Texas concealed handgun license to the list.

SB14, Banned the following forms of identification:

driver's licenses from other states,
college IDs,
birth certificates and other identification documents.

Voters over 70 are not exempted from any of these requirements.

Those without the requisite ID would have to cast provisional ballots that would be counted only if the voter returned with valid ID within six days after the election.

While similar proposals were defeated in past years, Texas Gov. Rick Perry designated the legislation as an emergency to allow it to be procedurally fast-tracked through the legislature to avoid the debates that derailed such efforts in previous years.

As a preclearance state under the Voting Rights Act, Texas had to submit any electoral changes for approval by the U.S. Department of Justice for review under the Voting Rights Act.

I hold in my hand a letter from the Department of Justice and I quote from this letter "with regard to Section 9 and 15 of S.B. 14, concerning photographic identification, I cannot conclude that the state has sustained its burden under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Therefore, on the behalf of the Attorney General, I must object to Sections 9 and 14 of S.B. 14." In effect, the currently proposed photographic identification requirements and related changes may not be implemented and are not legally enforceable. Texans need to be informed about this turn of events. S.B.14 is not legally binding. The public must be made aware that right now in the state of Texas there is no requirement for a Voter ID card in order to vote! May I remind you that no right is more fundamental than the right to vote.

THE CONSTITUTION PROTECTS OUR RIGHT TO VOTE

It is protected by more constitutional amendments—the 1st, 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th and 26th—than any other right we enjoy as Americans. Broad political participation ensures the preservation of all our other rights and freedoms. 3 State laws that impose new restrictions on voting, however, undermine our strong democracy by impeding access to the polls and reducing the number of Americans who vote and whose votes are counted.

My State is not the only State undergoing attempts to restrict voting rights. There have been several restrictive voting bills considered and approved by States in the past several years.

VOTER ID LAWS

The most commonly advanced initiatives are laws that require voters to present photo identification when voting in person. Additionally, States have proposed or passed laws to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote; to eliminate the right to register to vote and to submit a change of address within the same State on Election Day; to shorten the time allowed for early voting; to make it more difficult for third-party organizations to conduct voter registration; and even to eliminate a mandate on poll workers to direct voters who go to the wrong precinct.

These recent changes are on top of the disfranchisement laws in 48 States that deprive an estimated 5.3 million people with criminal convictions—disproportionately African Americans and Latinos—of their political voice.

Voter ID laws are becoming increasingly common across the country. Today, 31 States have laws requiring voters to present some form of identification to vote in Federal, State and local elections, although some laws or initiatives passed in 2011 have not yet gone into effect. Some must also be pre-cleared under the Voting Rights Act prior to implementation. In 16 of those 31 States, voters must (or will soon be required to) present a photo ID—that in many States must be government-issued—in order to cast a ballot.

Voter ID laws deny the right to vote to thousands of registered voters who do not have, and, in many instances, cannot obtain the limited identification States accept for voting. Many of these Americans cannot afford to pay for the required documents needed to secure a government issued photo ID. As such, these laws impede access to the polls and are at odds with the fundamental right to vote.

In total, more than 21 million Americans of voting age lack documentation that would satisfy photo ID laws, and a disproportionate number of these Americans are low-income, racial and ethnic minorities, and elderly. As many as 25 percent of African Americans of voting age lack government-issued photo ID, compared to only 8 percent of their white counterparts. Eighteen percent of Americans over the age of 65 do not have government-issued photo ID.

Laws requiring photo identification to vote are a "solution" in search of a problem. There is no credible evidence that in-person impersonation voter fraud—the only type of fraud that photo IDs could prevent—is even a minor problem. Multiple studies have found that almost all cases of alleged in-person impersonation voter "fraud" are actually the result of a voter making an inadvertent mistake about their eligibility to vote, and that even these mistakes are extremely infrequent.

It is important, instead, to focus on both expanding the franchise and ending practices

which actually threaten the integrity of the elections, such as improper purges of voters, voter harassment, and distribution of false information about when and where to vote. None of these issues, however, are addressed or can be resolved with a photo ID requirement.

Furthermore, requiring voters to pay for an ID, as well as the background documents necessary to obtain an ID in order to vote, is tantamount to a poll tax. Although some States issue IDs for free, the birth certificates, passports, or other documents required to secure a government-issued ID cost money, and many Americans simply cannot afford to pay for them. In addition, obtaining a government-issued photo ID is not an easy task for all members of the electorate. Low-income individuals who lack the funds to pay for documentation, people with disabilities with limited access to transportation, and elderly Americans who never had a birth certificate and cannot obtain alternate proof of their birth in the U.S., are among those who face significant or insurmountable obstacles to getting the photo ID needed to exercise their right to vote.

Because of Texas' recently passed voter ID law, an estimated 36,000 people in West Texas's District 19 are 137 miles from the nearest full service Department of Public Safety office, where those without IDs must travel to preserve their right to vote under the state's new law.

In addition, women who have changed their names due to marriage or divorce often experience difficulties with identity documentation, as did Andrea, who recently moved from Massachusetts to South Carolina and who, in the span of a month, spent more than 17 hours online and in person trying without success to get a South Carolina driver's license.

Voter ID laws send not-so-subtle messages about who is and is not encouraged to vote. As States approve laws requiring photo ID to vote, each formulates its own list of acceptable forms of documentation. Another common thread emerging from disparate state approaches is a bias against robust student electoral participation.

Henceforth, students at Wisconsin colleges and universities will not be able to vote using their student ID cards, unless those cards have issuance dates, expiration dates, and signatures.

Currently, only a handful of Wisconsin colleges and universities are issuing compliant IDs. Nor will South Carolina, Texas, or Tennessee accept student identification at the polls.

Policies that limit students' electoral participation are particularly suspect, appearing on the heels of unprecedented youth turnout in the 2008 election.

Voter ID proposals have a forceful momentum this year not seen in years past, part of broader legislative movements to limit access to the political process for disenfranchised groups at a level not seen since post-reconstruction era laws implementing poll taxes and literacy tests. In just over the first two months of 2011, photo ID proposals have been introduced in 32 States and passed out of one legislative chamber in 12 States.

Since 2001, more than 700 voter identification bills have been introduced in 46 States, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. A dozen States have passed new voter ID laws since 2003, but only 8 States require photo ID of voters and only two have laws as strict as those being proposed this year.

Lawmakers across the Nation have pinpointed photo ID as a top legislative priority. Just remember that the governor of Texas designated photo ID as a legislative emergency in order to allow it to be procedurally fast-tracked through the legislature, photo ID proposals were pre-filed before legislative sessions began in half a dozen States, and secretaries of state in a number of States have listed photo ID as a top priority.

I stand ever ready to fight these attempts to hinder the right to vote for seniors, minorities and low income Americans. I stand ever ready to protect the right to vote and preserve this right for future generations.

MAP OF SHAME: VOTE SUPPRESSION LEGISLATION BY STATE

Election Protection: You Have The Right To Vote

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

(For more information about registration and voting laws in your state, visit www.mapofshame.com)

States with Proof of Citizenship Laws—AZ, KS, TN, AL, GA.

States with Repressive Election Legislation—OH, FL.

Governor Vetoed Photo Voter ID Law—NH, NC, MO, MN, MT.

TX*, KS*, WI*, IN, TN*, MS, AL*, GA, SC*—Require Photo Voter ID Only.

(*Law takes effect in 2012 and beyond.)

RI, HI, ID, SD, MI, OK, LA, FL—Photo Voter ID Requested.

WA, CA, NV, AK, MT, CO, NM, NE, MN, IA, MO, IL, AR, OH, NY, PA, WV, VA, NC, ME, NH, MA, CT, NJ, DE, MD—Photo Voter ID Legislation Proposed.

OR, WY, UT, AZ, ND, KY, VT—No Existing Photo Voter ID Law, No Current Legislation.

STATES WHERE VOTING CHANGES WERE PURSUED AND TYPES OF CHANGES ENACTED

Legislation introduced—AK, OR, CA, NV, MT, CO, NM, NE, KS, TX, MN, IA, MO, AR, WI, IL, TN, MS, OH, WV, VA, NC, AL, GA, FL, SC, MD, DE, NJ, CT, RI, MA, NH, ME, NY, PA, HI.

Photo ID requirements passed—KS, TX, WI, TN, AL, SC, RI.

Proof of citizenship passed—KS, TN, AL.

Restrictions on voter registration passed—TX, OH, ME, FL.

Restrictions on early/absentee voting passed—TN, GA, FL, WV, OH.

Executive action making it harder to restore voting rights—IA, FL.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have an article that is dated today, Monday, May 7, 2012, from the Associated Press, Congress's Intelligence Heads: Taliban Has Grown Stronger under Obama.

Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN and Representative MIKE ROGERS, who I just saw outside, a smart guy, former FBI agent, well respected in the areas of law enforcement and the security of this country, well, as the article points out, and there are other articles as well, I believe Human Events also had one, but this article from the AP says:

The leaders of congressional intelligence committees said Sunday they believed that the Taliban had grown stronger since President Barack Obama sent 33,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan in 2010.

The pessimistic report by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D–Calif., and Rep. Mike Rogers, R–Mich., challenges Obama's own assessment last week in his visit to Kabul that the ''tide had turned'' and that ''we broke the Taliban's momentum.''

The two recently returned from a fact-finding trip to the region where they met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

''President Karzai believes that the Taliban will not come back. I'm not so sure,'' Feinstein said. ''The Taliban has a shadow system of governors in many provinces.''

When asked if the Taliban's capabilities have been degraded since Obama deployed the additional troops two years ago, Feinstein said: ''I think we'd both say that what we've found is that the Taliban is stronger.''

I was in Afghanistan a couple weeks ago. I was in Afghanistan a couple months before that. And as one of the Afghans pointed out, former ally—well, they are still allies, as far as they are concerned. This administration has thrown them under the bus—but they pointed out, you know, from the Taliban's perspective, they have said we, the Taliban, do not have to win a single battle. All we have to do is be here when the United States leaves.

Now, a couple of weeks ago, of course, the administration, two Cabinet members, were requesting that my dear friend, DANA ROHRABACHER, not go into Afghanistan for one reason—that President Hamid Karzai didn't want him to come in. Now, apparently, Karzai, ignorant of what is actually going on in Washington, had said that my friend, Congressman ROHRABACHER, proposed a bill that would partition or divide up Afghanistan. Well, I worked with Congressman ROHRABACHER on his very good bill, and basically it is a sense of Congress that says we support the Afghans' right to vote for their leaders.

Now, I understand Secretary Clinton inherited a State Department and a situation in Afghanistan that was not of her making. I get that. And, in fact, we sat by and even assisted as Afghanistan created a constitution based on sharia law that has now resulted in the last public Christian church closing. It's a system where the President gets to appoint governors, mayors, chiefs of police, many of the higher-level teachers, slate of legislators. He gets powerful control over so much of the purse strings. So it was amazing to see the President over kind of doing what appeared to be a victory lap around Afghanistan and back home: gee, the Taliban's back is broken, things are looking good, and we now have an agreement going forward with Afghanistan. Great news.

Well, when you find out from Afghans that actually the Afghanistan Government has a $12.5 billion budget and all the sources of revenue that Afghanistan can come up with provide $1.5 billion of their $12.5 billion budget, and the rest comes from other countries, you would presume largely from the United States, and when one considers the billions of dollars that we are spending for humanitarian projects, training farmers to farm as I've met with the teachers, American teachers teaching Afghans to farm, and they were so depressed because the billions we've spent, given basically to Afghanistan to create farming projects so the people can maintain themselves when we're gone, have not made its way to any of those projects in that region of the country. There is one region where apparently some has made it to projects, but certainly not all and probably not most of them.

So it would seem if you're the President of the United States and you go to a country whose government has a $12.5 billion budget and they can only come up with $1.5 billion of that and you're the big force behind all of the other $11 billion, it would seem to me that there shouldn't be a whole lot of negotiation that has to take place.

□ 2000

What kind of person does not understand leverage? The President accepted, of course, because it appears that the foreign policy that we've run into from President Obama's administration is we've got people around the world that hate us, want to destroy us, so we're going to give them money. We're going to buy them an office in Qatar, as we've offered the Taliban. We're going to be releasing their murdering thugs that we've got in detention, and then maybe they will like us enough to agree with us. That sounds like somebody that spent too much time community organizing and not enough time studying history. That's no way to negotiate.

If one wishes to approach an individual, and like in my situation, being a Christian, we're supposed to help the needy—''blessed are the meek.'' The Beatitudes are quite compelling.

The government has a different role. The government is to protect the people. As Romans 13 points out, if you do evil, be afraid, because the government does not bear the sword in vain. The government's role is to protect people so individually they can live the kind of life that so much of our heritage embraces. The government is supposed to protect the people; it's supposed to punish evil, and it actually is supposed to encourage good.

We've gotten so far off track. Back in the sixties, well-intentioned, we began paying young women to have children out of wedlock, born out of the best of intentions—deadbeat dads were not helping, so let's help them out. Instead, what they did is lure young women away from a high school education, in many cases—I've had many of them come before my court—and lure them into a rut they couldn't get out of.

We have senior citizens on Social Security whose religious beliefs embrace marriage as being the ultimate living situation between a man and a woman. Yet they have guilt because they know they can't live on what little they have, and they know that if they marry another person that they're living with—I've heard from folks like this—that lives on Social Security as well, then their Social Security will be reduced if they get married, so they live together.

The President's own proposal, although he's been out saying he was going after millionaires and billionaires, when you look at the specific proposals—which he finally put in print so we can see in print what he really believes—as he continues to say we're going after millionaires and billionaires, the Buffett tax, that kind of thing, you look at the specific proposal and he goes after everybody making more than $125,000 a year if you're married, $250,000 if you're filing jointly. If you're single, it can be $200,000 to $225,000. So, once again, the President wants to promote living together rather than being married, as evidenced by what he provides money for.

Now, we know that we've been told by this administration repeatedly, look, if we just show the Taliban how good a people we are and how good our motivation is, then they'll fall into line. I've said and will keep saying: You don't have to pay people to hate you; they'll do it for free. We are wasting billions. We have wasted trillions of dollars over all these many years. So this administration continues to try to buy the affection of the Taliban.

Let's see. This article was from CNN, and they reiterate:

> The heads of the Senate and House intelligence Committees Sunday said the Taliban was gaining ground.
>
> The President added, the administration was in direct discussion with the Taliban, saying the group can be a part of the country's future if they break with al Qaeda, renounce violence, and abide by Afghan laws.

We saw that same kind of effort by this administration. There was a Taliban leader who was released with the consent of this administration basically because it was the humanitarian thing to do, to let him go die in peace. Well, he was released from detention. As the Afghans, who have buried family and friends while fighting with American troops against the Taliban initially—before this administration threw them under the bus—they've said, hey, that Taliban leader that you released, the U.S. authorized the release because he was going to go die and this would be the humanitarian thing to do, guess what? He is back in Afghanistan, and he was on Afghanistan's biggest television station. He said three things. Two of them were that it is very clear to the world that the United States has lost, and that's why the United States—as everyone in the world knows who's paying attention—the United States is begging the Taliban to come just sit down and negotiate with us. Please, we know you murdered thousands of Americans. We get that. That's okay. Just sit down with us. We'll keep releasing your murdering thugs if you will just agree to sit down with us and talk. Why, we'll even buy you a wonderful office in Qatar so you will have international prestige to spread whatever goodwill you wish to spread. Well, that would be known, Mr. Speaker—if the President would pay attention—that would be known as radical jihad. That is what they wish to spread.

Here's a news report today from foxnews.com from Kabul:

> The U.S. has been secretly releasing captured Taliban fighters from a detention center in Afghanistan in a bid to strengthen its hand in peace talks with the insurgent group, the Washington Post reported Monday.

Who in the world who has ever studied history comes around and says we're releasing the murdering thuggish war criminals to strengthen our own end? We're letting our enemy have their murdering thugs back to strengthen our hand. Perhaps a community organizer would think that.

The article says:

> The strategic release program of higher-level detainees is designed to give the U.S. a bargaining chip in some areas of Afghanistan where international forces struggle to exercise control. Under the risky program, the hardened fighters must promise to give up violence and are threatened with further punishment, but there is nothing to stop them from resuming attacks against Afghan and American troops.
>
> ''Everyone agrees they are guilty of what they have done and should remain in detention. Everyone agrees that these are bad guys. But the benefits outweigh the risks,'' a U.S. official told the Post.
>
> In a visit to Afghanistan last week, President Barack Obama confirmed that the U.S. was pursuing peace talks with the Taliban.

You know, there was once a policy in this country that we did not negotiate with terrorists, but that's the old days. This administration's policy is, not only do we negotiate with terrorists, we give them stuff.

□ 2010

What do you want? Do you want more of your murdering thugs released so maybe they can kill more of our Afghan allies or more American troops? Eighteen hundred, is that enough? Do you want to kill more? We hope you won't; but if you'll just say, we won't kill if you'll let us go, then we'll let you go.

It reminds me of the naivete of Secretary Madeleine Albright and President Bill Clinton who, in essence, told North Korea, look, we will give you everything you need to make nuclear weapons if you'll promise us that you will only use it to make nuclear power.

Really? North Korea basically said, really? All we have to do—you know we're liars. You've caught us in lies repeatedly. But all we have to do is tell

you we'll never use it for nukes, and you'll give us all this stuff? Well, sure, yeah. Oh, yeah. Yeah, you've caught us in so many lies? What's one more?

So, guess who has nuclear weapons now that we worry about? The same people the Clinton administration gave nuclear materials and information, simply on the promise that they wouldn't use it to make nuclear weapons.

What a lovely world it would be.

Back to the article from Fox News:

> We have made it clear that they, the Taliban, can be a part of this future if they break with al Qaeda, renounce violence, and abide by Afghan laws. Many members of the Taliban, from foot soldiers to leaders, have indicated an interest in reconciliation. A path to peace is now set before them, Obama said.
>
> The upcoming NATO Summit in Chicago, the U.S. coalition will set a goal for Afghan forces to take the lead in combat operations across the country next year.

Look, Mr. Speaker, it makes sense that all of us should want peace. All of us, I know in this body, want peace. But just as we've seen signs around this Capitol since I've been in Congress saying war never brought peace, there is a naivete of some people who think if you apply individual blessedness, turn the other cheek, those kinds of things, from a government standpoint, that other governments controlled by terrorists, war criminals, mad men, that they will respond to that, when the truth is that's an individual approach.

The Nation's government must be about providing for the common defense, number one, against all enemies, foreign and domestic. We should be doing that. And that means when there are murdering thugs in the world who have sworn to do everything they can to destroy the United States of America, we have to take them seriously and take them out, if necessary. We have that obligation to the people we were sent here to protect.

When I took an oath to the United States Army, it was the same kind of oath. We were supposed to serve and protect. And best of intentions, good will does not defeat terrorists who have made clear they will not stop until they're dead and, they think, in paradise, or we are dead and our government gone.

Now, we know that the term Islamophobia, Islamophobe have come from—been pushed by the Organization of Islamic Conference as a way to further their goals. Anybody stands up to point out that there are radical Islamist jihadists who want to destroy everyone who does not believe as they do—we know that those people were behind 9/11, killing 3,000, over 3,000, innocent people, and that the only regret that those individuals had was that more people were not killed. They'd hoped that perhaps 50,000–55,000 would have been killed in the two World Trade Centers.

You can't, as the United States Government, just turn the other cheek when there are people coming into this country illegally wanting to destroy us. They're not just people coming for jobs anymore. There's the OTM, as they're classified.

So some of us who will call radical Islamic jihad what it is, a policy of a minority, a small minority of Muslims, they want to call some of us Islamophobes. Islamophobes. Give me a break.

Two weeks ago I was in Afghanistan. Karzai didn't want our friend, DANA ROHRABACHER, to go in. DANA, ever the patriot, he was persuaded by Secretary Clinton not to push the issue because talks were in such delicate shape at the time.

Delicate shape? We pull out, don't give any more money, and Karzai collapses. He'll either be out of the country with money he's stowed away, or he'll be subjugated by the Taliban if we pull out and don't provide any assistance. And we have to go begging him for talks? Excuse me? Delicate talks?

We know that President Karzai is Pashtun. He can deal with the Taliban. It appears he's dealing with them somewhat like Maliki is dealing with the Iranians who want to take over Iraq, caving, as necessary, to keep his position.

There are ways to execute foreign policy that don't cost thousands of American lives, that don't have to exist on the good intentions of people who are sworn to murder and destroy us.

The enemy of our enemy is our friend. And that was seen, once again, a couple of weeks ago in Afghanistan. Congressman ROHRABACHER had hoped to be at the meeting with our Northern Alliance friends. Most of them are part of the National Front now. I would hope that one of them would be elected President of Afghanistan.

My friend, Massoud, his older brother, might have been the one person to unite the country; but the day before 9/11 the Taliban knew that, so they assassinated him. Massoud's father-in-law, Rabbani, was assassinated last September.

General Dostum, many consider the great hero of late 2001, early 2002, when the Northern Alliance tribes defeated the Taliban on horseback, fearless warriors. And this administration thanks them by publicly calling them war criminals. These were our allies. These are the enemy of our enemy.

Yes, Muslim. No Islamophobe here, because I recognize the enemy of my enemy is my friend.

□ 2020

Those people fought with us and for us. There is something very strong in the bond—or should be—between the people of the United States who fought, buried family or loved ones, and those in the Northern Alliance who fought with us and who buried family or loved ones, friends. There is a bond there. But instead of embracing that bond and utilizing that bond, those who fought for us and with us, who did most of the fighting when the Taliban was initially defeated, have been thrown under the bus.

So when they were gathering on Sunday 2 weeks ago and when they wanted to meet with someone, three Members of Congress went. At first, we were told, Well, gee, there's just not enough security to get you there.

Then I pointed out to the person coordinating the security for our five Members of Congress, Sir, do you see that gate out there at the embassy? You're going to have to take me down before I get out the gate.

He said, Sir, we're not authorized to take down a Member of Congress.

I said, Well, then, you will not stop me. I'm going to see our friends. Massoud, who is the head of security, has assured me they're going to have bulletproof vehicles to pick us up, and I'm going with them.

Amazingly, thirty-or-so minutes after our next meeting, we had American security taking us to the meeting. We were quite safe there. They made sure of that. They didn't want anything to happen to their American visitors.

Congresswoman MICHELE BACHMANN and Congressman MICHAEL BURGESS, we would have had to have taken an additional vehicle had more than three Members gone. So JOHN CARTER, being the gentleman, said, MIKE BURGESS, why don't you go. MIKE BURGESS and MICHELE BACHMANN and I went to see our friends—Mohaqiq and numerous other leaders of the National Front.

Now, it's interesting. They pointed out—and you've probably heard—about Karzai saying, Gee, he believes so much in our Constitution—and the Constitution says, if you serve two terms, you can't run for a third term—that he may resign a year early. He said, Your people, your leaders in America seem to be eating that up.

The truth is that the people who are advising Karzai are all trying to figure out—How can we get around that prohibition from running for a third term?—and they think they may have it. They think that, if he resigns a year early and if somebody else takes over Afghanistan for a year, with or without an election, then he could say, Gee, I never served two terms. I didn't make it two terms. I resigned before the second term was up, so now I can run for a third term. Gee, the U.S. is going to have troops out by 2014. Therefore, I could run in 2014. The U.S. will not be around with any strength to enforce such an agreement of my not running. And, gee, what if the people really want me to run?

We know there has been corruption in those votes over there, but the system that's set up in Afghanistan is a system that creates conduits for fraud. We could strengthen Afghanistan if we would simply allow the people to elect their regional-provincial governors, elect their mayors, let them pick their own chiefs of police, not the President

Karzai cronies. That's a system that's fraught with the kind of danger you found, fraud you found in the old Roman Empire, where they would appoint a governor of a region, but of course you had to kick back to the one who appointed you. That's the kind of system they have right now in Afghanistan.

In talking, there are some who say, Well, there are some supplies of the Taliban's coming through northern Pakistan; but most people are saying, We think the Taliban is getting most of their supplies through southern Balochistan. The Baloch have been terrorized for decades by northern Pakistan. Before 1947–48, when lines seemed to be arbitrarily drawn in creating countries, Balochistan had never been a part of Pakistan. For decades now, it has. The people have been terrorized.

After Congressmen ROHRABACHER and STEVE KING also met with Baloch leaders, the idea struck me: since these Baloch leaders are tired of being terrorized by northern Pakistan, by the leaders in Islamabad, they could be quite self-sufficient in having natural resources, which is much of what the nation would need to survive on its own; and they're our friends. There may be a lot of Muslims. This non-Islamophobe knows that the enemy of our enemies is our friend. We can support them. We can help each other. So that's why Congressman ROHRABACHER and I proposed a bill that would support the creation of an independent Balochistan. As one person in the region over there said, Wow, if Balochistan were independent, that would change everything.

Now, I know this President is not gifted on foreign policy—I get that—but it doesn't mean he can't learn. Then you look at Pakistan. While this administration is trying to play footsie with Pakistan and while they're trying to play footsie with China, who was it they let in to see our stealth helicopter? China. Who was it that they harbored in their country—the greatest enemy, public enemy number one, of the United States—and kept there, supposedly, for years? This administration wants to placate them, how they can, just like it's trying to do with the Taliban and our other leaders. Maybe we can buy them off. Maybe we can do something to show them how sweet and kind we are.

Those types of people see that as weakness. It's like blood to a shark. They're drawn to it, and they will devour us if we don't show strength rather than weakness.

So an independent Balochistan gave me an interesting idea. Congressman ROHRABACHER and I had done an op-ed that was published, and it was my conviction that we stick in there a line about the potential for an independent Balochistan. Interestingly, after that was published, there was an article published in the Pakistan Daily News. I thought I had a copy of it here. I must not. Oh, here it is. It was published back in January. It says this in the article in the Pakistan Daily Times:

> In another interesting development, Louie Gohmert, a U.S. Republican Representative, proposed that, in order to beat the Taliban, the U.S. should carve out a new, friendly state, Balochistan, from within Pakistan, to stabilize Afghanistan's western border.

The article goes on:

> Even if Mr. Gohmert does not necessarily speak for Washington, it is logical to assume that he made this observation after picking up the buzz in American political circles. The U.S. wants a consulate in Quetta, but so far, Pakistan has resisted this request. The geo-strategic location of Balochistan and its potential in minerals, gas and oil is something that interests the world's sole superpower.

So says the Pakistan Daily Times.

□ 2030

They say the Baloch resistance movement is one of the few, if not the only one, that has not been declared a terrorist movement by the U.S. The U.S.'s soft attitude towards this resistance movement does not necessarily mean that they are enamored of the complaints and aspirations of the Baloch, but that the Americans have their own vested interest there. They may now want to snip away at the roots of the Pakistan military's dual policy in the war on terror by a flanking move in Balochistan.

The Pakistan Daily Times says:

> Before this loud thinking is embraced as policy by Washington, for our own territorial integrity, we should do away with our double game in the war on terror and politically settle Balochistan's issues. By helping the Afghan Taliban and other jihadi groups, we have only weakened our own country. It is time that the military realizes this folly. Indiscriminate killing of the Baloch by the military and its intelligence agencies cannot and must not be tolerated. The political leadership must talk to the Baloch resistance. Only through negotiations and a dialogue can the Balochistan issue be settled peacefully.

The enemy of our enemy should be our friend. That is why when Congresswoman BACHMANN, Congressman BURGESS, and I got to the home of my friend Massoud, with all these other National Front leaders there waiting, and I got out of the vehicle, they knew my heart. They know we are friends who have the same enemies. And there was embracing all around because it truly was good to see them, to see them alive, and to see them in their own country in Massoud's own home. They fought with us, they fought for us, and they bore the brunt of the battle against the Taliban in late 2001 and early 2002 when they were routed initially. We added over 100,000 troops, got over 100,000 under this President, and things are not going as well as they were when the Northern Alliance was fighting them with simply a matter of hundreds of Americans embedded with air support. It's not going as well as it was then.

Occupiers in Afghanistan—Russia for example. Going clear back to Alexander the Great, we know he died leaving that area, that things didn't go as well as he might have hoped. They've learned that occupiers don't do all that well in Afghanistan. Empower the enemy of your enemy. Don't try to buy off your enemy that is sworn to destroy you. Empower the enemy of your enemy.

I mentioned earlier about the Taliban leader that we released who is now back with the Taliban. I mentioned one of the three things he said. He said, It's apparent to everybody that the U.S. has lost because they're begging us to come negotiate. Another thing he pointed out, which is consistent with sharia law, is that anyone who has not been supportive of the Taliban in the past needs to first come to the Taliban—and under Karzai they've been able to be more public, and they have a public presence. He says, Come to us, ask for forgiveness, ask for our protection, and you may be spared. From my understanding of sharia law, you can avoid being killed under sharia law if you come ask forgiveness and ask for protection in just such a way as this Taliban leader—fresh from his U.S. reprieve—is out there saying.

And again, the Taliban position is, we probably can't defeat the U.S. in a single battle. We don't have to—we've just got to be here when you leave. And the heartbreaking aspect of that, for those of us who have attended too many funerals of Americans who have paid the full measure of devotion, is that if we leave and we leave a situation where the Taliban is empowered again, other Americans will have to come down the road in the future and fight the Taliban, and more American lives will be lost. It's not necessary.

Had President Carter realized in 1979, when he welcomed the Ayatollah Khomeini back into Iran as a man of peace, had President Carter realized that Americans would be dying in America to protect America because radical Islam had then been given a country in which to be nourished, you would hope he would not have taken the same steps and would not be as bitter toward so many as he is today after his failed presidency.

Perhaps even President Reagan—with the best of intentions—if he had realized that we were in a war, but only one side knew we were at war, when our precious Marines were killed in an explosion in Beirut, perhaps we wouldn't have run out so quickly. But for Heaven's sake, as American buildings, embassies, individuals were attacked—and in 1993, the first attempt on the World Trade Center, another act of war, was a signal letting us know that since 1979 these people had been at war with us. There was the Khobar towers, the USS *Cole*, further acts of war. We've been at war; we just didn't know we were. Then we come to 9/11, and we're totally shocked, totally unprepared because we did not realize there was a war going on. We just didn't know we were in a war.

Now this administration seeks to go back to September 10, and it is cleansing its training materials of any reference to Islamic jihad. It is bringing in noncitizens. It is bringing in Members of the Muslim Brotherhood to advise it. It is bringing in officers of named coconspirators in the Holy Land Foundation trial supporting terrorism. It's bringing in people who have ties supporting terrorism. It's bringing them in to dictate our policy toward radical Islam. What have they said? The first thing you've got to do is eliminate any reference to Islam, any reference to jihad. So this administration, from the Department of Justice, Department of State, Department of Defense, intelligence agencies, has been very compliant. That is ongoing. As one intelligence official said, we're blinding ourselves from the ability to see our enemy.

What's going on these days will be the subject of historic articles that will continue for centuries to ask how this Nation could be so naive and/or stupid that we would be at war and not know it for 30-plus years, and that in the fight of such a war, we would bring in people who support our enemies' actions to tell us how to fight the war. There will be articles and history books that will repeat the question: How could they not see what they were doing was going to bring either an end to America or devastation to America, one or the other?

□ 2040

Well, we know that in the news this week, we have such people down in Guantanamo, the 9/11 detainees, as they're referred to. I have got a couple of articles here. The New York Times is talking about the detainees showing defiance, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and the other detainees: ''9/11 mastermind, four cohorts to be arraigned.'' That was last week. ''Mohammed Joined By Four Codefendants in Deferring Pleas,'' a couple of days ago. There's another article: ''Outrage as 9/11 Defense Counsel Insists Women Cover Themselves.'' What happened to the freedom the people in our military are fighting for? Amazing. ''Lawyer Defending 9/11 Suspects Wearing Burqa in Court 'Out of Respect.' ''

Well, there is a great article—and it certainly wasn't recent—that points out that these detainees are ready to plead guilty. They're ready to come in and plead guilty. And this is a New York Times article: ''Five Charged in 9/11 Attacks Seek to Plead Guilty.'' Most people had not seen that title. All they've been hearing about is how they're disrupting the pleadings. This trial could go on for years and years. They're making a mockery out of it. And the reason people haven't seen the title of this article, ''Five Charged in 9/11 Attacks Seek to Plead Guilty,'' by the New York Times is because it was published December 8 and 9 of 2008. In 2008, these detainees indicated they were willing to plead guilty.

These detainees—particularly Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—had been through a lengthy questioning by the judge. He had spelled out his role in different things, not only in the 9/11 plot but his role in other terrorist acts. He had filed a 6-page pleading where he sets out that, if we have terrorized you, then praise be to Allah. He said, in essence, in that pleading, if you are Jewish or American, you deserve to die; you are an infidel. And he prayed that Allah would help them to continue to terrorize America.

But a sad thing happened on the way between those guilty pleas in late 2008 and here, going on 4 years later. Virtually nothing has been accomplished. In fact, we are further back from where we were in December of 2008 because we had the H&O policy—the Holder and Obama policy—of, Gee, we're going to give you the chance—this isn't what they said. But anybody who has eyes to see and ears to hear could understand that what the Taliban, what al Qaeda, what radical Islamic jihadists would hear is, We're going to give you a show trial. Why would you want to plead guilty?

So these guys, as of December '08 said, Whoa, this guy Eric Holder—hey, he's represented terrorists. He will identify with us. The President, the community organizer he is, he's going to help us. So they're going to give us a way that we can have a show trial. In fact, the Attorney General wants to give us that show trial in downtown New York. Wow. Allah be praised. We're going to get to go back to the scene of the crime and create all that chaos and all the heartache for the people of Manhattan.

Well, Congress, fortunately, said, that's not going to happen. They are going to be tried at Guantanamo. But the damage had been done by the H&O policy—the Holder and Obama policy to give them a show trial—had taken hold. It had developed the imaginations of the 9/11 plotters and planners. So now we're having a show trial. This time in Guantanamo. Fortunately, not in the middle of where so much grief and anguish took place in New York City.

Some had said at the time, Hey, this is New York City. You are an outsider. You have no business saying anything about what we do in New York City. This was an act of war against our country. The whole country suffered together and came together as one on 9/12/2001. It does pertain to the whole country.

As our friend Representative Weiner from New York chastised me, he said, We all want to see them put to death in New York, and you have no right to say otherwise. Well, having been a judge and chief justice, I know those kinds of statements would be exhibit A or B of any motion to transfer venue, that they can't possibly get a fair trial. They were not well reasoned comments.

So here we are, going on 4 years later. Justice has not been done. A travesty has been done to all the families of the victims of 9/11. They can forgive. They can turn the other cheek. But as a government, our role is different. We are to provide for the common defense. We are to punish evil. We are to encourage good. And that means, any nation in the world who has a government that wants to declare war on us, then be advised: Many of us don't believe—like in Iran, we don't believe we should go to war with Iran, but we'll take out the government that wants to go to war with us. Obviously this administration feels like we can buy time and has even given hints that they think they can live with a nuclear Iran. Well, a lot of people would not live with a nuclear Iran. A lot of people would die because of a nuclear Iran. It does not need to be allowed to happen.

One other comment, though. There is a great article today out about one of the banes of my existence, and that was TARP. George W. Bush is a great man. He got a bad rap, was accused of lying when he did no such thing. He didn't bother to defend himself when truckloads of yellow cake uranium were taken out of Iraq, feeling that history would judge him fairly. But he trusted a pitiful Secretary of the Treasury, Hank Paulson, and we had something called TARP.

There is a great article in Human Events from today. ''Inspector General report ends myth that TARP 'turned a profit.''' And David Harsanyi goes on and points out very clearly that the money hasn't been paid back, as promised. Some of it has been paid back by other giveaways and gifts and loans by the Federal Government. And the government, printing money to pay debt and then having interest on the new money they've printed, is somehow making a profit. When the truth is, as the article points out:

> It's tricky to track $700 billion of emergency funding that was haphazardly dropped into the economy by a panic-stricken government, when accounting for the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac bailout, the American taxpayer is probably owed somewhere in the neighborhood of $237.7 billion—

But we were told it's all been paid back. Yeah, right.

> —though some estimates are far higher. And it will be more. The Treasury Department says that a large part of the money lost via TARP is the result of the housing and car bailouts, also not paid back. When the next Fannie and Freddie rescue comes—as a number of reports have indicated will be needed—taxpayers will be on the hook.

□ 2050

> Most of the banks that were ''too big to fail'' when TARP was implemented are now even bigger. The report to Congress points out that a recent working paper from Federal Reserve economists ''confirms that TARP encouraged high-risk behavior by insulating the risk takers from the consequences of failure.''

That's why you never set aside free-market principles to save the free market. If you have to do that, the free market is not worth saving. But it was

worth saving and there were free-market principles that could have been followed to get us out of that mess to avoid encouraging further risk taking.

And I would commend, Mr. Speaker, people to Mike Franc's work at the Heritage Foundation that disclosed that despite the rhetoric of the President, how he's going after fat cats on Wall Street, the Wall Street executives and their immediate family donated to President Obama four-to-one over Senator MCCAIN. And they've done extremely well under this President. It's almost as if there is a deal: Look, I'll call you ''fat cats,'' I'll call you all kinds of names—millionaires, billionaires—I'll trash you, but you'll make more money than ever and then I'll put taxes on those that make over $125,000, and then I'll say I'm going after major oil, Big Oil, and probably nobody will read the bills.

I read it. I read the President's own words. He's going after independent oil companies. He's eliminating their deductions, not the major oil. He's not going to hurt major oil, from what he's proposed, but he'll put the independents out of business. The majors will make more money than ever because 95 percent of all wells drilled in the continental U.S. are drilled by independent oil and gas producers. So he says he's going after major oil, but they'll make more money than ever if he gets his way.

One other thing: This is an election year, and my colleague from Texas was really going after Texas over the voter ID. I would point out to my friend from Texas, and any others, Mr. Speaker, that the fact is that bill in Texas says, if you can't afford a State ID card, we'll give you one. There are people that volunteer to even get you there to get it done. Let's avoid fraudulent elections further.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and May 8 on account of personal reasons.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and May 8.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 298. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 East Whitestone Boulevard in Cedar Park, Texas, as the ''Army Specialist Matthew Troy Morris Post Office Building''.

H.R. 1423. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 4th Avenue Southwest in Ardmore, Oklahoma, as the ''Specialist Micheal E. Phillips Post Office''.

H.R. 2079. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 Main Street in East Rockaway, New York, as the ''John J. Cook Post Office''.

H.R. 2213. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Eastport Street in Iuka, Mississippi, as the ''Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office''.

H.R. 2244. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 67 Castle Street in Geneva, New York, as the ''Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office''.

H.R. 2660. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 North Holderrieth Boulevard in Tomball, Texas, as the ''Tomball Veterans Post Office''.

H.R. 2767. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8 West Silver Street in Westfield, Massachusetts, as the ''William T. Trant Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3004. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 260 California Drive in Yountville, California, as the ''Private First Class Alejandro R. Ruiz Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3246. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the ''Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3247. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Town and Country Commons in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the ''Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3248. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 South 5th Street in Saint Charles, Missouri, as the ''Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building''.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5858. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Conservation Loan Program (RIN: 0560-AI04) received April 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5859. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report for fiscal year 2011 on the quality of health care furnished under the health care programs of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5860. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Colonel Steven A. Shaprio, United States Army, to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5861. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Department is pursuing a Multi-Year Procurement (MYP) contract for Virgina Class Submarines for Fiscal Year 2014 through 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5862. A letter from the Acting Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting Office of Minority and Women Inclusion's annual report for 2011; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5863. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Exemptions for Security-Based Swaps Issued By Certain Clearing Agencies [Release Nos.: 33-9308; 34-66703; 39-2484; File No. S7-22-11] (RIN: 3235-AL16) received April 3, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5864. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of OMB Guidance on Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension [Docket ID: Ed-2012-OS-0007] (RIN: 1890-AA17) received April 3, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5865. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report on the use of funds appropriated to carry out the Medicaid Integrity Program for Fiscal Year 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5866. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Department's final rule — Availability of Electric Power Sources, Regulatory Guide 1.93 received April 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5867. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Department's final rule — Administrative Guide for Verifying Compliance with Packaging Requirements for Shipping and Receiving of Radioactive Material, Regulatory Guide 7.7 received April 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5868. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Department's final rule — Water Sources for Long-Term Recirculation Cooling Following A Loss-of-Coolant Accident, Regulatory Guide 1.82 received April 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5869. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to prohibiting certain transactions with and suspending entry into the United States of foreign sanctions evaders with respect to Iran and Syria, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 112-105); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

5870. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-345, ''Raising the Expectations for Education Outcomes Omnibus Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5871. A letter from the General Counsel, General Services Administration, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5872. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive/Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments [FAC 2005-58; Item IV; Docket 2012-0079; Sequence 2] received April 19, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5873. A letter from the Director Equal Employment Opportunity, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting the Endowment's annual report for FY 2011 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5874. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting copy of the report entitled ''Certified Business Enterprise Expenditures of Public-Private Development Construction Projects for Fiscal year 2011'', pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5875. A letter from the Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer, Postal Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2011 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5876. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule — Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal School Training Operations at Elgin Air Force Base, Florida [Docket No.: 100217098-2025-02] (RIN: 0648-AY64) received April 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5877. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Specifications and Management Measures [Docket No.: 110707371-2136-02] (RIN: 0648-BB28) received April 16, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5878. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery; Amendment 17 [Docket No.: 110901552-20494-02] (RIN: 0648-BB34) received April 16, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5879. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 111207737-2141-02] (RIN: 0648-XB100) received April 16, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5880. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Swordfish Retention Limits [Docket No.: 110211137-2141-02] (RIN: 0648-BA87) received April 16, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5881. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish Managed Under the Individual Fishing Quota Program [Docket Nos.: 101126522-0640-02 and 1112113751-2102-02] (RIN: 0648-XB039) received April 16, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5882. A letter from the Ombudsman for the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's 2011 Annual Report of the Ombudsman for the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 7385s-15(e); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5883. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2072; (H. Doc. No. 112-104); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

5884. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Standards for Living Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters [Docket No.: USCG-2001-10486] (RIN: 1625-AA32) received April 26, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5885. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Changes in Provider and Supplier Enrollment, Ordering and Referring, and Documentation Requirements; and Changes in Provider Agreements [CMS-6010-F] (RIN: 0938-AQ01) received April 25, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

[Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 631 the following reports were filed on May 2, 2012]

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 5325. A bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes (Rept. 112–462). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WOLF: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 5326. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes (Rept. 112–463). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted May 7, 2012]

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 643. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, 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. 112–464). 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. KISSELL:

H.R. 5327. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on preparations based on ethanediamide, N'-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-N'-(4-isodecylphenyl)-; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DINGELL:

H.R. 5328. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Laromer PE 55 F; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DINGELL:

H.R. 5329. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Poly(urea/formaldehyde/isobutyraldehyde); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 5330. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain leathered footwear for women; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAHN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. POLIS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 5331. A bill to provide protections against violence against immigrant women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BERKLEY:

H.R. 5332. A bill to prohibit agency restrictions on conference locations; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. BERKLEY:

H.R. 5333. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BILBRAY (for himself and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 5334. A bill to amend chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to expedite the development and review of breakthrough therapies; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 5335. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain drive axles designed for use in off-road construction loaders and backhoes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 5336. A bill to reduce temporarily the rate of duty on certain forged ring gear components and certain other parts of crankshafts and connecting rods; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BUERKLE (for herself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 5337. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures comprising poly(methyl methacrylate) and zinc acetate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BUERKLE (for herself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 5338. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures comprising titanium dioxide, silica, and decyl(trimethoxy)silane; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BUERKLE (for herself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 5339. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures comprising titanium dioxide and decyl(trimethoxy)silane; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BUERKLE (for herself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 5340. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on manganese ferrite carrier covered with acrylic resin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 5341. A bill to improve postmarket risk identification and analysis with respect to devices, and for other purposes.; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 5342. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on phosphonic acid, maleic anhydride sodium salt complex; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 5343. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dimethyl hydrogen phosphite; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 5344. A bill to prevent and respond to hazing incidents involving members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5345. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 3-[8-Amino-1-(2-phenyl-quinolin-7-yl)-imidazo[1,5-a]pyrazin- 3-yl]-1-methyl-cyclobutanol (OSI-906); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H.R. 5346. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Macroporous poly(divinylbenzene); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H.R. 5347. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain ion-exchange resin powder; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H.R. 5348. A bill to temporarily syspend the duty on poly(4-(1-isobutoxy ethoxy)styrene-co-4-hydroxystyrene; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5349. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Cypermethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5350. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Dinotefuran; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5351. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fenpropathrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5352. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Clothianidin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5353. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Etoxazole; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5354. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Permethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5355. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on Flumioxazin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5356. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 3-[8-Amino-1-(2-phenyl-quinolin-7-yl)-imidazo[1,5-a]pyrazin- 3-yl]-1-methyl-cyclobutanol (OSI-906); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5357. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on placebos to be used in clinical trials for the drug ASP2408; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5358. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on placebos to be used in clinical trials for the drug ASP0777; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5359. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 3-(1-Bromo-8-chloroimidazo[1,5-a]pyrazin-3-yl)cyclobutanone (OSIP-690631, bicyclic intermediate); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H.R. 5360. A bill to exend the temporarily suspension of the duty on powdered ion exchange resin comprised of a copolymer of styrene, cross linked with divinyl-benzene; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H.R. 5361. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 10,10'-Oxybisphenoxarsine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H.R. 5362. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain macroporus adsorpent polymers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H.R. 5363. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4-(1-Ethoxyethoxy) styrene-4- (t-butylcarbonyloxy) styrene-4-hydroxystyrene copolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5364. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on placebos to be used in clinical trials for the drug ASKP1240; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina:

H.R. 5365. A bill to reduce temporarily the rate of duty on certain machinery for molding unvulcanized rubber for tires; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina:

H.R. 5366. A bill to reduce temporarily the rate of duty on certain machinery for molding unvulcanized rubber for tires; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina:

H.R. 5367. A bill to reduce temporarily the rate of duty on certain machinery for molding unvulcanized rubber for tubeless radial tires; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina:

H.R. 5368. A bill to reduce temporarily the rate of duty on certain machinery for molding unvulcanized rubber for tubeless radial tires; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5369. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Isoviolanthrone Crude Dry Presscake; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5370. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-Ethylhexylamine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5371. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Para Nitro Aniline; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5372. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4-Sulfo-1,8-naphthalic anhydride potassium salt; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5373. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Isononylamine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5374. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Dodecyl aniline, mixed isomers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5375. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on n-Ethyl-n-Benzyl Aniline; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5376. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Altuglas® BS 100 beads, BS 110 beads, and BS 130 beads; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5377. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5 hexanediol (dimethylhexanediol); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5378. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dimethylisopropylamine (DMIPA); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5379. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain reusable grocery bags; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5380. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixed xylidines; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FLAKE:

H.R. 5381. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act with respect to exceptional event demonstrations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 5382. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on poly(vinyl alcohol), whether or not containing unhydrolyzed acetate groups; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5383. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Basic Violet 11; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5384. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Basic Violet 11:1; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5385. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Huron Yellow dye; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5386. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Invisible blue dye; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5387. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Solvent Orange 115; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5388. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Solvent Yellow 131; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5389. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Zinc sulfide, copper chloride doped; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5390. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Solvent Yellow 160:1; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5391. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Reactive Red; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5392. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Solvent Yellow 195; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MANZULLO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mrs. ELLMERS):

H.R. 5393. A bill to amend the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 to make improvements to the trade promotion policies and

programs of the United States Government; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 5394. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on 3-(difluoromethyl)-1-methyl-N-(3′,4′,5′- trifluorobiphenyl-2-yl)pyrazole-4-carboxamide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 5395. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on E-5-(4-Chlorobenzylidene)-2,2-dimethyl-1-(1H-1,2,4-triazol- 1-ylmethyl)cyclopentanol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 5396. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Methyl N-(2-[[1-(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-oxymethyl]phenyl) -N-methoxycarbanose; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 5397. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on Pyraclostrobin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 5398. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Topremazone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 5399. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Caramba Fungicide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HOCHUL:

H.R. 5400. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on p-Toluenesulfonamide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HOCHUL:

H.R. 5401. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Zeta-cypermethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HOCHUL:

H.R. 5402. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Flonicamid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HOCHUL:

H.R. 5403. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Iprodione; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HOCHUL:

H.R. 5404. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Clomazone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5405. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on solder spheres containing 2 percent or more, by weight, of silver; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5406. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Slurry; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5407. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on parts of machines for punching; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5408. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on centrifugal blowers and fans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5409. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain wire containing 99.9 percent or more by weight of gold and with dopants added to control wirebonding characteristics; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5410. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on power supplies between 150 watts and 500 watts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5411. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on parts and accessories of oscilloscopes and spectrum analyzers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5412. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on axial fans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5413. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on parts and accessories of optical instruments and apparatuses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5414. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lead-acid storage 12-volt batteries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5415. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on microscopes other than optical microscopes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5416. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on parts and accessories of microscopes other than optical; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5417. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on insulated cable for a voltage of less than or equal to 1,000 volts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5418. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lithium-ion batteries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5419. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on power distributors; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5420. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dry nickel-metal hydride batteries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5421. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain electric storage batteries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5422. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on epoxy molding compounds, of a kind used for encapsulating integrated circuits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5423. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on footwear for men with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics, covering the ankle, other than work footwear; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5424. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain footwear for girls with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather, or composition leather and uppers of leather, not covering the ankle; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5425. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics, covering the ankle, other than work footwear; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5426. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain footwear; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5427. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain men's footwear; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5428. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain women's footwear; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5429. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain non-women's footwear; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5430. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain non-women's footwear; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5431. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain women's footwear; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5432. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain women's footwear; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5433. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lightweight digital camera lenses measuring approximately 10 mm or more; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5434. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lightweight digital camera lenses measuring approximately 70 mm or more; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5435. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lightweight digital camera lenses measuring approximately 55 mm or more but not over 200 mm; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LOEBSACK:

H.R. 5436. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize a national elementary and secondary service-learning program that promotes student academic achievement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5437. A bill to reduce temporarily the rate of duty on Metconazole; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5438. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on Fipronil; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5439. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Dimethomorph; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5440. A bill to reduce temporarily the rate of duty on Boscalid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5441. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on formulations of [3-(4,5-dihydro-1,2-oxazol-3-yl)-4-mesyl-o-tolyl](5-hydroxy- 1-methylpyrazol-4-yl)methanone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5442. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Prohexadione calcium; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5443. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on Ethoxyquin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 5444. A bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5445. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Captan technical; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5446. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on thiophanate methyl; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5447. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Zinc dimethyldithiocarbamate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5448. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Oryzalin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5449. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of lambda-cyhalothrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5450. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Methane Sulfonyl Chloride; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEEHAN:
H.R. 5451. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Methane Sulfonic Acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEEHAN:
H.R. 5452. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 11-Aminoundecanoic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEEHAN:
H.R. 5453. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain textured rolled glass sheets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEEHAN:
H.R. 5454. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Problad Plus fungicide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 5455. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Pigment Violet 23; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 5456. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on methylated and butylated melamine-formaldehyde polymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 5457. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on pigments based on titanium dioxide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NUNNELEE:
H.R. 5458. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain extrusion presses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PITTS:
H.R. 5459. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain smooth nonwoven fiberglass sheets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:
H.R. 5460. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on copper oxychloride and copper hydroxide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:
H.R. 5461. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Tetraconazole; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:
H.R. 5462. A bill to extend a temporary reduction of duty on Isoxadifen-Ethyl; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:
H.R. 5463. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Sethoxydim /Nicobifen; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:
H.R. 5464. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1-(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)-3-[2-(dimethylcarbamoyl) phenylsufamoyl]urea; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:
H.R. 5465. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxyfluorfen; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:
H.R. 5466. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on acifluorfen; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5467. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on vacuum-grade ferroniobium or ferrocolombium; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5468. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on standard-grade ferroniobium or ferrocolombium; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5469. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on manganese flake; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5470. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on polycrystalline alumina tubes and shaped bodies designed for high intensity discharge (HID) lamps; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5471. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on metal screw type bases designed for high intensity discharge (HID) lamps; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5472. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on preformed iodide pellets or powder composed of iodides of dysprosium, thallium sodium, holmium, thulium and calcium; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5473. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on frit rings composed of dysprosium oxide, dysprosium monosilicate, and mullite; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5474. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on cermets for ceramic discharge lamps; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5475. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on polycrystalline alumina discharge tubes prefilled with metal halide salts and designated for high intensity discharge (HID) lamps; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5476. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on ceramic bases designed for high intensity discharge (HID) lamps, with metal locking pins to allow passage of an electrical current; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5477. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) cooler modules (LCM); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5478. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) Tubular LED (TLED); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5479. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) down light modules (DLM); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5480. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) display modules (LDM); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5481. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) line modules; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5482. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) twistable down light modules (TDLM); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5483. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) spot light modules (SLM); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5484. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) drivers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5485. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain narrow woven fabrics; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5486. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on outer soles and heels, of rubber or plastics; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5487. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on low expansion stoppers, lids, and other closures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 5488. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on low expansion laboratory glassware, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REICHERT:
H.R. 5489. A bill to modify and extend the suspension of duty on certain cases or containers used for electronic drawing toys, electronic games, or educational toys or devices; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REICHERT:
H.R. 5490. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain injection-molded ABS or PP cases or containers to be used for electronic drawing toys or electronic games; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey:
H.R. 5491. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on certain viscose rayon yarn; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey:
H.R. 5492. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on certain twisted yarn of viscose rayon; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey:
H.R. 5493. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on certain artificial filament single yarn; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:
H.R. 5494. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain power panels specifically designed for wind turbine generators; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:
H.R. 5495. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain switchgear assemblies and panel boards specifically designed for wind turbine generators; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:
H.R. 5496. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to make a technical correction relating to sanitary towels (pads) and tampons, diapers and diaper liners for babies and similar articles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:
H.R. 5497. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain warp knit open-work fabrics; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:
H.R. 5498. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on plastic laminate sheets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:
H.R. 5499. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on 2-cyclo-hexylidene-2-phenyl-acetonitrile; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:
H.R. 5500. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on Methylionone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:
H.R. 5501. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on mixtures of 1-(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8-octahydro-2,3,8,8-tetramethyl -2-naphthalenyl)-ethan-1-one (and isomers); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:
H.R. 5502. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of (acetato) pentammine cobalt dinitrate with a polymeric or paraffinic carrier; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:
H.R. 5503. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on 1,3-Propanediaminium, N-[3-[[[dimethyl[3-[(2-methyl-1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino] propyl] ammonio]acetyl]amino]propyl]-2-hydroxy-N,N,N′,N′,N′-pentamethyl-, trichloride, polymer with 2-propenamide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 5504. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Dichloroacetyl Chloride; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 5505. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Profenofos; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 5506. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Sedaxane; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 5507. A bill to reduce temporarily the rate of duty on S-N-ALKYL-ANILIN; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 5508. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on electrically operated pencil sharpeners; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 5509. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4-Vinylbenzenesulfonic acid, sodium salt hydrate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 5510. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain smooth nonwoven fiberglass sheets of a type primarily used as acoustical facing for ceiling panels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 5511. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4-Vinylbenzenesulfonic acid, lithium salt; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. HARPER, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. NUNNELEE):

H.R. 5512. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to realign divisions within two judicial districts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. MULVANEY):

H.R. 5513. A bill to require the collection of up-to-date information on tariff and non-tariff laws, regulations, and practices of foreign countries affecting exports of United States goods and services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5514. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Modified Vinylchloride-Hydroxypropylacrylate copolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5515. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Vinyl chloride-Hydroxypropyl acrylate copolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5516. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Vinyl acetate-Alkeneoic acid Copolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5517. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Diacid Modified Vinyl acetate-Vinyl chloride copolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5518. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Polyvinylacetate for use in food; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5519. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Acrylate Modified Vinyl acetate-Vinyl chloride copolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5520. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Vinylacetate-Vinylchloride copolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALSH of Illinois:

H.R. 5521. A bill to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to set-aside community development block grant amounts in each fiscal year for grants to local chapters of veterans service organizations for rehabilitation of their facilities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5522. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 1,4-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, polymer with N,N′Bis(2-aminoethyl)-1,2-ethanediamine, cyclized, methosulfate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5523. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on fuel injectors each functional in a common rail fuel system with a pressure greater than 1200 bar; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5524. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on cast-iron engine crankcases for marine propulsion engines, each measuring more than 1.1 meters in length; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5525. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on forged steel crankshafts other than for vehicles of chapter 87, each measuring 1868 millimeters or more in length; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5526. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on plain shaft sputter bearings without housing (other than spherical bearings), each weighing 260 grams or more; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5527. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on fuel injection pumps (for compression-ignition engines), each weighing 60 kilograms or more and functional in a common rail fuel system with a pressure greater than 1200 bar; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5528. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on pistons for marine propulsion engines, each weighing 12 kilograms or more; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5529. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain woven fabrics of synthetic filament yarn, including woven fabrics obtained from materials of heading 5404, of yarns of different colors; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5530. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain woven fabrics of synthetic staple fibers, containing 85 percent or more by weight of polyester staple fibers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5531. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on woven fabrics of polyester staple fibers mixed mainly with or solely with man-made filaments; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5532. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain woven fabrics of synthetic filament yarn; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5533. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain pile fabrics; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5534. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on woven fabrics of artificial staple fibers containing less than 85 percent by weight of artificial staple fibers, mixed mainly or solely with man-made filaments, of yarns of different colors; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5535. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain warp knit fabrics; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5536. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on textile fabrics of man-made fibers impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyurethane; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5537. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain warp knit fabrics; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5538. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on ''Long pile'' fabrics of man-made fibers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5539. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain knitted or crocheted fabrics; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5540. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on pile fabrics; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5541. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Rubberized textile fabrics of cotton, other than those of heading 5902; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas):

H. Con. Res. 122. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should resume normal diplomatic relations with Taiwan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. REYES, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. HAHN, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MORAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. DINGELL, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. HANNA, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. OLVER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. CHU, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. COBLE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. BILBRAY):

H. Res. 644. A resolution recognizing National Nurses Week on May 6 through May 12, 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KISSELL (for himself, Mr. HANNA, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H. Res. 645. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Teacher Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TURNER of New York:

H. Res. 646. A resolution expressing the sense of the House that Village Voice Media Holdings, LLC should eliminate the ''adult

entertainment'' section of the classified advertising website Backpage.com; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

195. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Wyoming, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 08 expressing support for designation by the Congress of the fourth Saturday in July a National Day of the Cowboy; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

196. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Wyoming, relative to Joint Resolution No. 01 urging the Congress to pass legislation to open the section 1002 study of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

197. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Wyoming, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 03 urging Congress to propose the Parental Rights Amendment to the states for ratification; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 5325

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.

Mr. WOLF:

H.R. 5326

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.

By Mr. KISSELL:

H.R. 5327.

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

Clause I of Section I of the Constitution: 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.

By Mr. DINGELL:

H.R. 5328.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. DINGELL:

H.R. 5329.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 5330.

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

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5331.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Ms. BERKLEY:

H.R. 5332.

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

Article 1, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which 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.''

By Ms. BERKLEY:

H.R. 5333.

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

Article I, Section 8: ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, . . .''

By Mr. BILBRAY:

H.R. 5334.

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

Article I Section 8 Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution which reads that Congress has the power ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 5335.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 5336.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BUERKLE:

H.R. 5337.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution states that ''Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises . . . .'' Furthermore, according to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has power to ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Ms. BUERKLE:

H.R. 5338.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution states that ''Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises . . . .'' Furthermore, according to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has power to ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Ms. BUERKLE:

H.R. 5339.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution states that ''Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises . . . .'' Furthermore, according to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has power to ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof''

By Ms. BUERKLE:

H.R. 5340.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution states that ''Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises . . . .'' Furthermore, according to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has power to ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 5341.

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. CASSIDY:

H.R. 5342.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 5343.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 5344.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 12, 13, 14 and 18.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5345.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and

collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5346.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5347.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5348.

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

Article I, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5349.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5350.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5351.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5352.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5353.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5354.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5355.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5356.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5357.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises. . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5358.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises. . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5359.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises. . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5360.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises. . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5361.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises. . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5362.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises. . .''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5363.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.''

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5364.

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

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises. . .''

By Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina:

H.R. 5365.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina:

H.R. 5366.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina:

H.R. 5367.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina:

H.R. 5368.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5369.

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

Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5370.

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

Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5371.

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

Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5372.

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

Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 5373.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section. 8.
Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 5374.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section. 8.
Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 5375.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section. 8.
Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 5376.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section. 8.
Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
By Mr. FITZPATRICK
H.R. 5377.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section. 8.
Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 5378.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section. 8.
Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 5379.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section. 8.
Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 5380.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section. 8.
Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
By Mr. FLAKE:
H.R. 5381.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority of Congress provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).
By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:
H.R. 5382.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''
By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5383.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5384.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5385.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5386.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5387.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5388.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5389.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5390.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5391.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5392.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5393.
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 3 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5394.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''
The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.
By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5395.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''
The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.
By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5396.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''
The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.
By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5397.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''

The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 5398.

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

Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''

The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 5399.

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

Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''

The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Ms. HOCHUL:

H.R. 5400.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. HOCHUL:

H.R. 5401.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. HOCHUL:

H.R. 5402.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. HOCHUL:

H.R. 5403.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. HOCHUL:

H.R. 5404.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5405.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5406.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5407.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5408.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5409.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5410.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5411.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5412.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5413.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5414.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5415.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5416.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5417.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5418.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5419.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5420.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5421.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5422.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5423.

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

This legislation is introduced under the authority of Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''Lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises''; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''regulate Commerce with foreign nations.''

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5424.

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

This legislation is introduced under the authority of Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''Lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises''; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''regulate Commerce with foreign nations.''

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5425.

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

This legislation is introduced under the authority of Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''Lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises''; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''regulate Commerce with foreign nations.''

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5426.

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

This legislation is introduced under the authority of Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''Lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises''; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''regulate Commerce with foreign nations.''

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5427.

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

This legislation is introduced under the authority of Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''Lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises''; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''regulate Commerce with foreign nations.''

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5428.

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

This legislation is introduced under the authority of Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''Lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises''; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''regulate Commerce with foreign nations.''

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5429.

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

This legislation is introduced under the authority of Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''Lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises''; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''regulate Commerce with foreign nations.''

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5430.

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

This legislation is introduced under the authority of Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''Lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises''; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''regulate Commerce with foreign nations.''

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5431.

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

This legislation is introduced under the authority of Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''Lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises''; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''regulate Commerce with foreign nations.''

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5432.

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

This legislation is introduced under the authority of Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''Lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises''; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to ''regulate Commerce with foreign nations.''

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5433.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5434.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5435.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. LOEBSACK:

H.R. 5436.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the Constitution which grants Congress the power to provide for the general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5437.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5438.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5439.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5440.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5441.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5442.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5443.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 5444.

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

Clause 3 of Section 8.

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5445.

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

Section 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5446.

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

Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5447.

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

Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5448.

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

Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5449.

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

Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5450.

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

Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5451.

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

Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5452.

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

Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5453.

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

Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5454.

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

Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5455.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5456.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5457.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NUNNELEE:

H.R. 5458.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing, and Spending Clause: ''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the

common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States . . .''

By Mr. PITTS:

H.R. 5459.

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 1 of the United States Constitution, which says ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;'' and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which grants Congress the power ''to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5460.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;''

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5461.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;''

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5462.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States,''

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5463.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;''

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5464.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;''

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5465.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;''

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5466.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;''

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5467.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5468.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5469.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5470.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5471.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5472.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5473.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5474.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5475.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5476.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5477.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5478.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5479.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5480.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5481.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5482.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5483.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5484.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5485.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5486.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5487.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5488.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 5489.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 5490.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey:

H.R. 5491.

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 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey:

H.R. 5492.

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 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey:

H.R. 5493.

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 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5494.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5495.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 5496.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; . . .''

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 5497.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; . . .''

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 5498.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; . . .''

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 5499.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; . . .''

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 5500.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; . . .''

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 5501.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; . . .''

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 5502.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; . . .''

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 5503.

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

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

''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; . . .''

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 5504.

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

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically: Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 5505.

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

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically: Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 5506.

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

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically: Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 5507.

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

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically:

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 5508.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 5509.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 5510. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 5511.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 5512.

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

clause 9 and clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution; and section 1 of Article III of the Constitution.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 5513.

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. WALBERG:

H.R. 5514.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

The Congress shall have Power * * * To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises,

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5515.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

The Congress shall have Power * * * To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises,

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5516.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

The Congress shall have Power * * * To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises,

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5517.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

The Congress shall have Power * * * To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises,

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5518.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

The Congress shall have Power * * * To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises,

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5519.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause I.

The Congress shall have Power * * * To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises,

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5520.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1.

The Congress shall have Power * * * To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises,

By Mr. WALSH of Illinois:

H.R. 5521.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, which states that ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .''

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5522.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5523.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5524.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5525.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5526.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5527.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5528.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5529.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 in which Congress has the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5530.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 in which Congress has the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5531.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 in which Congress has the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5532.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 in which Congress has the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5533.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 in which Congress has the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5534.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 in which Congress has the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5535.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 in which Congress has the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5536.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 in which Congress has the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5537.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 in which Congress has the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5538.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 in which Congress has the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5539.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 in which Congress has the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5540.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 in which Congress has the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5541.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 in which Congress has the explicit power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 14: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 59: Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 85: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 139: Mr. NEAL and Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 157: Mr. CRAVAACK and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 186: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 265: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 266: Mr. RUSH and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 267: Mr. HONDA and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 327: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 451: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 469: Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 529: Mr. BACA.
H.R. 555: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 718: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.
H.R. 719: Mr. LABRADOR.
H.R. 721: Ms. HAHN and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 733: Mr. LONG and Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 860: Mr. SIRES, Mr. TIPTON, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 876: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 891: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 927: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 973: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 1004: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 1005: Mr. LATOURETTE.
H.R. 1063: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 1112: Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 1145: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 1218: Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 1331: Mr. KISSELL.
H.R. 1370: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. BARTLETT, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 1397: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1404: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1409: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 1417: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1588: Mr. BOREN and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 1639: Mr. RIBBLE and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 1653: Mr. ROONEY.
H.R. 1672: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1792: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. TURNER of New York, and Mr. LATOURETTE.
H.R. 1802: Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1850: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina.
H.R. 1862: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.
H.R. 1876: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 1897: Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. GUINTA.
H.R. 1909: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.
H.R. 1956: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. YODER.
H.R. 1960: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 2012: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 2106: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. YODER.
H.R. 2139: Mr. WELCH and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 2182: Mr. ROSS of Arkansas.
H.R. 2206: Mr. HECK.
H.R. 2269: Mr. TONKO and Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 2288: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 2299: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 2315: Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. CHU, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2353: Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.R. 2382: Mr. CAMPBELL.
H.R. 2418: Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.R. 2514: Mr. PENCE and Mr. LABRADOR.
H.R. 2529: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 2569: Mr. LONG, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 2637: Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2679: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 2697: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 2751: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2774: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 2795: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2866: Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 2902: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 2921: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 2955: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.
H.R. 2981: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 3000: Mrs. BONO MACK.
H.R. 3059: Mr. FLORES and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 3090: Mr. AMASH.
H.R. 3173: Mr. JONES, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 3187: Mr. MARCHANT, Ms. CHU, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. FILNER, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. NUNES, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. LANCE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 3238: Mr. ACKERMAN.
H.R. 3242: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 3264: Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 3288: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 3352: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 3358: Mr. BASS of New Hampshire.
H.R. 3368: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 3423: Mr. CARNEY, Mr. DOLD, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 3442: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3444: Mr. YODER.
H.R. 3475: Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 3502: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 3506: Ms. FUDGE and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 3526: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 3596: Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 3612: Mr. POSEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 3625: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 3645: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 3665: Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 3667: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 3676: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 3705: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3728: Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 3770: Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 3783: Mr. ANDREWS and Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 3786: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 3806: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 3808: Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 3818: Mr. DINGELL.
H.R. 3828: Mr. HURT.
H.R. 3838: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 3839: Mr. WOLF, Mr. SCHILLING, and Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.R. 3857: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 3889: Mr. CASSIDY and Mr. ROSS of Florida.
H.R. 3903: Mr. COSTELLO.
H.R. 3994: Mr. YODER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 4005: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.
H.R. 4045: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.
H.R. 4049: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 4070: Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIMM, and Mr. RIVERA.
H.R. 4075: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 4077: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 4082: Ms. RICHARDSON and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 4095: Mr. KISSELL.
H.R. 4114: Mr. STUTZMAN and Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 4133: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. HAHN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MICA, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. QUAYLE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 4134: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 4137: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia and Ms. JENKINS.
H.R. 4154: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4155: Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4160: Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H.R. 4168: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 4169: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HIMES, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Ms. BASS of California, and Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 4215: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 4227: Ms. HAHN, Mr. STARK, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 4228: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. LONG.
H.R. 4235: Mr. GRIMM.
H.R. 4238: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. ROSS of Arkansas.
H.R. 4256: Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 4269: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 4271: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 4278: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. MARINO.
H.R. 4282: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 4286: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 4287: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUNYAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 4290: Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 4296: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 4301: Mr. PITTS and Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 4329: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.
H.R. 4335: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 4345: Mr. BOSWELL and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 4370: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 4377: Mr. ROONEY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. WEST.
H.R. 4379: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 4388: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. GARDNER.
H.R. 4405: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4454: Mr. LANDRY, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. HULTGREN, Mrs. ELLMERS, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 4626: Mr. DENT.
H.R. 4643: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 4816: Ms. HAHN, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. KIND, Mr. FARR, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MICHAUD, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. OLVER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4965: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HANNA, Mr. SCHILLING, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. JONES, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. BARROW, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 4970: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 5129: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 5303: Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. TURNER of New York, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. RIVERA.
H.J. Res. 103: Mr. HURT and Mr. BARTON of Texas.
H.J. Res. 106: Mr. ROYCE.
H.J. Res. 107: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H. Con. Res. 63: Mr. BACA and Mr. PALLONE.
H. Con. Res. 110: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H. Con. Res. 119: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUSH, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H. Res. 130: Ms. HAHN.
H. Res. 177: Ms. MOORE and Ms. KAPTUR.
H. Res. 282: Mr. DENHAM.
H. Res. 367: Mr. BONNER.
H. Res. 374: Mr. CONAWAY.
H. Res. 557: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. GRIMM.
H. Res. 568: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. HAHN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. LUCAS.

H. Res. 583: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. UPTON.
H. Res. 589: Mr. LEVIN.
H. Res. 608: Mr. GRIMM and Mr. CONYERS.
H. Res. 610: Mr. HULTGREN.
H. Res. 615: Mr. PAUL.
H. Res. 618: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RUSH, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. COLE.
H. Res. 621: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. PETERS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. MORAN.
H. Res. 623: Mr. KISSELL and Mr. COLE.
H. Res. 640: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

[Omitted from the Record of April 27, 2012]

H.R. 1588: Mr. CARNAHAN.

[Submitted May 7, 2012]

H.R. 361: Mr. BACA.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the Clerk's desk and referred as follows:

41. The SPEAKER presented a petition of The Borough Of Oakland, New Jersey, relative to Resolution 12-46 requesting the assistance of the appropriate Federal State, and County agencies in assist the Borough in addressing the flood control measures needed to prevent or reduce flooding along the Ramapo River and Allerman Brook; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

42. Also, a petition of the Council of St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, relative to Resolution No. 5896 requesting the Congress to support H.R. 104 Ramp Act; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Rules.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 5326

OFFERED BY: MR. GOWDY

AMENDMENT NO. 1: Page 21, line 23, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)'' after the dollar amount.

Page 101, line 10, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)'' after the dollar amount.

H.R. 5326

OFFERED BY: MR. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

AMENDMENT NO. 2: Page 44, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(decreased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 47, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

H.R. 5326

OFFERED BY: MR. POMPEO

AMENDMENT NO. 3: Page 5, lines 17 through 21, after each dollar amount, insert ''(reduced to $0)''.

Page 6, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced to $0)''.

Page 101, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $219,500,000)''.

H.R. 5326

OFFERED BY: MR. LYNCH

AMENDMENT NO. 4: Page 7, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,000,000)''.

Page 43, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $4,000,000)''.

Page 44, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $4,000,000)''.

H.R. 5326

OFFERED BY: MR. SESSIONS

AMENDMENT NO. 5: Page 78, beginning on line 17, strike ''(6)'' and all that follows through ''(7)'', and insert (6).

Page 78, line 23, strike ''(8)'' and insert ''(7)''.

H.R. 5326

OFFERED BY: MR. LEWIS OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT NO. 6: At the end of the bill (and before the spending reduction account) insert the following:

SEC. 541. None of the funds provided by this Act may be obligated for the purpose of closing the regional field offices of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice.

H.R. 5326

OFFERED BY: MR. CRAVAACK

AMENDMENT NO. 7: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the activities of the Climate Change Education program of the National Science Foundation.

H.R. 5326

OFFERED BY: MR. DUNCAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

AMENDMENT NO. 8: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order 13547 (75 Fed. Reg. 43023, relating to the stewardship of oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes).

H.R. 5326

OFFERED BY: MR. TURNER OF OHIO

AMENDMENT NO. 9: Page 3, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

H.R. 5326

OFFERED BY: MR. HARRIS

AMENDMENT NO. 10: Page 13, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $542,000)''.

Page 13, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $542,000)''.

Page 13, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $542,000)''.

Page 101, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $542,000)''.

H.R. 5326

OFFERED BY: MR. WESTMORELAND

AMENDMENT NO. 11: Page 74, line 13, insert ''(reduced by $128,000,000)'' after the first dollar amount.

Page 74, line 13, insert ''(reduced by $128,000,000)'' after the second dollar amount.

Page 101, line 10, insert ''(increased by $128,000,000)'' after the dollar amount.

H.R. 5326

OFFERED BY: MS. RICHARDSON

AMENDMENT NO. 12: Page 32, Line 4, after the dollar figure insert ''(decreased by $30,000,000)''.

Page 46, Line 8, after the dollar figure insert ''(increased by $26,000,000)''.

Page 46, Line 10, after the dollar figure insert ''(increased by $26.000.000)''.

H.R. 5326

OFFERED BY: MS. RICHARDSON

AMENDMENT NO. 13: Page 32, line 4, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $35,000,000)''.

Page 43, line 15, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $30,000,000)''.

Page 43, line 17, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $30,000,000)''.

CORRECTION

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 7, 2012 No. 63

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal spirit, the center of our hope, we know our needs. Life has taught us that we can't walk alone. So be with our lawmakers to help, to comfort, and to sustain them. Lord, guide them through the changes and chances of their labors. Whatever light may shine or shadows may fall, empower them to meet life with a steady gaze, to walk in strength, wisdom, purity, and joy. Create in them a passion to do what is right, and give them the ability to do it. As they seek to live with honor, may their thoughts, words, and actions bring glory to You.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL 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. INOUYE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 7, 2012.

To the Senate:

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

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL 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, we are now considering the motion to proceed to the Stop Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act.

At 4:30 p.m. today, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider three judicial nominations: the Nguyen nomination, a ninth circuit nominee, and the Baker and Lee nominations, which are two U.S. district court nominations from Arkansas and Illinois, respectively. At 5:30 p.m., there will be up to three rollcall votes on confirmation of the nominations.

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a woman from Nevada by the name of Amy—a single mother from Las Vegas—was devastated when she was laid off 3 years ago because of her employer having little work. She wasn't in love with her job doing bookkeeping for a local construction company, but she loved the steady paycheck. Looking back on that pink slip, Amy views it, of course, as a setback in one sense, but she feels very good about the fact it gave her a second chance.

Like many resourceful Americans who lost their jobs after the financial and housing markets collapsed, Amy took the opportunity to return to school. She enrolled in classes at the College of Southern Nevada and completed her associate's degree at the age of 33. Going back to school transformed her life. She got involved in the political process for the first time. During her whole time at school she maintained straight A's—a 4.0 grade point average—and was elected student body president. But she also racked up $20,000 in student loan debt.

Amy doesn't regret the decision to go to the university. Not only has she gotten a second chance at college, she has shown her 14-year-old son the power of education. Still, working three part-time jobs and living on a few thousand dollars a year hasn't been easy. That is an understatement. It would have been impossible for her to get her education if she hadn't gotten her Federal student loans. But Amy will need more loans to complete her bachelor's degree at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, where she starts classes this fall.

For most students, taking on debt is the only way to turn dreams of higher education into a reality. The average student graduates with $25,000 in loan debt. On July 1, the interest rates on Federal loans are set to double for more than 7 million students. Unless Congress acts quickly, rates will jump from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. That will cost Amy and millions of other students at least $1,000. For a single mom working three part-time jobs, $1,000 is the difference between completing her bachelor's degree and simply dropping out of school. In Nevada, higher interest rates will affect 26,000 students. College is already unaffordable for far too many Americans, and we cannot afford to put higher education any further out of reach. So Senate Democrats have introduced a proposal to freeze student loan interest rates at current levels for a year, without adding a single penny to the deficit. Democrats will vote to advance that proposal tomorrow, before noon, and, hopefully, the Republicans will join us.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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The Republicans claim they share Democrats' goal of protecting these 7 million students I have talked about from these interest rate increases. We will see. But they insist we should pay for this proposal with unreasonable cuts to preventive health care services for millions of Americans. This is a program that is so vitally important to the health care delivery system in this country. Senators MIKULSKI, HARKIN, and others have worked very hard to maintain this program. It is so essential. Republicans know their proposal would never pass the Senate—never—and President Obama has said he would veto more cuts to crucial preventive health care. But there is already a compromise on the table. Our legislation closes a loophole that allows the rich to avoid paying taxes they already owe. Our proposal is not a new tax. It would simply stop wealthy Americans from dodging the taxes they are required to pay. If Senate Republicans are truly serious about protecting 7 million students, they will work with us to pass this reasonable proposal.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATIONS OF AJIT VARADARAJ PAI AND JESSICA ROSENWORCEL TO BE MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 512 and 513; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Ajit Varadaraj Pai, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2011.

Jessica Rosenworcel, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2010.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise today to say a few words about the nomination of Ajit Pai to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission. I have supported his nomination and that of his fellow nominee, Jessica Rosenworcel, and am pleased that unrelated matters have finally been resolved and that the Senate has confirmed both nominees.

Ajit is somebody whom many of us have come to know from his years of public service, whether on the Senate Judiciary Committee, at the Department of Justice, where Ajit worked on both antitrust and legal policy matters, or in the general counsel's office of the FCC. I especially appreciate his important work on the Roberts, Miers, and Alito Supreme Court nominations during the 109th Congress, as well as his careful attention to national security matters while at the Department of Justice.

Ajit is the son of immigrants who came to this country seeking opportunity, as did the ancestors of so many of our fellow Americans. They settled in the small town of Parsons, KS, population of 10,000. During his testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee, Ajit shared his memories of the sense of community and the Midwestern values that he learned in Parsons. He worked hard in school, excelled at both Harvard College and the University of Chicago Law School, and built a career in law and policy. Today, Ajit finds himself being confirmed to this position of honor and receiving a unique opportunity to serve his Nation. I am certain that his parents, having come to this country just 40 years ago, are immensely proud of him.

We should all be grateful that individuals like Ajit choose to serve in these important positions, especially in fields where there are also opportunities in private life. He will be a member of the FCC for more than 4 years. I am grateful for his service and appreciate that he and his wife Janine have agreed to make this sacrifice for the good of our Nation.

I am very disappointed that these nominations have been delayed for so long for nongermane reasons. Good men and women simply will not volunteer to serve if they are arbitrarily forced to spend months in limbo, uncertain as to their future.

As an FCC Commissioner, Ajit will be one of five individuals overseeing an agency with 2,000 employees and a budget of $350 million. The Commission has broad regulatory authority over the Nation's communications industry. The communications landscape has evolved dramatically, not just during my lifetime but since I entered the Senate in 1995 and even in the past few years. It is sometimes difficult to remember how we functioned before we had the ability to reach most people on cell phones, to access the Internet from computers in any corner of the globe, or to watch videos of our children and grandchildren on mobile devices. Most Americans were raised in a world in which the television offered just a few channels, there was no cable news, and telephones had rotary dials.

Policymakers should be reminded that many of the technologies that we take for granted today will soon be gone, and we do not really know which technologies will become obsolete and in which direction the Nation's innovators and consumers will take us. Congress and the FCC do not make those decisions, or at least they should not. These decisions should be made by the American people in their capacity as consumers, businessmen, entrepreneurs, investors, and citizens.

Government does not create innovation or make entrepreneurs, and it should not be in the business of picking winners or losers or trying to shape private investment. The government's proper role in communications, as in other sectors of our economy, is to establish clear and stable rules that encourage competition, that give consumers choice and allow markets to thrive, and that keep bureaucratic preferences and politics to a minimum.

Ajit has made clear that he shares this understanding of his role. I think that we can expect good things from him as a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

I congratulate Ajit on this honor and am proud to have supported his nomination.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate resumes legislative session.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce the business of the day?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

STOP THE STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE HIKE ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2343, which the clerk will report by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 2343, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: We are now on the Stop The Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act of 2012, is that not correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is on the motion to proceed to that measure.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I can't emphasize strongly enough the importance and the urgency of the legislation before us—the Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act of 2012—which the majority leader spoke about. On July 1, unless Congress intervenes, the interest rate on Federal student

loan debt is set to double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. More than 7.4 million American students, including an estimated 255,000 students enrolled in Iowa colleges and universities, will be required to pay an average of $1,000 more per year of school.

The bill before us is straightforward and it is fully paid for. It keeps the interest rate at 3.4 percent, and the cost is offset by closing a tax loophole that benefits certain high-income professional service providers.

I wish to thank Senator REID for his leadership in advancing this critical legislation. I also thank President Obama for making this legislation an urgent priority and for visiting college campuses across the country to speak out on this urgent problem facing our Nation's students and their families.

In today's global knowledge-based economy, an education beyond high school is no longer an option but a necessity. A worker with a bachelor's degree earns 85 percent more, on average, than a high school graduate. Almost two-thirds of the job vacancies between now and 2018 will require some postsecondary education, and more than half of those jobs will require at least a bachelor's degree.

You can see by this chart, as I said, 63 percent of the jobs will require at least some college education—either some college, an associate's degree or bachelor's degree or more. And that is by 2018. The demand is going to grow even beyond that. These statistics convey a very clear message: Higher education is the key to entry not only to the middle class but to a middle-class life.

Another message is equally clear, and that is America's economic competitiveness and growth depends on a highly educated and highly skilled workforce. That is why the ever-growing mountain of student loan debt is a major concern to me as the chair of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, and also a major concern for families all across America who are struggling to get by. It is a shocking fact that total student loan debt has now surpassed total credit card debt for the first time ever, with $867 billion right now in student loans, auto loans at $734 billion, and credit cards at $704 billion. So for the first time ever, American families now owe more on school loans than they do on their car loans or on their credit cards.

Again I want to bring this closer to my own home. It affects Iowans profoundly. Nearly 72 percent of Iowa's college graduates have debt—the fourth highest percentage in the Nation. And those borrowers have an average of $30,000 in student loan debt, which is the third highest level in the Nation.

Over the past 3 years, President Obama and Congress have taken robust steps to improve college affordability and help our students succeed. From the Recovery Act and its unprecedented support for our education systems, to the student loan reforms that enabled us to help more students through larger Pell grants, and most recently our efforts to make it easier for students to repay their loans—this all happened in the last few years—we have made major strides toward the President's goal—and I hope it would be our shared goal—of reclaiming America's standing by 2020 as the country with the highest proportion of college graduates. Needless to say, it will be much harder to reach this goal if Congress allows interest rates to double on July 1.

As I said, more than 7.4 million American students will be required to pay an average of $1,000 over the lifetime of their loan for each year they borrow. Again, if you look at this chart, it shows what is happening. If the interest rate is paid at 3.4 percent, we are looking at about $883 in interest over the life of the average loan. Double that interest rate and it goes to $1,876. That is at 6.8 percent. So the average savings to the average student would be almost $1,000 a year.

I might add that the 255,404 borrowers in Iowa will save an estimated total of $254 million with this bill in front of us.

With today's tough economy, and given the very high unemployment rate among young Americans, it is absolutely unacceptable to ask middle-class families to shoulder sharply higher student loan interest payments. We must not allow this to happen.

If we look closer at the characteristics of students who will be impacted by this interest rate hike, we see that it affects middle-class families and vulnerable students from disadvantaged backgrounds at the very time when they are under enormous financial strain. If we look at who gets the subsidized loans, from this chart we can see, by family income, dependent students, their family income is less than $60,000 a year.

If we look at the independent student loan borrowers, their income is less than $50,000 a year, and 89 percent of them earn less than $50,000. Of the dependent student loan borrowers, 60 percent are from families who earn less than $60,000. I might also add that 7 out of 10 of those independent students here reported under $30,000 a year in income.

So allowing the interest rate to double would also disproportionately affect minority students who account for 40 percent of these borrowers. So 40 percent of these borrowers are minority students. This bill, again, would prevent the interest rate from doubling on July 1 for those borrowers.

So with the bill before us, we are considering a pragmatic and fiscally responsible solution to this problem that will keep interest rates low for more than 7.4 million students. Again, the bill is fully paid for, and we offset the cost by raising revenues in a way that will provide a solution to a longstanding problem in the Tax Code that has been subject to widespread abuse.

Now, let me just define how this measure is paid for. For many years we have seen avoidance of properly owed Social Security and Medicare taxes by some subchapter S stockholders who can declare that a portion of their income is effectively profit and therefore not subject to Social Security or Medicare taxes. This is not supposed to be a choice that is made at the whim of the taxpayer. It should be based on objective facts. The offset in this legislation does just that. It creates a bright-line test for a small share of subchapter S shareholders—basically, those engaged in professions such as doctors, lawyers, accountants, consultants and lobbyists—whose financial gains they have come from the work they do.

It is narrowly tailored to cover only those subchapter S organizations in which there are three or fewer stockholders, and only for those earning $250,000 on joint filings. With this bright-line test, the Medicare and Social Security trust fund will receive the funds that are properly owed, which are not received today because they are counted not as income but as profits.

My friends on the other side of the aisle have proposed a different offset to pay for keeping the interest rate at 3.4 percent. The bill that passed the House of Representatives and the legislation proposed by Senator ALEXANDER of Tennessee would offset the cost of this bill by eliminating the Prevention and Public Health Fund which was created by the Patient Protection and Affordability Care Act.

In short, rather than put an end to a widespread abuse of the Tax Code, my friends on the other side of the aisle are proposing that we eliminate the sole dedicated source of Federal funding for critical investments in preventing disease and keeping women and children and elderly families healthy. They want to eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

Many of my Republican colleagues have acknowledged the critical importance of investing in prevention and wellness, which makes the use of this offset that is eliminating it all the more troubling. Preventing disease, expanding access to screenings, encouraging people to stop using tobacco—these used to be bipartisan goals strongly supported by a vast majority of Republicans and Democrats alike. So in the affordable care act we created the prevention fund, with the express goal of ramping up our investments in these prevention and wellness initiatives, again, with Republican support.

Here are quotes from two Republican leaders. Senator KYL, on July 12, 2010, just a few months after we passed the affordable care act, said:

> One of the things we did in the health care legislation was to provide a lot of different incentives for preventive care, for screening to try to help people avoid illnesses on the theory that it would be a lot cheaper if we didn't do a lot of treatment that was unnecessary.

I couldn't agree more.

The Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, said in an op-ed the same year, 2010:

Congress should be able to work together on our practical ideas that the American people support, such as . . . encouraging wellness and prevention programs that have proved to be effective in cutting costs and improving care.

That was less than 2 years ago, right after passage of the health reform law. But now Republicans are making outrageous partisan attacks on the prevention fund. I find this deeply disturbing and disappointing. It is not hard to imagine the message gurus, those who hone messages, telling Republicans: Here is all you have to do. Just smear the prevention fund by calling it a slush fund.

How many times have I heard that: the prevention fund is a slush fund? I have heard it in committee, I have heard it on the floor, I have seen it in print, Republicans calling the prevention fund a slush fund. Well, this is shameful. That term ''slush fund'' is a malicious untruth. Nothing could be further from the truth. The truth is the prevention fund has been a giant step forward for public health in our Nation.

Typically, prevention and public health initiatives are an afterthought. This means important community-based interventions often go unsupported. The prevention fund is making it possible for us to make national investments in evidence-based programs that promote physical activity, improved nutrition, and reduced tobacco use. Well, these are the investments we make.

This prevention fund, which Republicans want to eliminate, invests $226 million to reduce chronic diseases, including diabetes and heart disease. That minimizes the $440 billion a year in health care costs from heart disease alone. It invests $93 million for antitobacco education and support campaigns to minimize the fact that over 6 million kids will die from smoking if the current rates persist. It invests $190 million for childhood immunization programs, again, to minimize the $3 billion a year in unnecessary health care costs right now.

I might just add the lead editorial in today's New York Times said, ''No Longer Just 'Adult Onset'.'' That is the head of it. I will not read it all, but I think there are a few pertinent paragraphs in the Times editorial. It starts off by saying:

A study of diabetes in overweight and obese youngsters bears an ominous warning about future health care trends in this country. It found that Type 2 diabetes, a new scourge among young people, progresses faster and is harder to treat in youngsters than in adults. The toll on their health as they grow older could be devastating.

This new study was published in the New England Journal of Medicine. Reading further:

Some experts suggest that young patients at risk of diabetes need to be detected earlier and treated more aggressively. But the long-term goal should be prevention of obesity and of diabetes.

Congressional Republicans, meanwhile, are bent on dismantling health care reforms that could greatly assist in curbing the obesity epidemic. The Republican-dominated House last month narrowly passed a bill that would eliminate a Prevention and Public Health Fund, established under the reform law, in part to pay for lowering the interest rate on subsidized student loans for this year.

The fund is already providing grants to state and local governments to help pay for programs to fight obesity and prevent chronic diseases, including diabetes, in the community, the workplace and among minority groups that have high rates of obesity and diabetes. Killing off this program would be hugely costly to Americans' health and future health care costs. There is no explanation for this move, except for the usual anti-health care reform demagoguery.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the full editorial.

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

NO LONGER JUST ''ADULT-ONSET''

THE VIRULENCE OF TYPE 2 DIABETES IN CHILDREN IS YET ANOTHER REASON TO FIGHT CHILDHOOD OBESITY

A study of diabetes in overweight and obese youngsters bears an ominous warning about future health care trends in this country. It found that Type 2 diabetes, a new scourge among young people, progresses faster and is harder to treat in youngsters than in adults. The toll on their health as they grow older could be devastating.

These findings provide more evidence of why the country must get the obesity epidemic under control—to improve health and to curb soaring health care costs.

Only two decades ago Type 2 diabetes was called ''adult-onset diabetes'' because it was seldom found in young people, who suffered primarily from Type 1, in which the patient's immune system destroys cells that make insulin, a hormone needed to control blood sugar levels. Type 2—thought to be brought on by obesity and inactivity in many people—has increased alarmingly and accounts for almost a fifth of newly diagnosed cases in young people.

Obesity increases the risk of many chronic diseases. And some 17 percent of American children from age 2 to 19 are now considered obese, roughly half the rate of obesity among adults.

The new study, published in The New England Journal of Medicine, tested three ways to attain durable control of blood sugar in youngsters between the ages of 10 and 17. None worked very well. Almost half of the 699 youngsters had to add daily shots of insulin within a few years to lower their blood sugar. Metformin, the standard drug used to treat Type 2 diabetes in children, failed to control blood sugar in more than half of the children. When lifestyle changes, including one-on-one counseling on how to lead a healthy life, were added to metformin, the results were only marginally better.

When a second drug was added, the results were significantly better. But the two-drug treatment still failed in 39 percent of the recipients, and the added drug, Avandia, has been linked to heart attacks and strokes in adults.

The findings are especially ominous because poorly controlled diabetes can lead to heart disease, stroke, blindness, amputations and kidney failure. The longer one has the disease, the greater the risk, so the fact that children are starting so young bodes ill for their futures.

Some experts suggest that young patients at risk of diabetes need to be detected earlier and treated more aggressively. But the long-term goal should be prevention of obesity and of diabetes.

Congressional Republicans, meanwhile, are bent on dismantling health care reforms that could greatly assist in curbing the obesity epidemic. The Republican-dominated House last month narrowly passed a bill that would eliminate a Prevention and Public Health Fund, established under the reform law, in part to pay for lowering the interest rate on subsidized student loans for a year.

The fund is already providing grants to state and local governments to help pay for programs to fight obesity and prevent chronic diseases, including diabetes, in the community, the workplace and among minority groups that have high rates of both obesity and diabetes. Killing off this program would be hugely costly to Americans' health, and future health care costs. There is no explanation for this move, except for the usual anti-health care reform demagoguery.

MORE TIME FOR JUSTICE

STATES NEED TO EXTEND THE TIME FOR VICTIMS TO BRING CLAIMS AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSERS

Hawaii significantly strengthened its protections against child sexual abuse last month when Gov. Neil Abercrombie signed a measure extending the statute of limitations for civil lawsuits filed by child victims. At least as important, it opens a one-time two-year window to allow victims to file suits against their abusers even if the time limit had expired under the old law.

Like similar laws in California and Delaware, the Hawaii measure recognizes some wrenching realities. It can take many years, even decades, before child abuse victims are emotionally ready to come forward and tell their stories in court. But by then, they may be barred from suing by the statute of limitations. For example, many suits against the Catholic Church have been blocked because the church's covering up for pedophile priests made it hard for victims to come forward until long past the time limit for bringing civil claims.

Hawaii's new law allows child victims to bring suits up to the age of 26 (it was 20), or three years from the time the victim realizes the abuse caused injury. The law's leading opponent was the Roman Catholic Church, which has been working hard to defeat statute of limitations reform across the country.

Lobbying by the church recently succeeded in blocking reform in Pennsylvania. But lawmakers in Massachusetts seem ready to follow Hawaii's example by passing similar reforms.

In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has not yet indicated that he would support a measure sponsored by Margaret Markey in the Assembly to lift the statute of limitations for one year for civil lawsuits involving child sex abuse. After that year, an accuser would have 10 years after turning 18 to make a claim, instead of five years, which is the current law. Mr. Cuomo has voiced concern about fading memories and missing evidence, but those concerns need to be balanced with justice for victims and the need to stop abusers.

Like measures in other states, the Markey bill requires that a victim obtain a certificate from a mental health professional to show there is a reasonable basis to believe the abuse occurred before a suit can go forward.

Getting the measure through the State Senate would be an uphill climb; previous attempts have failed, and Republican leaders have again vowed to stop it. Cardinal Timothy Dolan has made defeating statute of

limitations reform one of his top legislative priorities. Mr. Cuomo's strong leadership will be needed if New York is to match Hawaii's accomplishment any time soon.

Mr. HARKIN. I don't know that I can make it any more clear than the New York Times editorial, and there is not the time to mention all of the ways this fund is already making Americans healthier. But I want to mention several representative investments that are happening, again, right now.

I mentioned those right here, the $226 million for diabetes and heart disease, the $93 million for antitobacco education, the $190 million, again, for childhood immunization programs.

I might just go back to that first on the heart disease because heart disease disproportionately affects women. Most people don't know that. I think most people would say the No. 1 cause of death in women today might be breast cancer. Not so. The No. 1 cause of death for women in this country is heart disease. Some 42 million women in America are currently living with some form of heart disease, and the World Health Organization estimates that a staggering 80 percent of heart disease, diabetes, and stroke could be prevented just from changes in smoking, nutrition, and physical activity alone. That is what this prevention fund is doing right now.

Moreover, this investment by the prevention fund isn't only saving lives, but it is saving money. Right now, heart disease costs our Nation about $440 billion a year. We can reduce those costs.

I might also mention smoking. Cigarette smoking also kills an estimated 173,000 women every year. If current smoking rates persist, more than 6 million kids will die from smoking.

The new national antitobacco ad campaign called Tips From a Former Smoker is being supported by this prevention fund. I think many of us probably have seen these ads. They are extremely powerful and effective ads, and they are going to save lives. In fact, this ad campaign is expected to inspire a half million quit attempts and help at least 50,000 Americans quit smoking forever.

I might just add that within 2 days of these ads first appearing, the number of phone calls to quit-smoking lines tripled from people who wanted help in quitting smoking.

I mentioned the immunization programs for kids. These investments from the prevention fund aren't just at the national level, they are also in our communities. This fund is helping States and cities and towns to implement evidence-based programs that meet their particular local needs.

For example, in Illinois, the State has made improvements to its sidewalks and has marked crossings to increase levels of student physical activity. Because of these improvements, the number of students who are walking to school has doubled. That is a good thing. So not only is this good for their health; it is expected to save the school system about $67,000 yearly on bus costs.

In Mobile, AL, Mobile County officials enacted a comprehensive smoke-free policy expected to protect 13,000 residents and visitors from being exposed to secondhand smoke.

All across America, the prevention fund is investing in proven, locally developed programs that promote health and wellness. These evidence-based programs not only improve health but, as I said, will help us save money in health care costs.

According to a new study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, programs such as the National Diabetes Prevention Program could prevent or delay nearly 885,000 cases of type 2 diabetes, saving our health care system about $5.7 billion over the next 25 years. The National Diabetes Prevention Program is a public-private partnership of health care organizations working together to prevent the type 2 diabetes the New York Times editorial was talking about. Given that in 2007 diabetes alone accounted for $116 billion in direct medical costs, it is critical we continue these investments.

Again, here is how this investment is returned, the return on investment for public health care spending. For every $1 spent on childhood immunizations, we save $16.50—proven; tobacco control programs, for every $1 we save $5; for chronic disease prevention, for every $1 we save $5.60; for workplace wellness programs, $3.27. If we want to look at it just in terms of dollars and not just in terms of lives, we are saving money also.

The prevention fund's investments in cancer prevention also provide an opportunity to save lives and money. In 2007, the direct and indirect costs of cancer, which account for nearly one out of every four deaths in the United States, totaled about $123 billion. Earlier this year, researchers found nearly half of U.S. cancer deaths could be prevented—again, through the kinds of programs the prevention fund is funding today. Preventable U.S. cancer deaths, about 50 percent; preventable deaths from heart disease, diabetes, and stroke, about 80 percent. This is what the prevention fund is going after. For the life of me, I have never understood those who want to get rid of the prevention fund, yet are willing to pump untold billions, trillions of dollars into patching, fixing, mending surgery and health care costs down the line. Perhaps my friends on the other side of the aisle never learned the old axiom of Ben Franklin about an ounce of prevention is worth about a pound of cure. Here, an ounce of prevention is worth about 10 pounds of cure or more.

The list goes on. Recently, the Trust for America's Health released a study showing that a 5-percent reduction in the obesity rate could yield more than $600 billion in savings on health care costs over a 20-year period of time—a 5-percent reduction. Studies such as this one confirm what common sense tells us, that prevention is the best medicine for our bodies and for our budgets. That is why nearly 800 organizations have spoken out against these misguided efforts to slash or eliminate the prevention fund. These organizations, such as the Young Invincibles, the U.S. Student Association, the American Diabetes Association, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, have all said: No, don't cut, don't eliminate the prevention fund.

Despite misguided efforts to cut or eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund, most Americans understand what is at stake. Prior to the prevention fund, for every $1 spent on health care, 75 cents went to treating people with chronic illnesses and only about 4 cents went to prevention: 75 cents taking care of people later on with chronic diseases that are preventable, only 4 cents out of every $1 went to prevention. This underinvestment has had devastating consequences. Nearly half of American adults have at least one chronic condition. Yes, you heard me right. Nearly half of American adults have at least one chronic condition, and two-thirds of the increase in health care spending between 1987 and 2000 was due to the increased prevalence of chronic diseases. So two-thirds of our budget, of the increase in spending, is on chronic diseases. Yet since we can reduce those chronic diseases through prevention, one would think we would want to increase that 4 cents a little bit—4 cents on the $1 we are spending right now. This prevention fund gives us an unprecedented opportunity to bend the cost curve.

How many times have I heard about bending the cost curve in medicine? The best way to do it is to prevent chronic diseases. The transformation of America into a true wellness society, a society that focuses on preventing diseases, saving lives and thereby money is the most cost-effective way to proceed. As we can see, to slander the prevention fund as a so-called slush fund is a shameful mischaracterization. This fund is saving lives and saving money. Eliminating this fund—as proposed by my friend from Tennessee—would be bad public policy, a serious case of misplaced priorities. The very idea that Republicans would slash prevention in public health care so a small group of high-income taxpayers can continue to abuse the Tax Code I find simply unacceptable.

Before I close my remarks, I would like to address an egregious mischaracterization that I have heard from the other side of the aisle. Some Republicans claim Democrats, in our historic reform of the student loan program, took money that had been going to students and used it to pay for the health care bill. I have heard that a lot of times. Again, that is simply not so. The reforms passed by Democrats in Congress—I might add over vehement Republican opposition—did not take a single dime from students. Instead, the

bill eliminated wasteful, taxpayer-funded subsidies to banks by converting all new Federal student loans to a more stable, reliable, cost-efficient direct loan program and redirected that money to students, to deficit reduction, and some important health care reforms.

The money did not come from students. The money came from the subsidization we have been giving to banks. Specifically, thanks to the huge savings generated by eliminating wasteful subsidies to banks, what we were able to do with that—we provided increases in the maximum Pell grant award to keep up with inflation. We provided funding for minority-serving colleges and universities. We made a major investment in community colleges, creating a community college and career training grant program. We were able to make loan repayment more manageable by capping a new borrower's loan payment at 10 percent of their net income and, for some, forgiving any remaining debt after 20 years of payment.

That was all done by stopping these wasteful subsidies to banks and putting it into the direct loan program. Again, we provided more than $10 billion in deficit reduction at the same time we were able to expand the Community Health Center Program to ensure access to lifesaving medications and to expand vital consumer protections to millions of Americans with private health insurance—protections we put in such as banning lifetime limits, requiring dependent coverage, prohibiting cancellation of coverage due to an illness. In other words, thanks to the education reform bill, students benefited, the middle class benefited, taxpayers benefited, and health care consumers benefited. For my friends on the Republican side, had they had their way and had those reforms been defeated, only the banks would have benefited.

Indeed, I kind of detect a pattern. When we Democrats were fighting to end this subsidy to banks so we could dramatically increase college grants and loans for middle-class and disadvantaged students, my friends on the other side of the aisle stood with the banks and did everything they could to kill the reforms. Likewise, today Democrats are fighting to prevent a 100-percent student loan rate hike. We want to fully pay for it by correcting a provision in the Tax Code that allows a small group of wealthy Americans to avoid paying some Social Security and Medicare taxes. Republicans are going to the mat to prevent those wealthy taxpayers from having to pay their fair share. Instead, how do they want to pay for keeping the interest rate down? By gutting the prevention fund, killing it, eliminating it—the very fund that is investing in initiatives to fight cancer and heart disease and to protect the health of our children, our women, and our elderly.

What they are proposing is bad public policy. It is bad priorities. We need to be putting the middle class first. We need to be putting students struggling to pay for college first. We need to be putting public health care and prevention first—put all those out there. To make these things possible, we should ask a small group of wealthy Americans to put their country first and stop abusing this provision, this loophole in the Tax Code. I urge my colleagues to support the Stop The Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act and to support the offset currently in the bill.

Five years ago, the original law that reduced the student loan interest rate to 3.4 percent passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and was signed by a Republican President. I hope we can find common ground to pass this new legislation with that same kind of broad and bipartisan support.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am glad I had an opportunity to hear the distinguished Senator from Iowa, who is my friend and the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. I wish to address the same subject he did, but I want to hasten to summarize it at the beginning to say that we agree. By we, I mean Governor Romney, the likely Republican nominee for President, President Obama, the House Republicans, I, and others agree that for the next year we should keep the interest rate on 40 percent of new student loans at 3.4 percent. There is no difference of opinion on that.

What is different is how we propose to pay for it. The distinguished Senator from Iowa has actually outlined the difference of opinion very well. What we are saying, what the Republicans are saying, is that in order to pay for the $6 billion it will cost taxpayers to keep that 3.4 percent interest rate the same for the next year, we want to give to students—give them back their own money, the money the Democrats are overcharging them on their student loans. The Senator from Iowa went through a very careful explanation on that which was largely correct. He pointed out that at the time the majority decided it would make the Secretary of Education the Nation's leading banker and put him in charge of administering what is becoming to be nearly $1 trillion worth of student debt—in other words, take it away from banks and make the government the banker—that there was about $61 billion in ''savings.'' That is from the Congressional Budget Office.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle argued those were unnecessary subsidies to banks. Let's say, for the moment, for the sake of argument, they are correct about that. That $61 billion is money students were paying in interest on their student loans. Wouldn't the logical thing to do be to let the students keep the money? If we truly cared about college tuition going up and student loans rising, wouldn't the thing to do be to say: We have done a big favor to you students—the government has been overcharging you on your student loans, all 18 or 19 million of you who have student loans—so instead of the rate of 6.8 percent, which it is for most students, we are going to lower that rate to 5.3 percent.

That is not my number. That is the number the Congressional Budget Office said. We could have that $61 billion our friends on the other side said the government is overcharging students and we could reduce the average loan of about $25,000 to a 5.3-percent rate instead of 6.8 percent and that would save the average student on the average loan about $2,200 over 10 years. But they didn't do that. They spent it on more government; $10 billion to reduce the debt and $8.7 billion to pay for the health care bill. So what we are saying is in order to freeze this rate at 3.4 percent, let's give to students the money they were paying. Instead of paying for the health care bill, let's reduce the student rates. That is the difference of opinion here.

Of course, our friends on the other side of the aisle have a better way, in their opinion. Not only do they want the students to continue to pay for other government programs, and some money for the health care bill, they want to raise taxes on job creators in the middle of the longest recession we have had since the Great Depression.

Let me go back to the beginning point here. We are talking about something that was reflected very well in the New York Times yesterday. I noticed the Senator from Iowa talked about the New York Times. Here is the national section from yesterday talking about what is going on in California.

> Angry about tuition increases and cuts in courses and enrollment, a dozen students at California State University have taken their protest beyond marches . . . and declared a hunger strike.
>
> The fasting protest was the latest display of anger at the 23 California State University campuses. The system has lost roughly $970 million in state financing since 2008.

The University of California is probably the best public university in the world. It has lost nearly $1 billion in State funding since 2008, and the students are fasting. They are upset about the tuition increases. Why is the tuition increasing? Well, the administrators say if we lose $1 billion from the State for our State universities, the money has to come from somewhere to pay for excellence in our universities, so we increased the tuition. That story has been going on all over the country. Why is that happening?

The President has put this issue on the table. I think we need to discuss it. Why are they fasting in California, protesting tuition increases? In the last year why did State funding for the University of Tennessee and Tennessee's community colleges and Tennessee Tech go down 15 percent last year? The main reason is the Federal Government's health care policies and its

Medicaid mandates on States that are soaking up State dollars on Medicaid that would otherwise go to pay for public universities.

President Obama did not start this policy—it has been going on for 30 years—but he is making it much worse with his health care law. And when it takes effect next year, the Kaiser Family Foundation says that States, which already are spending one out of four of their State tax revenues on Medicaid, will see a 29-percent increase in their spending on Medicaid. What will that do? What that will do is force California, Tennessee, Connecticut, and Iowa to look in their State budgets, to take the money that most likely would have gone for the colleges and community colleges and public universities and instead spend it on Medicaid. Those Federal Medicaid mandates are soaking up money that would otherwise go to public colleges and universities, and as a result of that, universities are raising tuition. As a result of that, loans are up, students are fasting, and the President is on the campaign trail promising to fix it.

Let's talk about his fix. First, it is the political season, so Senators, and all of us, need to listen very carefully when someone begins to stir the crowd about a popular issue, and surely being able to pay for college is a popular issue. We hope all American students who want to have a college degree will be able to go and afford to go to college. Our Federal Government goes to great efforts to make that possible.

Half of the students who go to colleges and universities in America—there are 6,000 of them—have a Federal grant or loan to help pay for college. We have more than $100 billion in new loans going out this year from the American taxpayer. That is from people out there working and paying taxes—the UAW member, the teacher, their taxes are going to loan more than $100 billion to students this year. The amount of money for Pell grants this year is over $41 billion.

The University of Tennessee in Knoxville is a fine campus where the tuition is about $7,400 a year, which is a good bargain at a great university. Almost all the students show up with a $4,000 State scholarship called the HOPE scholarship. For a quarter of the students who are low income, they have Pell grants that carry them above the amount of tuition. State and local governments have made a great effort to try to make it easier for our young people and older people to continue their education, and we want to continue to do that. There is a bipartisan effort on that.

Now the specific issue at play here, and the one we are likely to vote on tomorrow, has to do with one type of those student loans, and let's try to put that in perspective.

The Democrats have a version and the Republicans have a version. I offered a version which would pay for it by giving back to students the money the government is overcharging them. The Democrats have one that would raise taxes on people who create jobs. But whatever one passes—if one were to pass—would save average students on new loans about $7 a month in interest payments for the next 10 years. That can add up. That could be $83 in a year, $830 over 10 years. But that is what we are talking about, $7 a month in savings or $7 a month in interest payments on the average loan, and that is for 40 percent of the new loans. So if you have a student loan and it is at 3.4 percent, that is not going to change. There are 40 percent who have student loans today that they took out last year at about 3.4 percent. Most everybody else is at 6.8 percent, which is a good deal lower than you could get with a private loan. A private loan is one where you go to a bank and say: I am going to college and I don't have a job so I need to borrow money. You may get it, but they are going to charge you more because you may not be able to pay it back as well as somebody else.

We have agreed on this—at least we agreed on the policy, but not how to pay for it. The President has agreed on it and Governor Romney agreed on it. For the next year we wish to take 40 percent of new loans and keep them at the 3.4 percent rate, and then later in the year—earlier next year—when we look at our entire budget, how much money we have to spend, the size of the debt, which is of great concern to all of us on both sides of the aisle, we will see what we can afford to do. That is the first question.

But I am glad the President has been going to college campuses. I am glad he has raised the issue of student loans and college tuition because as a former Governor of Tennessee who cares deeply about education and as someone who was also U.S. Education Secretary about 20 years ago, I have been trying for 20 or 25 years to get Washington to pay attention to the idea that it is ruining our public colleges and universities where these Medicaid mandates soak up the dollars that ought to go to public colleges and universities. Three-quarters of our students go to public universities such as the University of Tennessee or Iowa or Iowa State or California or the community colleges, which are our secret weapon. And even with the rising tuition, those costs are at least reasonable now. I mean tuition at a community college in Tennessee is about $3,000. Nationally the average tuition for a 4-year public university is about $8,200. It is not easy to find the money for that, but it is still within range.

What has happened in the last 25 years? I can tell you what happened in my State. I visited with the retiring president of Tennessee Tech University, a fine engineering school. He said two things: One, over the last 3 years State funding for his university—and for most in Tennessee—has gone down by 30 percent. That is not a 30-percent reduction in the rate of growth, that is a flat-out cut. And why has that been happening? Well, our current Governor, a Republican, and our former one, a Democrat, have said what I know and every Governor knows: when you make up your State budget and you get down toward the end of it, you make a choice between Medicaid and higher education. And because Medicaid is run from Washington with specific mandates on states, the States end up having a stranglehold put on them, and in effect, if they participate in the program, they are forced to make decisions about eligibility and how much they spend, and there goes the money. There goes the money and it doesn't go to the public colleges and universities, resulting in less money, higher tuition, and more loans.

The fasting students in California—if I walked up to them today and said: I bet you didn't know that President Obama's health care policies are the reason you are hungry today, they wouldn't believe that. But the fact of the matter is not just the President's policies but the policies over the last number of years have gradually soaked up money that would make the University of California a great university and left it no recourse but to become more efficient, which it should, and to raise tuition, which it is doing.

I will give an example of how much difference this makes. In the early 1980s, I was a young Governor and I was making these budgets up. I would say: Well, about this much goes to K 12 education, and the courts are running prisons, so I will have to put that in, and then the gas tax goes to the highways. And you get down to the end of the budget and you make a choice between Medicaid, the Federal program that States pay about 30 percent of, and education. I was trying to restrict funding for Medicaid and increase funding for education. I could see where we were headed over the next several years.

I went to see President Reagan. I had made an appointment. I saw him in the Oval Office. I said: Mr. President, let me propose a grand swap. He said: What do you mean, a grand swap? I said: We will take all of K 12 education in the States and you take all of Medicaid. He thought for a moment, and he said that sounds like a pretty good idea. My reasoning was that instead of Medicaid having two masters—one in Washington and the other among all the different Governors—if it had one, it would be managed better. If Washington ran Medicaid, Washington would have to pay for it all and make sure that it could be funded.

I thought then, and I still think today, that almost all of the responsibility for kindergarten through the 12th grade belongs as close to the child as possible—first with the family, then with the classroom, and then with the State. I believe that while there has been some important advocacy from Washington over the last 30 years, if we

had made that grand swap 30 years ago, the Medicaid Program would be run better today and our public schools would be performing better today.

We could argue about that, but the one thing we could not argue about is the difference in money. Back then if we made the swap, the States would have come out ahead by about $4.5 billion. In other words, the Federal Government would have taken over Medicaid and the States would have taken over K 12. The States would have given back to the Federal Government the Federal aid for education and keep their Medicaid money. Four-and-a-half billion dollars was the difference in 1981 or 1982.

What would the difference be today if we made such a grand swap? It would be $92 billion. It would be $92 billion of extra money the States would have if today the Federal Government took over all of Medicaid and the States took over all of the responsibility funding for K 12.

That would mean in a State such as California where the students are fasting, California would probably have an extra $12 billion or $13 billion. Do you think much of that would go to the University of California to continue its excellence? Sure it would. Would much of it go to Tennessee Tech, the University of Tennessee, and the community colleges? It absolutely would.

What happened over the years is that these well-intentioned Federal health care Medicaid mandates have put a stranglehold on Governors, which is why I said when we were debating the health care law that I thought any Senator who voted for it ought to be sentenced to serve as Governor for 8 years and try to implement it.

I mentioned that last year Tennessee's State funding for higher education went down 15 percent. Guess what. State funding for Medicaid went up 16 percent. So there is a direct relationship: Medicaid up, State funding for public universities down, tuition and loans go up, and that is the real problem we have today.

I am glad the President has put this issue on the table. I am glad he is talking about it, and I hope Governor Romney talks about it. I hope what they agree to do is either to repeal the health care law or to repeal the Medicaid mandates and give States more flexibility. We can't pass a law in Washington, as we did 3 or 4 years ago with the stimulus, and say we are going to give you more Medicaid money, but, Mr. Governor and Ms. Legislator, you can't reduce State funding on Medicaid.

Lieutenant Governor Ravitch of New York, a Democrat, wrote an excellent article in the Wall Street Journal. At the time it said: If you tell New York that at a time when we are reducing revenues and say we have to keep spending on Medicaid, we have to cut something else, and the State University of New York gets cut. So New York cuts the State University of New York, tuition goes up, loans go up, and students are protesting.

It is not just the student protests that I worry about. We are at a time in our history when we are in a serious brain-power competition around the world. We have a lot of Chinese scholars who go from American universities home to their universities. In a bipartisan way—and the Senator from Iowa and I were part of it—we passed something called the America Competes Act a few years ago and reauthorized it so we could properly fund science and our innovation. Government-sponsored research has been an important part of our job growth over the last 30 or 40 years. Where is that done? It is done in our national laboratories or our great research universities. Well, at least half of our great research universities are public universities, such as the University of California, the University of Michigan, the University of Tennessee, the University of Connecticut. If we keep cutting government-sponsored research and the quality of those universities, our job growth won't be nearly as good in the future.

Here is another example of how much that has changed over the years. Thirty years ago in Tennessee, the State paid 70 percent of the cost of a student to attend a State university and the student paid 30 percent. We had an implicit agreement between the government and the student, and we said: If we increase your tuition, we will increase the State contribution by the same percentage. So we kept it at about 70 and 30, and it made it possible for a lot of students to go to college. What is it today? It is 30 and 70. It is upside down. Thirty percent of the support for colleges and universities comes from the State government and nearly 70 percent comes from the students. Why is that? The main reason is Federal health care mandates that put an unrealistic amount of money on top of States, and it is about to get worse.

I mentioned earlier the Kaiser Family Foundation, which estimates that next year States that are already spending $1 out of every $4 for Medicaid will see a 29-percent increase in Medicaid funding. This fast will have to go on a lot longer in California if that is going to happen. We can't cut $1 billion out of the University of California every 3 years and have it remain the best public university in the world. It is just not going to happen. And we can't raise tuition 6 percent or 8 percent every year and make college available to the large number of students that would like to go.

So I am glad the President and our friends on the other side in this political year have raised the issue of rising tuition and student loans. We agree on the little issue before us. We would all like to take that 3.4 percent interest rate and extend it for a year. That costs $6 billion. That would affect new loans and only 40 percent of the students. But we agree on that, the President agrees, and Governor Romney agrees. That is not an issue. The issue is, do we raise taxes on job creators or do we give back to students some of the money we are continuing to overcharge them on student loans? That is the issue. The larger question—and one that I hope we all address this year in our debates and that the President and Governor Romney address in their debates—is, What about the future of our public colleges and universities, where three out of four American college students go? How are we going to maintain their quality and maintain the opportunity for access to them if we continue to impose Medicaid mandates on States that soak up the money that ought to be going for excellence in higher education and the greatest amount of opportunity for students by keeping tuition rates low? That is the real issue.

While President Obama is not responsible for what went on before he became President, he has made that condition much worse. If he is going to bring this up on the campaign trail, I hope he tells the rest of the story, which is that he and his health care and Medicaid mandate policies are a principal part of the reason and I would say the main cause going back over the years as to the reason California students are fasting, Tennessee students saw an 8-percent increase in tuition, and all across the country college presidents know very well that the reason there have been such reductions is because of Federal Medicaid mandates.

I hope we have an opportunity tomorrow to vote not only on the Democratic proposal to keep student loan rates at 3.4 percent but also on the Republican interest rate reduction act that I have proposed, which would also keep the rates at 3.4 percent but pay for it by stopping the overcharging of students to help pay for the health care law.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, first let me say that I very much appreciate the comments of the Senator from Tennessee and his leadership on this issue. I join him in hoping we will be able to vote for the alternative he has provided, which is a more sensible way to ensure that this increase in student loan interest fees does not continue.

Many students who entered college 4 or 5 years ago believing that higher education would improve their prospects for getting a good job are now, sadly, very disappointed. The Obama economy is going to let them down. According to a recent Associated Press story, one out of two recent graduates is either unemployed or underemployed. The article cites a new analysis based on government data which found that young college graduates ''are heavily represented in jobs that require a high school diploma or less . . . that's confounding their hopes a degree would pay off despite higher tuition and mounting student loans.''

At this time, most of us agree that Congress should extend the lower interest rate on certain Stafford loans. Unless we do, interest rates will double to 6.8 percent this July. There are competing proposals to accomplish this extension, as Senator ALEXANDER pointed out. Unfortunately, the majority leader's proposal is going to make the underlying jobs problem worse by burdening job-creating businesses with new taxes and compliance costs. Let me illustrate how this occurs.

In order to pay for the $6 billion cost of extending the 3.4-percent interest rates for 1 year, the Reid bill attempts to do what nearly every bill proposed by Senate Democrats this session has done: It permanently raises taxes on job creators in order to pay for temporary spending. Worse, the majority is attempting to divert dollars that are supposed to go to Medicare or Social Security in order to fund completely unrelated spending.

In this case, the legislation singles out certain professional service businesses for a punitive tax hike, including those in the fields of health, engineering, architecture, accounting, actuarial science, performing arts, and athletics. Ironically, these are some of the fields in which there is actually demand for new employees, according to the AP story I referenced earlier.

The tax hike would hit business owners who perform services for their businesses and make $200,000 or, if they are married, $250,000. If the IRS determines that 75 percent or more of the business's gross income is what this bill describes as ''attributable'' to the services of three or fewer owners, then this bill would make the owners pay payroll taxes on 100 percent of their share of the business profits even if some of that profit had nothing to do with the owner's work. In addition, if family members also own a piece of the business, then the working owner will owe additional payroll taxes on the family members' share of the business even if that family member provides no services.

Obviously, there are several problems with this approach. Let's start with the most obvious: It takes more money from the private sector and gives it to the government at the very time when we want the private sector to have enough to create new jobs. Second, it rewrites the laws of income from labor and income from capital investment. This should not be done lightly, especially since confiscating more from small businesses means they will be less able to expand and create more jobs.

Underscoring that this proposal is a tax increase and not a mere compliance measure, a coalition of 37 organizations that represents small businesses wrote a letter explaining that it ''could increase the payroll tax burden on business owners who are already fully complying with the law. For those businesses, this provision represents a tax increase rather than a clarification of existing tax burdens.''

I ask unanimous consent that the text of this letter be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. KYL. I thank the Chair.

So a bill that is intended to help students would actually make their job prospects even bleaker when they graduate. The American Institute of Architects said of the Reid proposal:

> If we're trying to make it easier for our college graduates to get started in their career and become contributing members of society, increasing taxes on those who would most likely hire them is simply bad public policy.

Payroll taxes are already scheduled to become more punitive for the small business owners targeted by this bill. Under ObamaCare, the Medicare portion of their payroll tax will rise from 2.9 percent to 3.8 percent, and another 3.8 percent will be assessed on their investment income.

To add insult to injury, this bill exposes family-owned businesses to double taxation. For example, in a business with three family member shareholders in which only two provide substantial services, those two family members would be responsible for payroll taxes on their own incomes and then both of them would have to pay payroll taxes on the income of their third family member.

Applying this rising payroll tax to even more small business income is a terrible recipe in a time of a weak economy. At a time when businesses are struggling to hire, the last thing Congress should do is to make a bad situation worse.

Now, the other side will argue that their bill is intended to prevent cases of tax abuse, so let's look into that. According to the IRS, 4.5 million S corporation tax returns were filed in 2009. Data from the Treasury Department shows that S corporations account for nearly 40 percent of small businesses with employees. As these numbers showed, doing business as an S corporation is popular because it allows a business to avoid the double taxation of income that comes with organizing as a C corporation. The business income of these and other so-called flowthrough organizations is taxed as individual income by the IRS.

Given the prevalence of flowthrough businesses in our economy, it is not surprising that there has been some abuse from some S corporation shareholders who pay themselves small salaries in order to avoid paying Medicare and Social Security payroll taxes owed on their compensation. The IRS is well aware of this potential and has developed and implemented tools to go after firms and individuals who do not pay appropriate payroll taxes through what the IRS calls the reasonable compensation test. This test has been used for over 50 years, and the IRS has won a number of cases against taxpayers who paid themselves compensation that was deemed less than reasonable, most recently in last year's United States v. Watson decision.

The Reid bill would impose a different standard—one that is arguably more confusing and less enforceable than the current IRS reasonable compensation test. Under the Reid bill, small businesses and the IRS will be asked to determine whether 75 percent of the small business income is ''attributable'' to the services of three or fewer shareholders. How on Earth is the IRS going to determine which income is attributable to the work of a particular shareholder and not to other employees or to capital investments? For example, if a business has three physical therapists, how will the IRS know whether the business's income is substantially due to their services or whether at least part of it relates to the fact that they hired talented front office staff, did marketing, bought a building in a good location, have a comfortable waiting room, implemented an efficient billing system, and invested in state-of-the-art medical equipment? Let's say an IRS agent manages to determine that exactly 75 percent of the business's income is attributable to the services of the three physical therapists. That means 25 percent of the business income was not due to their services, but the bill would impose payroll taxes on that portion as well. In other words, this bill would impose taxes on business income that is due to capital investment, which should not be subject to the payroll tax, and to the work of other employees who have already paid their payroll taxes. Payroll taxes should only apply to labor income, and they should only be applied once. That is current IRS policy and it is good policy.

As one commentator noted last week, the Reid proposal will be a ''jobs program for tax lawyers defending clients before the IRS.'' To determine what percentage of business income is ''attributable'' to services performed by certain shareholders of an S corporation will be a boon for lawyers and CPAs but not for the professional service businesses that wish to expand and hire.

Those of us who were here in 2010 argued against ObamaCare, among other reasons because it relied on student loans to pay for part of its costs. A more prudent way to extend the 3.4-percent interest rate on student loans is to cut at least $6 billion in ObamaCare spending, which is exactly what the House of Representatives recently voted to do. The House bill would cut spending from an unaccountable ObamaCare slush fund, formerly known as the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

This approach, which our colleague Senator ALEXANDER spoke to a moment ago, and of which I am a cosponsor, fully offsets the cost of a 1-year extension of the subsidized interest rate and

directs an additional $6 billion toward debt reduction. This ensures that job-creating capital will not be diverted from small businesses to fund a temporary unrelated spending program.

Notably, President Obama's own budget request recommended cutting this very same ObamaCare slush fund, and he has already signed into law legislation that cut $5 billion from it.

Finally, I want to express my dismay at the lack of urgency from the majority about the most pressing issue facing small businesses and those college graduates seeking work; that is, the automatic tax increase for all Americans on January 1 of next year—the largest tax increase in the history of our country. The legislation on the floor today will not become law. The majority knows that. It is another political showboat. We know this because this Chamber rejected a similar tax hike 2 years ago when the majority had 59 Senate seats, and we know the House of Representatives would not pass the legislation.

As the senior Senator from Utah noted last month:

> Senate Democrats are fiddling while Rome burns.

That is because, in 8 months, as I said, the largest tax increase in American history will take effect on individuals, families, and businesses. Taxes on income, capital gains, dividends, family-owned farms and estates will skyrocket. As previously mentioned, new taxes on investment and payroll from ObamaCare will also take effect.

Even without the tax increase in this Reid bill, small business owners are facing a marginal tax rate increase to nearly 41 percent, a regular payroll tax rising to 16.2 percent, and an additional 3.8-percent payroll tax on investment income. And we want these people to hire more, to create more jobs?

Instead of wasting valuable time on a bill that will never become law, I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will end their obsession with class warfare and start focusing on the most pressing issue at hand: stopping policies that will do further damage to our already weak economy. Defeating the majority leader's latest tax hike proposal will be a good place to start.

EXHIBIT 1

MAY 3, 2012.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Capitol Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Capitol Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS REID AND MCCONNELL: As organizations representing millions of employers, we strongly oppose the provision in S. 2343 to increase payroll taxes on S corporations and partnerships by $9 billion.

While we are sympathetic with efforts to ensure that taxpayers, including business owners, fully comply with the tax law, we are concerned that the new rules envisioned by S. 2343 are less clear and less enforceable than current law and will do little to increase compliance.

On the other hand, they could increase the payroll tax burden on business owners who are already fully complying with the law. For those businesses, this provision represents a tax increase rather than a clarification of existing tax burdens. Businesses engaged in service professions have employees and capital investments. S. 2343 would apply payroll taxes to the income attributable to both, thus blurring the line between payroll taxes imposed on wages and salary, and income taxes applied to other forms of income.

While the authors describe the targets of this provision as lobby shops and law firms, the application of the ''Professional Service Business'' definition included in the bill is much broader and could embrace a significant portion of the American economy. Closely-held businesses engaged in health, real estate, engineering, architecture, consulting, financial services, billing, and other fields could be affected. Moreover, once the line between earnings from labor and capital is removed, we are concerned that this provision could be expanded to include other, more capital intensive industries.

Under S. 2343, the active shareholders of service sector S corporations would be required to pay payroll taxes on all their income from the business—wage and business earnings alike—if the S corporation is a partner in a professional service business or if 75 percent or more of the gross income of the S corporation is attributable to the service of three or fewer shareholders.

This new approach, particularly the ''principal rainmaker'' test, is neither clear nor more enforceable than existing rules. These rules have been in effect for over half a century, and the IRS has repeatedly and successfully used them to ensure that active S corporation shareholders pay themselves a reasonable wage, most recently in Watson v. US (2011).

Legislation similar to the payroll tax provision in S. 2343 failed to move through the Senate in 2010. Like S. 2343, that provision was made public at the last minute and brought directly to the Senate floor. It was not considered by the full Finance Committee, nor was it subject to an open amending process the Senate floor. Now, two years later, we are presented with a similar policy to be debated in a similar, truncated manner.

Finally, we are concerned that the permanent payroll tax increase in S. 2343 would be used to fund a temporary program—however worthy—outside of the Medicare or Social Security programs. Moving forward, we would argue that payroll tax collections should be reserved for Medicare and Social Security and not diverted to offset unrelated federal spending.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Air Conditioning Contractors of America; American Bankers Association; American Council of Engineering Companies; The American Institute of Architects; American Rental Association; American Supply Association; Associated Builders and Contractors; Associated Equipment Distributors; Associated General Contractors of America; Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association; Financial Executives International's Committee on Private Company Policy; Financial Planning Association; Financial Services Institute, Inc.; Independent Community Bankers of America; Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America; International Foodservice Distributors Association.

International Franchise Association; National Apartment Association; The National Association for the Self-Employed; National Association of Convenience Stores; National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors; National Electrical Contractors Association; National Federation of Independent Businesses; National Funeral Directors Association; National Grocers Association; National Multi Housing Council; National Restaurant Association; National Roofing Contractors Association; National Small Business Association; National Utility Contractors Association; Printing Industries of America; Professional Beauty Association; The S Corporation Association; Truck Renting & Leasing Association; U.S. Business and Industry Council; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, there is no reason we should be having this debate today. Freezing student loan interest rates for 1 year during tough economic times is something I believe we all agree on, so it should be relatively simple to accomplish. The President supports it, Governor Romney supports it, and a bipartisan majority in both the House and the Senate supports it. Given this kind of agreement, I see no reason why both sides could not have a good-faith discussion on where to find the $6 billion in savings in a government with a budget that spends nearly $2 trillion annually. Actually, we spend more than $2 trillion annually.

I would mention, this bill has not been to committee. I hope the American people have noticed that bills that go to committee and then come to the floor are usually successful. I hope they also notice that bills that do not go to committee and come to the floor are usually not successful; they are usually a political statement. That is what we have here again today.

This is how it works: You bring a bill that you know the other side—well, in fact, this body has already voted on the concept of this tax before and defeated it. They know with that provision in there, this common interest will fail. So why do they do it? Well, you notice this is a motion to proceed and requires a cloture vote. So 40 of us can stop this bill, and will stop this bill in the condition it is in without having gone to committee. But when we stop things, it seems those Republicans think that students ought to be paying more interest. That is the part that is wrong. The part we are disagreeing about is how to pay for it.

Pay for it? We have an economic judgment day coming in this country because of the debt we are running up on a daily basis. That is what put the world into kind of this funk anyway. I am not sure what is going to happen now that France has decided they are not going to have austerity and Greece has decided they are not going to have austerity. Now they have leaders who say they are going to fight any kind of austerity. It could put the world in a real crisis.

But what we are talking about is whether to keep the student interest rate at the low rate that it is right now, and we are going to have to vote on a bill that we are going to have to defeat because of the pay-for in it,

which will make it look as though Republicans want to raise the rates on students, and that is not true.

But the majority prefers to pick a fight rather than help students during these tough economic times. What do I mean by this? After initially reaching out to my staff, indicating their willingness to work toward a bipartisan solution, they leaked their proposal before talking to us, which contained the offset they have in here.

There could be a solution. We have to counter with one and ask that there can be two side-by-side bills. That means we can have one they vote against, so we can say they did not want to keep student rates low, which is also wrong. But somehow we have to figure this out, and we have to do it in a bipartisan way. That means probably neither suggestion that is up right now is the one that is going to work.

The majority would have Americans believe their bill simply closes a loophole used by wealthy doctors and lawyers and other professionals who organize as an S corporation in order to avoid payroll taxes. Well, let me tell you about taxes. If you are in one of those small business S corporations, you pay your taxes. You pay them on the year the company earns them—not the year the dividends are distributed. The year the company earns it, you pay all of the taxes that are due on that piece of money, even though you have to leave it in your business, so you can keep reinventing your business, so you can stay in business, so you can maintain the jobs you already have, and, hopefully, add a few. That is what an S corporation does. It says: We are going to give you this big break. We are going to let you pay your taxes upfront, even though you cannot take the money out.

But what we are talking about here is payroll taxes. Payroll taxes are the money all of us put in as an investment for our Social Security and our Medicare. That is what payroll taxes are. That is what we are talking about now, charging on this money that has already had all the income taxes paid on it and, incidentally, has also had payroll taxes paid on it.

The IRS is already given the authority to check and see if people are taking out a de minimis distribution. There is an amount you have to take out of your business and you have to claim it for salary. You cannot hide it as if you were rich or something. It does not work that way. The IRS has rules. The IRS can claim those payroll taxes. But what we are talking about now is taking those payroll taxes—payroll taxes, remember, are Social Security and Medicare payments; they are investments in your Social Security and your Medicare—we are talking about taking those and subsidizing student loans.

Medicare is in trouble and, once again, we are talking about stealing from Medicare. We did that in the health care bill. We took half a trillion dollars out of Medicare and we put it into new programs. We did not put it into a doc fix. You keep hearing us talk about the doc fix. We are not paying the docs enough that they want to take any new Medicare patients. Well, we did not take the money in Medicare that might have been used and use it in Medicare to keep the Medicare system running. No. We put it into new programs so we could say this health care plan was paid for.

Now we are saying we are going to use those payroll taxes and we are going to use them to subsidize the student loans. When does Medicare ever get the money to pay for Medicare? Oh, that is right, we have a new board now—an unelected board—and this unelected board will tell us each and every year where we have to cut in Medicare in order to pay for Medicare, even though we stripped all this other money out that could have paid for Medicare. What a deal.

Well, here we go again. This tax would end the payroll taxes by shifting them into the student loans. When we are talking about pay-fors, we do all kinds of crazy things around here, and we should not be doing them. We should be a little bit more straightforward, not just with the students but with the American taxpayer. In reality, this is an irresponsible tax increase on small businesses at a time when we need small businesses creating jobs so college students have employment opportunities when they graduate.

In Wyoming, S corporations are family owned small businesses working hard to keep their businesses afloat. As I mentioned, they get to pay their taxes even if they cannot draw the money out and use it. So, for instance, small motels, small architecture firms, and groups of engineers might choose to operate as S corporations. Or they could be a full corporation, and then they would have some of the same benefits Warren Buffett has. Warren Buffett makes millions and he does not have to pay payroll taxes on that. But we did not suggest ending Warren Buffett's payroll tax-free money. We are only going to do this to the small business corporations. Sounds fair? I do not think so.

This will also hurt family businesses in another way. For example, a son who is taking over an accounting practice from his father could be hit with substantial payroll taxes if he owns, for example, 10 percent of the firm, while his father, who is no longer active in the business, retains the other 90 percent.

These are not the tax scofflaws that the majority suggests this tax will impact. They are real, small businesses that are the fabric of the American economy. Small businesses accounted for 65 percent of the 15 million jobs created between 1993 and 2009. So rather than increasing taxes on small engineering and accounting firms, we should be encouraging these businesses to hire new employees. As a former small businessman, I know this will not happen if we raise taxes on the very businesses we depend upon to turn the labor market around.

Recent reports demonstrate the need to encourage, rather than inhibit, job growth and creation. That is what we are talking about: jobs. This year, more than 50 percent of college graduates are either unemployed or underemployed. Graduating in a bad economy, where jobs are scarce and lower wages are the norm, can have negative economic consequences for up to 15 years. With the cost of higher education increasing more rapidly than the median family income, there will continue to be greater dependence on student loans. Unless the economy improves, there will also be a lesser chance that going forward graduates will have the resources to even make minimum loan payments.

The Republican alternative puts forward a solution that takes money out of—and I know the Senator from Iowa hates the word—a slush fund, but it is a fund with rather wide possibilities, and a fund that can be designated by the Secretary. This is not the first time this has been used as an offset. Our President signed legislation that cut $5 billion from the fund to offset the payroll tax bill. Now we are talking about payroll taxes again, but our side is talking about using the same funding source the President used to pay for a payroll tax cut earlier this year. The President also proposed to cut an additional $4.5 billion out of the same fund when he submitted his budget for this year.

I had to go and look and see what some of the uses are for this fund that we would be cutting into because it is spent at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services and there are not a lot of guidelines. Many of the programs funded by this Prevention and Public Health Fund—often called a slush fund—duplicate existing health programs or waste taxpayer money on some frivolous programs.

The fund has wasted millions of taxpayer dollars and even supported potentially unlawful lobbying activity. For instance, a public health clinic in Nashville, TN, used money to offer free preventive services for dogs and cats, not women and children; $3.6 million went to the Minnesota Department of Health to create at least four regional food policy councils, to increase the access and availability of affordable healthy food; $8.4 million to the New York Fund for Public Health to implement a local tax on sugar-sweetened beverages; $3.3 million to the Washington State Department of Health to increase local preemption of tobacco marketing and taxation and support legislation that repeals preemption of tobacco marketing; $3 million to lobby lawmakers in New York for legislation requiring chain restaurants to publicly post the amounts of the calories they serve; $7 million to Jefferson County,

AL, to urge Alabama lawmakers to raise tobacco taxes; $16 million to the County of Los Angeles to help secure a ban on new fast food restaurants around Los Angeles. A lot of that is lobbying activity. Yes, I suppose the end results could be prevention of health care.

This country is coming up on an economic judgment day. We do not have extra money lying around. In fact, when we are talking about pay-fors, we are only talking about paying for whatever new is put in. We do not talk about how we are going to cover the $15 trillion in debt we have out there, the $49,000 every man, woman, and child in the United States owes. It is a heavy burden.

I talked earlier about Greece. Greece only owes $39,000 per person. They are just not trusted as much as the United States. If we keep running up that debt, we are not going to be trusted either. Unfortunately, President Obama and the congressional Democrats would rather play election-year politics than find a solution that focuses on the immediate need of America's students and their families.

Neither bill is ideal. Each spends 10 years of savings in 1 year and neither produces a long-term, sustainable solution. However, the Republican proposal has the benefit of using an offset previously used by the Democrats, as I mentioned. The $5 billion from that fund was used earlier this year to help pay for the extension of the payroll tax holiday, and in this year's budget, the President proposed cutting an additional $4.5 billion.

The Democratic bill raises taxes on small businesses at a time when the Nation needs those businesses to be creating jobs so college students have employment opportunities when they graduate. It is discriminating against small businesses because it does not take in corporate dividends that people get, which are the same thing. It is the dividends they eventually are able to take out of the business. But a big corporation pays dividends to investors and those do not have payroll taxes taken out either.

So no sincere attempt was made by the Democrats to find a bipartisan solution. Both Senator REID and Senator HARKIN reached out to my staff to inquire about the possibility of funding a solution. My staff expressed a willingness to discuss possible offsets, but the Democrats released the details of their proposed S corporation tax prior to any meeting.

When my staff did meet with Senator HARKIN's office, his staff indicated the S corporation offset was the only offset the Democrats were willing to consider. That makes compromise pretty difficult. Senator REID has filed for cloture on S. 2343, the Democrats' bill we are talking about now, and a vote will be held tomorrow at noon. At this point, we have been told we are not going to have a vote on the Republican bill at all.

So cloture tomorrow will fail because there will be no opportunity to put any amendments on this bill, and this is not a perfectly drafted bill. This is something that was put together in a bit of a hurry without having bipartisan input. The reason we have 535 people in Congress is that there are a whole bunch of different viewpoints. The reason we have 22 people on a committee is that there are 22 viewpoints that go into the bill and we can see what unintended consequences there are. That did not happen on this bill.

This has been put together by two or three people or half a dozen staff members or whatever, I am not sure. But it has not had the input from both sides. So our side had to come up with a bill that follows the same procedure. I can tell you neither bill is ideal, and a solution has to be reached for these young people. We are all agreed on that. We are just not agreed on how we pay for it, and we do have a problem with paying for things around here.

I urge the majority leader to pull the bill from the floor, sit down with us, find a solution we all can agree to. This is not an issue over which election-year politics should prevent us from reaching a bipartisan agreement. I am not aware of anybody who is opposed to the extension of the reduction in the interest rate. Incidentally, that is not an interest rate reduction to everybody; it is only to those who have subsidized loans.

If someone is a student who has regular loans, they are not able to participate in this. That would require a lot more money. Again, I urge the majority leader to pull this bill, sit down, come up with a solution both sides can agree on. It is getting tougher and tougher to find pay-fors because we are getting further and further in the hole. We are not going to stop digging, so we better start digging together.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, how much time is remaining on our side?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is no allocation of time.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, am I correct the time for debate under this bill will expire at 4 p.m.?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. At 4:30.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Chair. Mr. President, after listening to the previous three speakers, it is hard to know where to begin to correct the record with all the misstatements. Maybe I will kind of work backward. My good friend, the Senator from Wyoming, gave a whole list of different things about where this money was spent. He mentioned something about California and fast food construction. I did not get it all. But I am informed there was absolutely no money from the Prevention and Public Health Fund that went for that program.

If the Senator from Wyoming has any evidence to the contrary, I would be more than delighted to look at it. Then there was the one about the dogs and cats in Nashville, TN. I thought the newspaper article that was in the Hill newspaper put that one to rest, but I guess it did not. It just goes on and on.

That money actually was funded by private grant money. I guess PetSmart, from what I am told, put that money in for pet spaying and neutering in Nashville, TN. Again, that money did not come from the Prevention and Public Health Fund. If the Senator from Wyoming has evidence to the contrary, I would like to look into that. Then the Senator from Wyoming mentioned the New York Department of Health using $3 million to lobby in New York for a soda tax initiative. First of all, I will tell my good friend, the Senator from Wyoming, there is an absolute prohibition on Federal moneys being used for lobbying. So if anyone has any evidence of Federal funds being used to lobby, please let us know. We would like to take them to task for that and sic the Justice Department on them.

That did not happen. It was not CDC funding. This was funding by the New York State Department of Health. Again, none of the CDC money we used in the prevention fund was used for that. Those were just three of—I do not how many examples my friend the Senator from Wyoming had, but those are just three of them there that absolutely had nothing to do with the Prevention and Public Health Fund, but somehow this has gotten out in the popular press.

The city of Nashville received a $7.5 million grant to provide free pet spaying and neutering. You put that out there and the radio talk shows pick up on that and all that kind of stuff. Then they bat this around and it gets everyone upset. My God, we are using tax money now to neuter dog and cats in Nashville, TN. Who would not be opposed to that? It is not true. That is all. It is simply not true. As I say, if anyone has any evidence to the contrary, please let me know and we will get the Justice Department after them.

Again, I say to my friends on this side of the aisle that talk about seriousness of whether—how we are going to pay for this. I heard it said by the previous three speakers we all agree the interest rate should not go up. OK. We have before us, as I understand, two choices right now. The Republican choice is the one passed by the House of Representatives a couple weeks ago, which would eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund and put that money in to keep the interest rate down at 3.4 percent rather than letting it go up to 6.8 percent.

So they would eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund, about which I spoke at length a little while ago. Our bill would close a loophole in the Tax Code that allows certain subchapter S corporations to avoid paying their FICA taxes, their Social Security and Medicare taxes, because of the way they are arranged.

I am going to get into that in a minute and try to explain exactly how that is set up. We are not going after small businesses at all. We are simply providing more of a bright line on what are legitimate dividends from a corporation, which does not have to pay FICA taxes, and what are wages and salaries that they do have to pay FICA taxes on.

Right now, in certain subchapter S corporations, it is kind of cloudy. It is kind of cloudy. As someone on the other side said, we have seen this big increase in subchapter S corporations. Well, of course. People who have had partnerships before or sole proprietorships all of a sudden are rushing to establish subchapter S corporations, with very few stockholders, to get away from paying their legitimate taxes on Social Security and Medicare.

Our bill would close that loophole. We have these two choices in front of us. Which do we want? If those are the only two, do we want to eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund or do we want to put a bright line on subchapter S corporations and say if they cross that line they have to pay their Social Security and Medicare taxes? Maybe we can have that vote. Maybe we have to actually have that vote here.

I would like to see if my Republican friends want to eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Earlier this year, from our committee I passed out to every Member of the Senate how much money went to the individual States and what it was used for in the Prevention and Public Health Fund because I wanted to be transparent and above board. So I pointed out, for example—these are not private things; these are public. I pointed out to my friend from Tennessee that $4,669,362 was made available to Tennessee in this Prevention and Wellness Fund for fiscal year 2011. I listed all the things it went to: community programs to promote healthy living, detection and prevention of infectious diseases, clinical preventive services, strengthening of public health infrastructure, tobacco prevention programs, some to East Tennessee State University for the training and preparing of a public health workforce, Vanderbilt University Medical Center for clinical preventive services.

I get right down to the dollar, where it all went. I am not trying to hide anything. I say to my friend from Tennessee, ask these people where did this money go. We know where it went. Does my friend propose that we cut out all this money that went to the State of Tennessee?

Here is Arizona: $7,758,944 went to Arizona in 2011. I gave this to my friend from Arizona listing exactly where it went and what it went for in prevention and wellness. Does my friend say this ought to be eliminated? Wyoming got $1,785,534. Every bit of it is listed here, exactly where it went.

If we accept the Republicans' proposal, we do away with all of that, all prevention and public health. It has been said on the other side that even our President wanted to do away with or take money out of it. I point out that the President did propose earlier this year as a pay-for for the extension of the unemployment insurance program and for other things to keep tax rates from going up that we take $5 billion out of this program over the life. But I think the President made it very clear that was it.

In fact, we have a Statement of Administration Policy on this bill which states unequivocally that the President will veto this bill if there are any cuts in the Prevention and Public Health Fund. While I was personally opposed to the $5 billion that the President proposed taking out—and was taken out of the fund—I can say that, well, that ought to be the last penny taken out of the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Now we see that the President agrees, no more. We took $5 billion out and that is the end of it.

People keep calling it a slush fund. I have here where every dollar went in all of the States, what it went for. It did not go to neutering dogs in Nashville, TN, regardless of how many times we may read it or hear it on Rush Limbaugh or Joe Scarborough or anyplace else. It is not true. I challenge anybody, if they have that evidence, let's see it.

Again, I just think what the Republicans have offered as an offset is not serious. I cannot believe they want to do away with the Prevention and Public Health Fund. On the other hand, is our proposal serious? Do we want to really close this loophole for professional corporations under subchapter S? Yes, we do. I think that is serious. There has been a lot of abuse of people using the cover of subchapter S to avoid paying their taxes. A number of cases have come before us that I have seen where people have used subchapter S as a means of not paying their fair share of taxes.

One of the examples that just came through was former Senator John Edwards of North Carolina, a former Member of this body, a former Presidential candidate and Vice Presidential candidate. I will not get into his personal life; that is something else. But former Senator John Edwards of North Carolina claimed, over a multiyear period, that $26 million in revenue from his subchapter S corporation was unearned. He claimed he didn't really work for a large share of his income from winning court cases. By making this argument, he avoided nearly $750,000 in payroll taxes.

That is not fair. That is an inappropriate gimmick. It is a gimmick when we allow a professional to give his or her spouse and children 95 percent of the stock in their subchapter S corporation and then declare it their profit and not their work as an accountant or as a lawyer that is responsible for the income. That is a gimmick. That is why people are rushing to form these subchapter S corporations.

We have a recent case where the taxpayer was an S corporation, an accounting practice owned by a CPA and his wife. The CPA served as the corporation's president, treasurer, director, and only full-time accountant but received no salary. Imagine that. He received no salary. Instead, the CPA ''donated'' his services to the corporation and withdrew earnings from the entity in the form of dividend distribution. During the years under audit, the CPA worked for the corporation approximately 36 hours per week. In addition to testifying that his work was crucial to the continued success of the corporation's business, the CPA also indicated that dividends were drawn in lieu of salary to reduce employment taxes. Imagine that. The corporation asserted that the CPA was not an employee, and even if he was an employee dividend distributions cannot be taxed as wages.

Well, he was caught in an audit. But, we know audits are few and far between. So the court found the shareholder to be an employee who performed significant services. His wages encompassed all remuneration for services, and it constituted all wages for tax purposes. That is what is happening. That is what is happening out there.

What does our bill do? Right now, if you are in a subchapter S corporation, you, the person, get to say whether what you are making is income or dividends. I heard mentioned something about Warren Buffett. I don't know his whole deal, but it seems to me that most of his income is from dividends and capital gains. We are not talking about that. We are talking about—this would be—if we took the subchapter S situation and applied it to C corporations, which Mr. Buffett would be in, then Mr. Buffett would face a board with independent people making a decision on officers' salary.

Now with subchapter S corporations with only one, two or three stockholders, they are making their own decisions on their personal taxes, whether they are dividends or salary. What do you think people decide?

Again, an accountant tells a subchapter S corporation it can do 40 percent and it would not get audited, they do 40 percent and don't get audited, and they don't have to pay Social Security or Medicare taxes on what is really gain.

What do we do in this bill? We say: Look, if you are a professional subchapter S corporation and you have three or fewer shareholders, then we draw a bright line. If your income is over $250,000 a year for a joint filer, and if in fact there was earned income, then it would be subject to FICA taxes. That is the bright line that we are drawing. In fact, what it will do is give subchapter S corporations a better idea of whether profits are earning money or dividends.

Quite frankly, not only are we helping to raise money for the Medicare

and Social Security trust funds, we are actually making it better for people out there who may not know where they fall. Is it dividends or is it earned income? Our bill only covers a very narrow share of S corporations. It deals only with certain professional corporations. It doesn't touch manufacturing or retail activities. It doesn't touch real estate activities. It covers the area where the abuse is most prevalent right now.

I want to speak for a minute on what Senator ALEXANDER was talking about earlier about the money that came from students and whether it was given back to students. He said that instead of 6.8 percent, it would have been 5.3 percent. We voted on that and it failed. So we did speak on that.

Again, what I point out is that most of this money—most of the money that we had in that $61 billion, most of that indeed went for students. I think I had it here—of that $61 billion, $36 billion went to Pell grants, helping raise Pell grants; $750 million went to bolster college access for students through the College Access Challenge Grant Program; $2.55 billion went to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and minority-serving institutions; $2 billion went to community colleges; about $10 billion was used for deficit reduction; $9.2 billion, as I said, went to certain health care activities.

Guess what one of those was that was paid for. Requiring dependent coverage—saying that a young person can stay on his or her parents' health care policy until age 26. Does that help students? Of course it helps students. How many young people who go off to college, and they are in college and maybe drop out a little while to make some money and then go back to college and maybe even graduate, but they don't have a full-time job—they can stay on their parents' policy until they are age 26.

I cannot tell you how many people I have heard from in my State of Iowa who have said what a godsend this is to them and their kids who are students. I make no apologies for the fact that some of this money out of that $61 billion that went to subsidize banks went to help students stay on their parents' health care policy.

When they say some of the money came from students, it didn't. The $61 billion all came from cutting the subsidy to banks. The great bulk of it, all but about—well, $10 million went to pay the deficit down, and $9.2 billion went to things such as banning lifetime limits, requiring dependent coverage, expanding community health centers, that type of thing. So none of it actually came from students themselves. It all came from closing the loophole where banks were making on that money.

The next thing that was said I wanted to correct was that the Medicaid expansion in the affordable care act—100 percent of that expansion is paid for in the Federal side, not the stateside. Senator ALEXANDER talked about this and was saying we are expanding Medicaid, which is a burden on the States. That would be true, but for the fact that 100 percent of this expansion is paid for by the Federal Government. I think that phases down to 90 percent in the future, but it never comes below 90 percent.

If the Senator would like to debate whether Medicaid should be all Federal, or Federal and State, we can do that and maybe even find some common ground on that, but that is not the case before us. I didn't think the debate on this bill to keep student interest rates low would now morph into a debate on health care. But if you want to have a debate on health care, I will be more than happy to do so, and whether or not we should use money from the Prevention and Public Health Fund to pay for it.

So, again, I would say no money—no money—comes out of the Medicare trust fund to pay for this bill—none—and certainly none comes out of the Social Security trust fund. The money that is raised goes to the Social Security trust fund and the Medicare trust fund. None of it is actually diverted from the trust funds.

Under the budget rules we are operating under, money raised can be used as an offset even though that money is raised for Medicare. I want to make it crystal clear that the money we are raising from closing this loophole on subchapter S corporations, none of it—none of it—actually comes out of the trust funds for student loans or to keep the interest rate low. It does go to the Medicare and Social Security trust funds.

Under the Republican proposal, we would not get any more money into Medicare or Social Security. They would just do away with the Prevention and Public Health Fund and take that money and use it to offset keeping the interest rates low, but not one nickel of that would go to Medicare or Social Security. Our bill would help those trust funds.

So our bill really has three benefits: First, it closes a tax loophole, provides for more definitive application of what is subchapter S income or dividends for a narrow class of companies—earned income or unearned income; second, it provides money to the Social Security trust fund and Medicare trust fund, which is needed; and third, it allows the student interest rate loans, Federal subsidized loans, to stay at 3.4 percent for the next year.

Sometime in the next year, obviously, we are going to have to figure out a long-term fix for this or what we want to do on these subsidized loans in the future and how we are going to pay for this down the road. In the meantime, as everyone has said on both sides, we both agree it ought to stay at 3.4 percent for the next year.

So I guess the debate does revolve around how we pay for it. Again, from my viewpoint—not my viewpoint; the House already voted last week to kill the Prevention and Public Health Fund, and that is what the Republicans are proposing here.

Again, to refer back to where I started earlier this afternoon, I think the lead editorial in the New York Times today was quite clear in talking about the findings found in the New England Journal of Medicine about what is happening with type 2 diabetes and how devastating that is going to be in the future. They said the long-term goal should be the prevention of obesity and diabetes. The editorial said:

> Congressional Republicans, meanwhile, are bent on dismantling health care reforms that could greatly assist in curbing the obesity epidemic. The Republican-dominated House last month narrowly passed a bill that would eliminate a Prevention and Public Health Fund, established under the reform law in part to pay for lowering the interest rate on subsidized student loans for a year.

The editorial noted that there is no explanation for this move except for the usual anti-health care reform demagoguery and noted that the fund is already providing grants to state and local governments to help pay for programs to fight obesity and prevent chronic diseases, including diabetes, in the community, the workplace, and among minority groups.

So I guess that is really the argument—how do we pay for it? It comes as no surprise, I am sure, when I say that I think closing this loophole is much better than doing away with the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I said it before and I will say it again: Neither option is ideal. These ought to be the options we are voting on, but actually we are not going to get to vote on the two options, we are going to get to vote on one option because this is a cloture vote. And this cloture vote will fail. It will fail because it is not a good enough bill to pass. It is not a good enough bill to get 60 votes, so it will fail. And the only purpose of it failing is to say: Look at those Republicans who killed that bill.

There could be a solution, but it isn't a solution by bringing a bill directly to the floor and saying: Take it or leave it. It has to be a solution by sending it to committee and having the people there work out a way that it can be done. We have done that in our committee a number of times, and the bills that go to our committee and then come to the floor are pretty successful. But this one did not go to committee.

So it isn't really two choices we are getting, it is one choice: We can take it the way the Democrats wrote it or we can forget it.

They say this closes a loophole because of the wording regarding there being three or fewer shareholders. Now, I can already hear how people's minds are working. They are saying: OK, if I want to cheat on that—and you have

now taught me how I can—I will add a fourth person. Now your bill doesn't cover it. So it is not written properly. We are not going to stop them by doing what is written in the bill, so it is not going to generate any revenue. If it doesn't generate any revenue, it will not pay for the cost of keeping the health care down.

Besides that, the IRS has guidelines that say how much one should be taking out of their business as wages, and they have to pay a payroll tax on that or they will be taken to tax court. That is the case to which the Senator from Iowa referred. It was a case of an accountant who got caught and was taken to tax court and told he couldn't cheat on his taxes. Now, we ought to have more enforcement like that. It should be pretty easy for the IRS to check and see if there are some S corporations out there that aren't paying any wages. That should be a little computer check since every return gets turned into a digital return now. Some of us help the IRS by sending our forms in digitally to begin with, which saves a lot of input on someone's part. But they can check in a matter of seconds the S corporations that have no wages, and if they have no wages, perhaps they ought to have a much lower limit than what the other side is suggesting.

If we are going to do tax reform, let's do tax reform. To do it this way is the wrong way.

I also heard the comment that this money is not being taken from Medicare and Social Security. Well, the way we do Federal accounting—and we should be ashamed of the way we do Federal accounting—that can be a true statement, but, in fact, it is not true. Here is how we do it. Here is how we cook the books as a Federal Government. We will collect this tax that should go to Medicare and Social Security and we will put bonds in a drawer and we will spend the money on the reduction in interest rates for the students. That is spending it twice because we are still showing it over here as owing it to the Social Security and Medicare folks. But we do this all the time. Do you know how much money there actually is in the drawer called Social Security? Nothing. There are bonds in there.

I used to listen to Senator Hollings, Democrat from South Carolina, talking about how we were lootin' Social Security—lootin' it—because all we do is put bonds in a drawer and we spend the money. And we have been doing that for decades. So the deficit we are talking about is probably considerably greater than what we are willing to admit. But that is exactly what we are going to be doing here once again. We are going to be lootin' Social Security and Medicare and providing some loopholes for them to keep on doing the same thing they have been doing. We are going to have to get the IRS on that and get it going better.

There ought to be a lot more options. But that is not what we are doing here. What we should be doing is getting together and figuring out more options, more ways to take care of all of the problems students are having. And they are going to be demanding a whole lot more than what we are doing.

I would remind the Democrats that the President did take $5 million from this prevention fund, and I heard him say that was enough. Well, if that was enough, how come his new budget includes taking another $4.5 billion out of that fund? So I guess he doesn't think that is enough. He thinks there is still more that can be taken—$4.5 billion. This is a $6 billion project we are talking about here, so $1.5 billion another way.

We are just talking past each other, and that is what happens any time a bill comes to the floor if this is the only place we get to debate it. Notice how many of my colleagues are listening to me right now. If there are two people on the floor, it usually means one is getting ready to speak and is not listening to what is being said. That is not a debate. That is not a way to come up with solutions. What we have to do is send these things to committee.

Senator HARKIN and I have a way of working on bills in committee, and that is to have people turn in their amendments a couple days ahead of time and we look at those. It is surprising how many times an amendment by a Republican is almost the same as an amendment by a Democrat. The trick is to get the two of them to sit down together and figure out which words need to be changed so that they can both take credit for it.

So this is a frustrating process. It is the wrong way to do it. But I have to answer one more thing yet; that is, I cited some cases where funds were being used from that prevention fund that I thought were wrong and I do think are wrong. The Senator said that if we had some information on that, if we would give it to him, he would make sure the Department of Justice gets on it. Well, now we not only need to have the IRS working, we have to have the Department of Justice working a little bit because there is some pretty good evidence, I think, that some money has been spent for lobbying. In some cases it is called advocacy, but it is by people working the legislators over, and that, in my opinion, is lobbying.

I do hope this bill will be referred to committee, which is where it deserves to be, so that a solution can be worked out. I would hope that if we do have that cloture vote tomorrow, instead of having the bill pulled, that both sides will join in saying ''send it to committee'' and vote against cloture.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I say to my good friend from Wyoming—and he is my good friend, and we do a lot of good work together—I wish we could have this bill in our committee. I think we could work it out. But the fact is, to raise the money, it has to come from the Finance Committee, and we don't have jurisdiction over that. If we had jurisdiction over that, we could probably work it out. We have a good way of working things out in our committee. But we don't have jurisdiction over finance on this darned thing. If we did, we could probably figure it out.

Mr. ENZI. Could I amend my comments to have the Finance Committee take the bill and work out a solution?

Mr. HARKIN. Well, I think that is where this came from. I don't know.

I would also say to my friend from Wyoming, because I was listening to him, I think it is fair, if we are going to have a vote on ours, that we ought to have a vote on yours. I think that if we are going to have a vote, we ought to have a vote on ours, which is the subchapter S corporation, and see how that falls, and have a vote on whether we want to end the Prevention and Public Health Fund and use that money. I would like to have that vote. I would love to have that vote. I would love to see how my friends on the other side of the aisle want to vote on whether they want to kill the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

I would also say that on this subchapter S corporation issue, the IRS right now audits about one-half of 1 percent of the returns from subchapter S corporations. So they have to think, what are the odds they are ever going to catch me, and if they do, they pay a fine and that is it. The IRS doesn't have the personnel to do everyone.

What we are doing, I wish to say again, just to make it very clear, that because of the sort of fog that surrounds subchapter S corporations right now, the IRS simply can't audit them all. They don't have the personnel to do that, and some claim that there is a lot of questions about whether something is income or dividends. But let me repeat again what our bill does.

We create a bright-line test that affects only a narrow class of subchapter S corporations. It affects only professional subchapter S corporations, those engaged in professions such as doctors, lawyers, accountants, consultants, lobbyists, where the gain is due to the professional work. This provision does not include subchapter S gains from unrelated retail, wholesale or manufacturing activities.

The provision only covers subchapter S corporations where there are three or fewer stockholders. It only covers those earning more than $250,000 a year as a joint filer, and it only covers gains when 75% or more are attributable to 3 or fewer stockholders.

So if a subchapter S company has income that is partially from professional activities, such as lobbying, and partially from other activities, such as real estate investments, the investment income does not fall under the rule.

The Joint Committee on Taxation and the Treasury Inspector General for

Tax Administration have both issued reports that show that underreporting of earned income subject to FICA taxes is a significant issue. Using IRS data, the Government Accountability Office in 2009 calculated that in 2003 and 2004 tax years the net shareholder compensation underreporting amounted to nearly $23 billion. Since then, the number of subchapter S organizations has been increasing rapidly, and I would suggest that is a main reason why.

Lastly, I just wish to point out for the record, to my friend from Wyoming, that the House bill did not go through the committee either. They brought it directly to the floor. It did not go through the Education Committee. It only went through the Rules Committee and then to the floor. So they did the same thing. They didn't go through their committee either. Again, I am hopeful we can work this out. But if we can't, I say to my friend, I hope we do have an up-or-down vote on both provisions.

There was one other thing I wished to mention before I leave the floor this afternoon and leave this debate on the student interest rate bill; that is, I heard time and time again from the other side about the fact that the President took $5 billion out of this and the fact that I said earlier: Yes, and that was the limit and that was all and he didn't want any more taken out of it. Someone said, but he has $4.5 billion in his budget to take out.

What happened, the President did put $4.5 billion in his budget to take out of the Prevention and Public Health Fund—which I hope comes as no surprise to anyone. Then, when the House and Senate earlier this year were engaged in negotiations on extending the unemployment compensation and also the payroll tax deduction, when we were engaged in that, they put that on the table. The President stuck with his $4.5 billion, the Congress added another $500 million, and they come up with a $5 million cut to the Prevention and Public Health Fund. The President said: That was in our budget. If you want to use it for that, use it for that but no more.

As I said, we have a statement of administration policy that says that if the elimination or any cuts to the Prevention and Public Health Fund are in here, he will veto the bill. I just wanted to make clear that the $5 billion and the $4.5 billion are one and the same. They are not $9.5 billion that he wanted to take out of the Prevention and Public Health Fund. I wanted to make that clear.

I see my friend from Florida is here, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I thank the chairman and the ranking member, the Senator from Wyoming, for all their hard work on bringing this important legislation to the floor.

Mr. President, I wanted to try to paint a personal face on some of the students whom I have met this past week on how it is going to impact them. But let me just set the table by saying we voted on this back in 2007 in order to give some relief to students, and we cut the loan interest from 6.8 to 3.4 for undergraduate Stafford loans.

The whole idea was, in this time of economic trial, that we would give some little break to students. Indeed, it is and has been a break. It is something on the average of $1,000 a year we were looking at a student saving in extra interest payments on these loans. When it comes right down to the personal stories, they are wrenching.

At the University of Florida, meeting with a group of students this past week, a young woman—I will not use her name because she just broke down in tears—pointed out how not only did she have Stafford loans but that her mom—who had gone through school as an adult raising a family—had gotten a degree in computer science and could not get a job, was going back to school because she had an LPN associate degree and wants a registered nurse degree where she can get a job. So the mom and the daughter both had a considerable number of loans. This young woman absolutely broke down as to what it was going to be in the way of financial burden.

Over at the University of South Florida in Tampa, student body president Matthew Diaz said: You are cutting down the dreams of an entire generation.

Another student at USF, Emmanuel Catalan, a political science major, said he is the first in his family to attend college. He questions, if we don't give this break on interest, whether his brother and other members in his family are going to be able to pursue higher education.

Another student, Austin Prince, a sophomore microbiology and Chinese major, wondered how in the world students are going to make it in this kind of economy if they are mired in debt. He said: It reduces consumer buying power if we are paying off loans for 20 years.

At the University of Florida, Madison Todd, a political science major, said she took out the maximum amount of loans available to attend the University of Florida, and her family has been scraping together everything they could in order that she could continue her education.

Why is this important? Can we remember back to World War II, when we defeated two enemies on either side of the globe and all those GIs came home, and for the first time we had a major part of American youth under the GI bill going into college. What did that do? America was at the pinnacle of her power and influence in the world. Then, with that generation of young people getting educated as they never had before, all of a sudden we had an expanding middle class as we went into the 1950s and the 1960s.

We will also remember that was a time of attention to high technology because we suddenly found ourselves behind the Soviets in the space race, with Sputnik and then Gagarin going up. All the more kids went into math and science and technology and look what that spawned in the generations to come because of education. A lot of that came directly out of the GI bill. Are we now to adopt policies that are going to reverse that trend?

We tried to take care of it in a diminishing economy, as we slipped into the recession back in 2007, by saying it is a matter of policy that we should lower interest rates for students who want to get their education. Here we are. What this boils down to is how are we going to pay for it? It costs $6 billion for 1 year.

The House of Representatives has taken a position and that has been discussed here. Their position is take it out of the health care bill. When we take it out of health care, we are taking it out of diabetes screening, heart disease screening, cancer screening for breast and cervical cancer. Do we want to do that? I don't think so.

Do we want to take it out of antitobacco programs to try to keep kids from getting hooked on tobacco? I don't think so.

Do we want to take it out of childhood immunizations, where the spending of $1 on childhood immunizations by the Federal Government saves the government $16 in the long run? That is a ratio of 1 to 16 because of children not getting the diseases they were immunized against. Do we want to take it out of that? I don't think so.

What have we come up with in the Senate? We came up with a narrow part of the tax-paying public, subchapter S corporation individuals who pay individual tax—not corporate tax—and only those in a joint return above $250,000 gross income. They would do what? They would pay the payroll tax, Medicare, and Social Security that they do not pay under the existing law because they are treated as if they were a corporation instead of a partner which, in effect, they are, save for the tax laws.

That is the choice. If this motion does not get 60 votes in order to break the filibuster or even if it does, we have to reconcile the pay-for for the $6 billion this student loan interest bill will cost. It is my hope that common sense, that bipartisanship, that nonideological rigidity would rule the day and that we would simply ask what is best for our people and for our country.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JACQUELINE H. NGUYEN TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

NOMINATION OF KRISTINE GERHARD BAKER TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

NOMINATION OF JOHN Z. LEE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Jacqueline H. Nguyen, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit; Kristine Gerhard Baker, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas; and John Z. Lee, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 60 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for the last 4 months, the Senate has been forced to slowly work its way through the backlog created by Republican objections at the end of last year to consensus nominees. Finally, with consideration today of the long-delayed nomination of Judge Nguyen to fill a longstanding judicial emergency vacancy on the overburdened Ninth Circuit, the Senate will have completed the confirmations that could and should have taken place last year.

Today, 5 months into the year, is the first time the Senate is considering judicial nominations reported by the Judiciary Committee this year. Confirmations of the nominations of Kristine Baker to fill a judicial emergency vacancy in the Eastern District of Arkansas and John Lee to fill a judicial emergency vacancy in the Northern District of Illinois have been delayed for nearly 3 months. These nominees have the support of their home state Senators and of a bipartisan majority of the Judiciary Committee. Yet these consensus nominees have been delayed for months for no good reason.

The nominations we consider today are but three of the 22 judicial nominees available for final Senate action. Most are by any measure consensus nominees who could and should be confirmed without further delay. That would go a long way toward getting us on track to make real progress in reducing judicial vacancies that have plagued the Federal courts around the country.

I want to share with the Senate and the American people a chart comparing vacancies during the first terms of President Bush and President Obama. This chart shows that the lack of real progress during the last 3⅓ years is in stark contrast to the way in which we moved to reduce judicial vacancies during the last Republican presidency.

During President Bush's first term we reduced the number of judicial vacancies by almost 75 percent. When I became Chairman in the summer of 2001, there were 110 vacancies. As Chairman, I worked with the administration and Senators from both sides of the aisle to confirm 100 judicial nominees of a conservative Republican President in 17 months. See how sharply the line slopes as we reduced vacancies in 2001 and 2002.

We continued when in the minority to work with Senate Republicans and confirm President Bush's consensus judicial nominations well into 2004, a presidential election year. At the end of that presidential term, the Senate had acted to confirm 205 circuit and district court nominees. The chart notes where we stood in May 2004, having reduced judicial vacancies under 50 on the way to 28 that August. By comparison, see how long vacancies have remained near or above 80 and how little comparative progress we have made during the 4 years of President Obama's first term. Again, if we could move forward to Senate votes on the 22 judicial nominees ready for final action, the Senate could reduce vacancies to less than 60 and make progress.

Today also marks the first Senate action this year to address the needs of the Ninth Circuit, by far the busiest Federal appeals court in the country. The Senate should have voted on the long-delayed nomination of Judge Jacqueline Nguyen of California to the Ninth Circuit over 5 months ago, after it was reported unanimously by the Judiciary Committee. Her nomination is one of three Ninth Circuit nominations currently pending and awaiting a Senate vote to fill judicial emergency vacancies plaguing that circuit. With nearly three times the number of cases pending as the next busiest circuit, we cannot afford to further delay Senate votes on the other two nominations to the Ninth Circuit, Paul Watford of California, reported favorably by the Committee over 3 months ago, or Andrew Hurwitz of Arizona, reported favorably over 2 months ago.

There is no good reason for Senate Republicans to further delay votes on these Ninth Circuit nominees. The 61 million people served by the Ninth Circuit are not served by this delay. The circuit is being forced to handle double the caseload of any other without its full complement of judges. The Senate should be expediting consideration not only of Judge Jacqueline Nguyen, but also of Paul Watford and Justice Andrew Hurwitz, not delaying them.

The Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit, Judge Alex Kozinski, a Reagan appointee, along with the members of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, wrote to the Senate months ago emphasizing the Ninth Circuit's ''desperate need for judges,'' urging the Senate to ''act on judicial nominees without delay,'' and concluding ''we fear that the public will suffer unless our vacancies are filled very promptly.'' The judicial emergency vacancies on the Ninth Circuit are harming litigants by creating unnecessary and costly delays. The Administrative Office of U.S. Courts reports that it takes nearly 5 months longer for the Ninth Circuit to issue an opinion after an appeal is filed, compared to all other circuits. The Ninth Circuit's backlog of pending cases far exceeds other Federal courts. As of the end of 2011, the Ninth Circuit had 13,913 cases pending before it, far more than any other circuit.

If caseloads were really a concern of Republican Senators, as they contended last year when they filibustered the nomination of Caitlin Halligan to the D.C. Circuit, they would not be delaying the nominations to fill judicial emergency vacancies in the Ninth Circuit. If caseloads were really a concern, Senate Republicans would consent to move forward with votes on Paul Watford and Justice Hurwitz and allow for up or down votes by the Senate without these months of unnecessary delays.

Given that all three are superbly qualified mainstream nominees with bipartisan support, the long delays that have plagued these nominations are hard to understand. Judge Nguyen, whose family fled to the United States in 1975 after the fall of South Vietnam, was confirmed unanimously to the district court in 2009 and the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously supported her nomination to the Ninth Circuit last year. When confirmed, she will be the first Asian Pacific American woman to serve on a U.S. Court of Appeals in our history. She is the kind of nominee who should have been confirming in 5 days, not 5 months.

We still await Republican agreement to vote on the other two nominees, neither of whom would have been considered controversial by past Congresses. Paul Watford was rated unanimously well qualified by the ABA's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, the highest rating possible. He clerked at the United States Supreme Court for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and on the Ninth Circuit for now-Chief Judge Alex Kozinski. He was a Federal prosecutor in Los Angeles. He has the support of his home State Senators and bipartisan support from noted conservatives such as Daniel Collins, who served as Associate Deputy Attorney General in the Bush administration; Professors Eugene Volokh and Orin Kerr; and Jeremy Rosen, the former president of the Los Angeles chapter of the Federalist Society.

Justice Hurwitz is a respected and experience jurist on the Arizona Supreme Court. He also received the ABA's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary's highest rating possible, unanimously well qualified. This

nomination has the strong support of both his Republican home State Senators, Senator JOHN MCCAIN and Senator JON KYL.

We have much more work to do to help resolve the judicial vacancy crisis that has persisted for more than 3 years. Today the Senate finally votes on 3 of the 22 judicial nominations that have been reported by the Judiciary Committee after a thorough review. Despite vacancies in nearly 1 out of every 10 Federal judgeships, Senate Republicans continue to delay votes and are stalling action on nearly 20 current judicial nominations on which the Senate could be taking final action. If confirmed those judges would serve 150 million Americans.

When the majority leader and the Republican leader came to their interim understanding in March, it resulted in votes on 14 of the 22 judicial nominations then awaiting final consideration. Because the arrangement took months to implement what the Senate could have done in hours, the backlog of judicial vacancies and judicial nominees continues. Today we are right back where we started with 22 judicial nominees awaiting action. I know that the majority leader is working to continue seeking Republican agreement to debate and vote on the remaining judicial nominees. It should not require overcoming filibusters and political standoffs for the Senate to do its job of promptly considering judicial nominations, especially when so many of them have bipartisan support and are consensus nominees.

The backlog of nominations ready for final action is not necessary or typical. It is an artificial backlog created by the refusal of Senate Republicans to consider judicial nominees at the end of each of the last 2 years and their insistence of delays of months before confirmation of consensus nominees. These practices have meant that the Senate's confirmations have barely kept up with attrition on the Federal bench. When Republicans refused to consent to consider 19 judicial nominations at the end of 2010, it took us until June of last year to work through those nominations. When they did so again at the end of last year, it took us until today, a week into May, to catch up with last year's nominations. That is not how to reduce judicial vacancies.

The Senate needs to continue working and continue consideration of judicial nominees recommended by the Judiciary Committee if we are to make real progress in reducing the burden of judicial vacancies. That is what we did in the most recent presidential election years of 2004 and 2008 and what we should be doing this year. Before we hear any more talk of slowing down or shutting off judicial confirmations, we have a long way to go. We need to work to reduce the vacancies that are burdening the Federal judiciary and the millions of Americans who rely on our Federal courts to seek justice.

At this same point in the Bush administration, we had reduced judicial vacancies around the country to under 50. Today they stand at nearly 80. And by August 2004, we reduced judicial vacancies to just 28 vacancies. Despite 2004 being a presidential election year, we were able to reduce vacancies to the lowest level in the last 20 years. At a time of great turmoil and political confrontation, despite the attack on 9/11, the anthrax letters shutting down Senate offices, and the ideologically driven judicial selections of President Bush, we worked together to promptly confirm consensus nominees and significantly reduce judicial vacancies.

In 2008, another presidential election year, we again worked to reduce judicial vacancies and by October we were able to reduce judicial vacancies back down to 34 vacancies. I accommodated Senate Republicans and continued holding expedited hearings and votes on judicial nominations into September 2008.

We lowered vacancy rates more than twice as quickly during President Bush's first term as Senate Republicans have allowed during President Obama's first term. The vacancy rate remains nearly twice what it was at this point in the first term of President Bush. The Senate is 30 behind the number of circuit and district court confirmations at this point in President Bush's fourth year in office. We are 63 confirmations from the total of 205 that we reached by the end of President Bush's fourth year.

Today's consensus nominees are examples of those who have been unnecessarily stalled for months.

Kristine Baker, nominated to fill a judicial emergency vacancy on the Eastern District of Arkansas, has spent nearly 15 years in private practice after graduating with honors from the University of Arkansas School of Law and clerking for Judge Susan Weber Wright on the court to which she has been nominated. Ms. Baker's nomination has the bipartisan support of her home State Senators. Her nomination was favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee with the support of nearly every Senator on February 16.

John Lee, nominated to fill one of three judicial emergency vacancies on the Northern District of Illinois, has worked in private practice for almost 20 years. His personal story is remarkable. Born to a coal miner and a nurse of Korean descent, Mr. Lee immigrated to the United States when he was 5 years old and went on to graduate from Harvard College and Harvard Law School. If confirmed, he will become the second Korean-American to serve as a Federal district court judge, and the second Asian-American to serve as a Federal judge in the courts encompassed by the Seventh Circuit. Mr. Lee's nomination has the bipartisan support of his home State Senators. They both also support the confirmation of John Tharp, a former nominee of President George W. Bush, to another judicial emergency vacancy in that district. With Republican consent we could also be voting on the Tharp nomination. Both Illinois nominations were favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee with only one Senator dissenting on February 16.

Today's votes must be a starting point for considering this year's judicial nominations if we want to bring down judicial vacancies and hope to match the progress we were able to make in 2004 and 2008, both Presidential election years in which we considered the nominations of a Republican President and continued to reduce judicial vacancies. I hope that Senate Republicans will stop blocking prompt confirmation of consensus nominees. That is a destructive development and new practice that has contributed to keeping the Senate behind the curve, keeping Federal judicial vacancies unfilled, overburdening the Federal courts, and keeping Americans from securing prompt justice. The American people deserve better.

I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent the time be divided equally.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Kristine Baker's nomination as United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. Kris Baker is a great lawyer recognized by her peers as well as legal organizations for her dedication to litigation on a wide range of issues, from deceptive trade practices to first amendment matters.

I had the opportunity to introduce her during her confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. After reviewing her record and meeting with her personally, as well as meeting with those who know her, looking at her reputation, looking at her abilities, I am confident that Kris's experience makes her qualified to be the next eastern district judge of Arkansas.

Kris moved to Arkansas in 1994 to pursue a JD from the University of Arkansas School of Law. During law school, she established herself as a hard worker committed to success. She graduated with high honors, was articles editor for the Arkansas Law Review, a member of the board of advocates, and a member of the University of Arkansas first amendment national moot court team.

Kris began her legal career after graduation as a law clerk for Judge Susan Wright, then chief judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. In 2000 she joined her current law firm, Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull, and Burrow, and became a partner 2 years later.

Kris has earned the respect of the legal community across Arkansas, and I believe her litigation experience has given her the knowledge, the skills, and the temperament needed to successfully serve on the Federal bench.

I am honored to recommend that the Senate confirm Kristine Baker to serve the people of America as a judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, is it appropriate in the Senate schedule to start debate on the judges?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The judges are pending.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today the Senate is expected to confirm three additional judicial nominees. With the confirmation of Judge Nguyen to the ninth circuit, Ms. Baker to the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Mr. Lee to the Northern District of Illinois, we will have confirmed 83 judicial nominees during this Congress.

It is somewhat ironic that today, according to press accounts, the White House is holding a forum and strategy session with administration officials and 150 supporters from across the country concerned about the judicial vacancy rate. I wonder if at this strategy session the White House took a look in the mirror when addressing the vacancy rate. Only the President can make nominations to the Senate. While we have a responsibility to advise and consent on those nominations, Senators cannot fill vacancies unless people are nominated for those positions. I would note the President has failed to do this in 47 of the 76 remaining vacancies, including 21 of 35 seats designated as judicial emergencies. That is more than 60 percent of the current vacancies with no nominee.

The White House and the Senate majority are fond of their claim that millions of Americans are living in districts with vacancies. Of course, what the other side fails to tell you is that 88 million Americans live in judicial districts where vacancies exist because the President has failed to nominate judges. Most of those seats have been vacant for more than a whole year. Once again, if the White House is serious about judicial vacancies, it holds the key to nominating and filling those vacancies. It has failed in too many instances to use that key.

Furthermore, according to the press accounts, in its invitation, the White House accused Republicans of subjecting consensus nominees to ''unprecedented delays and filibusters.'' This is a statement without factual basis, and it ignores the record of judicial nominations.

I would note that after today's confirmation, there are 12 nominees on the Executive Calendar that might fall into the category of consensus nominees. Seven nominees on the calendar had significant opposition in the committee and clearly are not consensus nominees. The substantial majority of those 12 nominees were reported out of committee less than 10 legislative days ago. Not only is there no filibuster against any of the consensus nominees, but I am not sure how there can be accusation of delay and particularly partisan delay.

Let me remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle of the obstructionism, delay, and filibusters which they perfected. The history of President Bush's nominees to the Ninth Circuit provides some examples. President Bush nominated nine individuals to the Ninth Circuit. Three of those nominations were filibustered. Two of those filibusters were successful. The nominations of Carolyn Kuhl and William Gerry Myers languished for years before being returned to the President. A fourth nominee, Randy Smith, waited over 14 months before finally being confirmed after his nomination was blocked and returned to the President. After being renominated, he was finally confirmed unanimously.

President Obama, on the other hand, has nominated six individuals to the Ninth Circuit. Only one of those nominees was subject to a cloture vote. After the vote failed, the nominee withdrew. Today we confirm the third nomination of this President to the Ninth Circuit. Those three confirmations took an average of about 8 months from the date of nomination. For all of President Obama's circuit nominees, the average time from nomination to confirmation is about 242 days. For President Bush's circuit nominees, the average wait for confirmation was 350 days. One might ask why President Bush was treated so differently, with so much more delay than this President has been treated or his nominees have been treated.

Another example of past Democratic obstruction and delay is in Arkansas. Today we confirm President Obama's nominee to the Eastern District of Arkansas within about 6 months of her nomination. I would note that President Bush's nominee, Jay Leon Holmes, sat on the Executive Calendar for more than 14 months awaiting confirmation. From nomination, his confirmation took over 17 months. Again, why were President Bush's nominees treated worse than this President's nominees?

I can only conclude that the White House has selective memory or different definitions when it accuses Republicans of unprecedented delay and obstructionism. I am disappointed that the President continues to blame Republicans for vacancies that have no nominee and chooses to follow the political strategy of blaming rather than working with the Senate to nominate consensus nominees. In other words, why isn't the President, instead of having a conference on why there are judicial vacancies, taking the same amount of time to get the names up here so we can work on them?

Mr. President, Jacqueline Nguyen, presently serving as a U.S. district judge, is nominated to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit. Judge Nguyen received her A.B. from Occidental College in 1987 and her J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, in 1991. She began her legal career as an associate in the Litigation Department at the Los Angeles law firm of Musick, Peeler & Garrett where she handled litigation matters involving commercial disputes, intellectual property, and construction defects. From 1995 until 2002, Judge Nguyen was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California. There, she handled the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking, immigration fraud, mail and tax fraud, and money laundering cases. In 2000, Judge Nguyen became deputy chief of the General Crimes Section. In that position, she handled the training and supervision of all new Assistant U.S. Attorneys and various types of criminal cases involving violent crimes, drug trafficking, firearms violations, and fraud.

In 2002, Governor Gray Davis appointed Judge Nguyen to the Superior Court for the County of Los Angeles. In 2009, she was nominated by President Obama to be U.S. district judge for the Central District of California. The Senate approved her nomination on December 1, 2009 by a vote of 97 0. In her capacity as a judge, she has presided over thousands of cases.

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal judiciary unanimously rated her as ''qualified'' for this position.

Kristine Gerhard Baker is nominated to be U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. Ms. Baker received her B.A. from St. Louis University in 1993 and her J.D. from University of Arkansas School of Law in 1996. She served as a law clerk for the Honorable Susan Webber Wright, then the chief judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. In 1998 she became an associate in the law firm Williams & Anderson, LLP, where she handled commercial litigation cases involving breach of contract and fraud. In 2000, Ms. Baker joined the law firm Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull & Burrow, PLLC. Her focus at the firm has been devoted to complex commercial litigation cases, including cases involving employment discrimination, securities violations, unfair competition, sic products liability, Fair Housing Act claims, and Freedom of Information Act claims. She has handled in administrative proceedings and in Federal and State court claims for discrimination, harassment, and wrongful termination as well as claims arising under

the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary gave her a substantial majority rating of ''well qualified'' and a minority ''qualified.''

John Z. Lee is nominated to be U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Lee received his A.B. from Harvard College in 1989 and his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1992. He began his legal career as a trial attorney for the United States Department of Justice, Environment & Natural Resources Division. There he represented the United States in Federal courts on issues primarily involving environmental statutes. He also served as special assistant to the counsel to former Attorney General Janet Reno.

In 1994, he left the public sector to take a job as an associate at Mayer Brown. In 1996, he joined a new firm, Grippo & Elden, as an associate. In 1999, he moved to his current firm, Freeborn & Peters. There he made income partner in 2001 and equity partner in 2004. In private practice, Mr. Lee has focused almost entirely on litigation, expanding his expertise to complex commercial disputes, including cases involving antitrust, intellectual property, employment, and business tort issues. Most of these cases were in Federal courts, particularly the Seventh and Ninth Circuits. He also represented clients in criminal investigations of antitrust and financial regulations violations. In private practice, he represents public and private companies, individual businesspersons and low-income clients pro bono. He has an ABA rating of substantial majority ''qualified,'' minority ''not qualified.''

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of the nominations of John Lee and Jay Tharp to serve on the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

I have listened carefully to the statement made by the ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee. I would note several things.

First, at this point in President George W. Bush's first term, the Democratic Senate had approved 30 more judges than have been approved under the current situation with this divided Senate. Second, it would take 60 judicial nominations to be filled by the end of the year for President Obama to have received the same treatment as President George W. Bush in his first term—60. We could get a lot of that done today. Right here are 22 nominations for the judiciary that have cleared the committee. If the Senator from Iowa would like to come to the floor and join me, we could make a joint unanimous consent request to bring up all 22 immediately—every one of them—all of whom have cleared the committee. Those Senators who want to vote against those nominations may do so. They can vote no. But, unfortunately, as we can see from this calendar, the names of the nominees languished on this calendar for months—literally for months—and many times passed with a voice vote or a unanimous vote. It really does not speak well of this process that we have reached this point, this slowdown.

What many Republicans are waiting for is the so-called Thurmond rule. It is not a rule written in a book; it refers to Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, who kind of announced at one point in his career: We are going to stop considering judges as of a certain point in an election year. I have been in the Senate a few years and have heard so many different explanations about what the Thurmond rule really means, although I am not sure anyone really knows. All we know is that in a political campaign year, politics rule, and in this situation many Republicans are holding up perfectly fine nominees approved by Democrats and Republicans in committee for no other reason but the hope that they can win back the White House in November and fill the nominees with their favorites. I don't think that is fair to the nominees who have gone through the process, many of whom have been cleared by a bipartisan vote and should be confirmed in a timely fashion.

Let me speak to a particular issue that is addressed by the nominee before us. There are two nominees from Illinois to fill vacancies: John Lee and Jay Tharp. The chief judge of the Northern District, Judge Jim Holderman, sent a letter to me and Senator KIRK in February calling for Mr. Lee and Mr. Tharp to be confirmed without delay because of the heavy caseload in this court. Senator KIRK and I decided to work together on a bipartisan basis, and we did. We had a process on which we both agreed. He picked a bipartisan group to come up with his nominee and I did the same on my side. But the understanding was that at the end of the day, neither of our nominees would move forward without the approval of the other Senator. So, in fact, they were bipartisan choices, both of them. John Lee is my choice. Jay Tharp is Senator KIRK's choice. We both support one another's choice. We believe both of these nominees have the experience, qualifications, temperament, and integrity necessary to serve in the Federal judiciary.

Mr. Lee and Mr. Tharp were both nominated on November 10, 2011—6 months ago. They appeared together in a hearing before the Judiciary Committee in January. They were both reported out of committee in February on a bipartisan voice vote.

There was an agreement reached between Senator MCCONNELL and Senator HARRY REID, the majority leader, about the nominees we brought forward for a vote. I was surprised when it was announced in March that the Lee and Tharp nominations, which had been together all through the process, were separated. The deal or arrangement called for John Lee to be scheduled for a confirmation vote by May 7, but at the insistence of the Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, the deal did not include all of the nominees on the Senate calendar and it did not schedule a vote for Mr. Jay Tharp, Senator KIRK's nominee. I believe they should be confirmed together, just as they were nominated together and went through the committee together.

As soon as I heard about this so-called arrangement, I went first to Senator KYL and then to Senator MCCONNELL and said: Don't do this. Don't hold up Senator KIRK's nominee. He is in the hospital—now he is home, thank goodness—recovering from a stroke. We did this together. We are working together. Don't separate these two fine men. There is no reason to do it.

But I understand that this was the arrangement and they didn't want to change it—even to help Senator KIRK under these circumstances. They wanted to do only two nominees a week over a 7-week period of time, and the cutoff—the line they drew—was, unfortunately, between Mr. Lee and Mr. Tharp.

Well, I was going to propound a unanimous consent request today to include Mr. Tharp along with Mr. Lee on the vote we are about to take. There is only one reason I am not. We have received an ironclad assurance from the Senate Republican floor staff that Mr. Tharp is going to be called on a timely basis during this work period. I am going to hold them to it. I don't want to embarrass anyone, but it bothers me that the nominee of Senator KIRK is being held up by the Republican side of the aisle when it should be voted on today. There is no reason why it should not be voted on today. We should vote for both of them. But because a word has been given to me by a staff member whom I respect very much, I won't make this unanimous consent request. However, let me say this: If something happens—I don't know what it might be, and I hope it doesn't—I am prepared to come to the floor and propound that unanimous consent request not only on behalf of Senator KIRK but on behalf of my State and on behalf of my own interests in making sure that our Federal judiciary has a complement of qualified people.

Let me say a few words about each nominee—extraordinarily good nominees.

John Lee has been nominated to fill the judicial vacancy held by Judge David Coar. Mr. Lee is currently a partner at the law firm of Freeborn & Peters in Chicago, where he practices primarily in commercial litigation.

He is the son of a coal miner and a nurse. He immigrated to this country, to Chicago, at a very young age. From humble beginnings, he attended Harvard College, where he graduated magna cum laude and then earned his

law degree cum laude from Harvard Law School.

After law school, Mr. Lee worked as a trial attorney in the Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division. After his tenure at the Justice Department, he worked in private practice and eventually joined the firm at which he currently works. His law practice has focused on antitrust, intellectual property, environmental, and other complex commercial litigation matters. He has received numerous awards and recognitions, including being named a ''Leading Lawyer'' from 2008 through 2011 by the Leading Lawyers Network.

Mr. Lee has an outstanding record of community service, including his work as president of the board of directors of Asian Human Services of Chicago, his service on the board of directors of the CARPLS legal hotline for low-income Cook County residents, and his service on the board of the Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago.

This is a historic nomination for John Lee. Upon confirmation, he will be the first Korean American ever to serve as a Federal article III judge in Illinois and only the second to serve in that capacity in our entire Nation's history.

Let me say a word about Jay Tharp. Again, I am disappointed that I couldn't persuade the Republican leadership to include him today, but I have their assurance that he will be called during this work period.

Jay Tharp has been nominated to fill the Chicago district court judgeship that opened as a result of the senior status of Judge Blanche Manning. Mr. Tharp is currently a partner in the Chicago office of Mayer Brown, where he is the coleader of the firm's securities litigation and enforcement practice.

He was born into a military family as the son of a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps. He attended Duke University on an ROTC scholarship, received his undergraduate degree summa cum laude, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. Jay Tharp served in Active Duty in the Marines for 6 years, achieving the rank of captain and earning the Navy Achievement Medal and the Navy Distinguished Midshipman Award.

After his military service, Mr. Tharp attended Northwestern University Law School, graduating magna cum laude, and served on the Northwestern University Law Review.

Upon graduation, he served as a judicial clerk for Judge Joel Flaum on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and then worked as an assistant U.S. attorney for 6 years in Chicago.

After his tenure as a Federal prosecutor, he joined Mayer Brown, where his practice specializes in complex commercial litigation and criminal investigations. He has received numerous recognitions.

Mr. Tharp has served as an adjunct professor of trial advocacy at Northwestern University Law School, and he also serves as a member of the Law Fund Board at Northwestern, which oversees fundraising efforts by law school alumni.

These are two extraordinarily good nominees who went through the bipartisan process together, were approved by Senator KIRK and approved by me, went through their investigative period in the White House together, came to the committee together, were reported out together, came to the calendar together but were separated out. That is unfair.

I hope by the end of this work period Mr. Tharp will join John Lee on the Federal bench. They are two exceptionally good nominees. On behalf of Senator KIRK, I will do everything to make sure this happens in the days ahead.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of a friend of mine who is going to be voted on by the Senate shortly to be a U.S. district court judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. But before I do, I need to offer a few comments on what the Senator from Iowa and the Senator from Illinois said a few moments ago that I agree with.

It is taking too long to get these nominees to this point in the process. There are too many games that are being played. From my stand, both sides are at fault. I would hope my colleagues would stop playing games and stop even the blame game, but let's get to work and let's help clear up the backlog in the Federal judiciary.

Right now, it is underresourced. We do have a judicial emergency in this particular district I am about to talk about. As they say, justice delayed is justice denied. We need these judges on the bench, and I would hope the partisanship would stop.

In Arkansas we are very fortunate to have very strong Federal judges. We have a history of that. Part of the reason we do is because our judges are, for the most part, nonpolitical. Sure, they come from various backgrounds, but there is a consensus on these judges that they are going to be good judges, and that is the tradition we have in our State.

We have a total of eight district court judges in our State, and Kris Baker fits perfectly in that line. She has a true record of distinguished service in the legal community. She is well known and well respected, and she will be a great U.S. district court judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

The court right now, nationwide, is about 20 percent understaffed. That is why it is great to have someone who has an ABA ''well-qualified'' recommendation to go along with her nomination.

She came out of the Judiciary Committee on a very large bipartisan vote. The reason is she has been with a midsized law firm in Little Rock since 2000, she regularly has accepted prisoner and other appointment cases from the Federal courts, she has played a leadership role not just in the legal community but in other organizations in the larger community, and she is going to be a fantastic addition to the Federal bench, not just for Arkansas but nationwide.

Whenever I look at these nominees, I ask myself three questions: First, can they be fair and impartial? I think for Kris, absolutely the answer is yes.

Second, do they bring to the bench credentials that represent the best and the brightest in the legal community? In her case, the answer is yes.

Third—this is especially important for trial court judges—do they have the proper judicial temperament? For Kris Baker, the answer to all three of these questions is a resounding yes.

So I would ask my colleagues to give her a favorable voice vote, as I understand it, in a few moments. But that tells us how noncontroversial she is and what a great credit she has been to the legal community and how excited we are to have her as a member of the Federal judiciary.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in strong support of Judge Jacqueline Nguyen's nomination. She was unanimously approved by the Judiciary Committee. She is an outstanding jurist with a 10-year track record of success as a trial judge in my State.

I recommended Judge Nguyen to President Obama to the district court in 2009 after my bipartisan judicial selection committee gave her its highest recommendation. The Senate confirmed her then unanimously 97 to 0 in 2009. I have no doubt she will be an outstanding circuit court judge, and I hope my colleagues will support her nomination.

Judge Nguyen earned her bachelor's degree from Occidental College and her law degree from the UCLA School of Law.

After law school, she practiced commercial law for 4 years with the law firm of Musick, Peeler & Garrett. She then moved into public service, becoming an assistant U.S. attorney in Los Angeles. During her 7 years there, she prosecuted a broad array of crimes, including violent crimes, narcotics trafficking, organized crime, gun cases, and all kinds of fraud.

In 2000 she received a special commendation from FBI Director Louis Freeh for obtaining the first conviction ever in the United States against a defendant for providing material support to a designated terrorist organization.

The Justice Department recognized her with numerous other awards and commendations for superior performance, and she was promoted to Deputy Chief of the General Crimes Section.

In 2002 Governor Gray Davis appointed Judge Nguyen to the Los Angeles superior court, where she established a track record of success as a distinguished jurist.

In 2009 President Obama nominated her to the district court on my recommendation, and she was confirmed unanimously.

Over nearly 10 years, as a State and Federal judge, Judge Nguyen has presided over thousands of cases, including 75 jury trials and 12 bench trials. She prizes fairness and integrity, and treats all parties fairly and with respect.

Those who know Judge Nguyen—including two former U.S. attorneys appointed by President George W. Bush—have praised Judge Nguyen for her first-rate legal mind and judicial temperament.

Debra Yang, who led the U.S. Attorney's Office from 2002 to 2006, after being appointed by President George W. Bush, submitted a letter to the Judiciary Committee in support of Judge Nguyen's nomination.

Yang says that she ''would make an excellent Federal . . . court judge.'' She also reports that her ''reputation among . . . colleagues is tremendous.''

Thomas O'Brien, who was appointed U.S. attorney by President Bush in 2007, has also submitted a letter endorsing Judge Nguyen's nomination. O'Brien says Judge Nguyen ''handled complex and controversial cases with technical finesse and grace'' and that Judge Nguyen is a ''highly qualified nominee who is intelligent, skilled, and exercises sound judgment.''

But she also has an inspiring life story. She was born in South Vietnam in the midst of the Vietnam war. She came to America at the age of 10. Her family lived in a tent in a San Diego refugee camp for 3 months before moving to Los Angeles, where her parents worked two or three jobs at a time.

Judge Nguyen and her five siblings helped their parents after school and on weekends. They helped to clean dental offices and to peel and cut apples. They helped run a small doughnut shop, which their parents scrimped and saved to open.

Judge Nguyen worked her way up—through school, as a lawyer and prosecutor, and as a trial judge. If she is confirmed today, she will be the first Asian-American female Federal appeals court judge, and I am proud to express my very strong support for her nomination.

I would like to conclude by expressing my view that it is absolutely critical that cooperation on judicial nominations continue.

Nearly 10 percent of judicial positions are currently vacant, Mr. President, as you well know—twice as many as when President Bush left office. This high vacancy rate is today being felt more than anywhere else by States in the Ninth Circuit. California and Arizona are home to some of the busiest Federal trial courts in the Nation. This means businesses, individuals, and prosecutors already are struggling with severely overburdened Federal courts.

The Ninth Circuit is also the busiest Federal appellate court in the country. It has over 1,400 appeals pending per three-judge panel—the most of any circuit by a wide margin, and over twice the average of the other circuits.

The Judicial Conference of the United States has declared each Ninth Circuit vacancy a judicial emergency.

Judge Nguyen's confirmation today will help ease the burden, but it will not do enough. Paul Watford is another outstanding Ninth Circuit nominee from California. He was approved by the Judiciary Committee 3 months ago. Based on the calendar, he should be the next circuit court nominee to receive a confirmation vote in this body.

He has sterling qualifications. He has worked as a Federal prosecutor and an appellate attorney at a prestigious law firm. He clerked for Chief Judge Alex Kozinski and for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. He is a moderate nominee, well schooled in the law. He has support on both sides of the aisle, including from two former presidents of the Los Angeles chapter of the Federalist Society.

So I hope the Senate will consider Mr. Watford's nomination very soon. It is a judicial emergency.

So, once again, I thank the leaders on both sides for agreeing to bring Judge Nguyen's nomination to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support this nomination. I hope we will continue to confirm highly qualified nominees to our Federal courts, which is especially important to the Ninth Circuit.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to express my strong support for California District Court Judge Jacqueline Nguyen, who has been nominated for a seat on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. When confirmed, Judge Nguyen will make history as the first Asian-American woman to serve on the Federal courts of appeals.

Judge Nguyen has had a distinguished career. She is a former Federal prosecutor who secured the first-ever conviction of a defendant for providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist group. She served as a California Superior Court judge from 2002 until 2009, when she was nominated for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. She was confirmed by a vote of 97 to 0.

I congratulate Judge Nguyen and her family on this important and historic day and urge my colleagues to vote to confirm this well-qualified nominee to the Ninth Circuit.

I thank the Chair and 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. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the first nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jacqueline H. Nguyen, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), and the Senator from Alaska (MS. MURKOWSKI).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) would have voted ''nay.''

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

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 88 Ex.]

YEAS—91

Akaka	Feinstein	Moran
Alexander	Franken	Murray
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Nelson (NE)
Barrasso	Grassley	Nelson (FL)
Baucus	Hagan	Paul
Begich	Harkin	Portman
Bennet	Hatch	Pryor
Bingaman	Heller	Reed
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Reid
Blunt	Hutchison	Risch
Boozman	Inhofe	Roberts
Boxer	Isakson	Rockefeller
Brown (MA)	Johanns	Rubio
Brown (OH)	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Burr	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Cantwell	Kerry	Sessions
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Kohl	Shelby
Casey	Kyl	Snowe
Chambliss	Landrieu	Stabenow
Coats	Lautenberg	Tester
Coburn	Leahy	Thune
Cochran	Levin	Udall (CO)
Collins	Lieberman	Udall (NM)
Conrad	Manchin	Warner
Coons	McCain	Webb
Corker	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Cornyn	McConnell	Wicker
Crapo	Menendez	Wyden
Durbin	Merkley	
Enzi	Mikulski	

NAYS—3

Lee	Toomey	Vitter

NOT VOTING—6

DeMint	Inouye	Lugar
Graham	Kirk	Murkowski

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Kristine Gerhard Baker, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John Z. Lee, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid on the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

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

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

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

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, earlier today, Senator DURBIN and the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights held a hearing in Cleveland to examine efforts that could hinder the ability of Ohioans to exercise one of their fundamental constitutional rights, the right to vote. These efforts, in the guise of preventing fraud, are part of a cynical effort to impede access to the ballot. Specifically, H.B. 194 in Ohio repeals a number of commonsense measures that assist people with voting.

For 8 years I served as secretary of state of Ohio, charged with administering elections, so I understand what goes into ensuring the fundamental right to vote. Inherent in that responsibility is ensuring that voting is accessible, free of intimidation and roadblocks.

As a State, over a period of decades, Ohio legislators undertook a bipartisan—and I underscore that word ''bipartisan''—effort to help Ohioans get access to the polls. When I was secretary of state, we had significant input and assistance from Republicans as we made voting laws work for huge numbers of people. We understood Ohioans had many priorities pulling them in many directions so we ought to make registration accessible. People could register using utility bills. The electric company included registration forms in utility bills. McDonald's, at my request, printed 1 million tray liners so people could actually fill them out to register to vote. At the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, people could register to vote. This was bipartisan. The legislature, when acting, would expand this right to vote, make sure this right to vote was protected. It was generally bipartisan.

Today, rather than protecting the right to vote, we are seeing brazen attempts to undermine it. We are told this bill and laws similar to it will reduce costs and reduce the risk of voter fraud. The overwhelming evidence, however, indicates that voter fraud is virtually nonexistent and these new laws will make it harder and more costly for hundreds of thousands of Ohioans to exercise the right to vote and more costly for the election system, meaning taxpayer—county boards of elections and all that.

Voters are simply not going to awaken one morning in Cleveland and vote and then drive to Elyria and then vote and then drive to Norwalk and then vote, then drive to Adena and then vote and then drive to Mansfield and then vote. People are not going to defraud the system that way. Why? No. 1, they are going to get caught, probably; and second, they are going to go to jail—all to take the risk of giving Barack Obama or Mitt Romney five more votes in a State of 11 million people. That is not going to happen.

Yet the people who are attacking our voting rights are claiming individuals are going to do things such as that to defraud—college students voting in college and then voting back in their hometown. People are not going to do that because the disincentives are too strong, the penalties are too harsh. There is simply no reason, so one can vote one extra time, that someone would possibly do that.

Let me tell a little bit about this new law. The new law—and what is disappointing to me—this new law repeals what was a bipartisan effort in 2006. In 2006, in response to some election problems of 2004 in the Presidential race, where people stood in long lines to vote, and there were other problems—in 2006, the Republican House and the Republican Senate in Columbus and the Republican Governor—with support from Democrats, so it was clearly bipartisan—passed voter reforms to set up early voting, to set up 1 week where voting and voter registration and early voting overlapped so people could actually register and vote during that week in early October. We did other things that made registration and voting more accessible.

But in spite of that, in spite of the consensus in Ohio about voting, now there is an effort to undercut that consensus. First, the law significantly reduces the early voting window. It takes away Saturday, Sunday, and Monday voting before the election, when over 100,000 people voted in Ohio that year, in 2008. This reduction in early voting was made despite the fact that evidence overwhelmingly indicates that limiting early voting will actually cost the taxpayers, boards of elections, money. Make no mistake, cutting Sunday voting was intended to suppress voting.

On the Sunday before election, Ohioans, who work long hours during the week, often go to the polls after church, fulfilling their civic and spiritual obligations on the same day. By ending early voting, the lines outside polling stations on election day will only get longer. The costs will only increase. This increases frustration and limits voting.

Another burden posed by H.R. 194 is that it bars poll workers from performing one of their most basic functions, helping voters find their right precinct. This law no longer requires that poll workers assist a confused, elderly, disabled or young voter in getting to their correct precinct. Here is how it works. We have tried to save money. As more people voted earlier, relieving some of the pressure on election day, the boards of elections have combined voting precincts. Instead, we will have fewer precincts in the same county and have to hire fewer poll workers. What that also means is sometimes they combine these precincts in these voting stations into one building so people might walk into a polling station and go to the wrong table. Under the law now, the poll worker is not required to help that person and say: No, you can't vote here, but you can vote across in the room next door, at this church or at this school. Someone today might walk in and the poll worker will simply say you are not eligible to vote in this precinct and they will walk home and not vote. This law discourages in many ways. Because these poll workers are people who live in the neighborhoods it discourages neighbors helping neighbors.

This is a solution in search of a problem. It is not something we need to do. There was consensus in Ohio that things needed to change after 2004. The laws enacted in 2006 led to shorter lines, more clarity, and less frustration for voters. While none of the changes I mention today make it impossible to vote, they build burdens to voting, burdens that have no good reason. That will mean fewer minority voters, fewer young voters, fewer elderly voters, fewer disabled voters. That may be what some politicians in this town want, but it is not what the people of Ohio want. Ohio deserves better when it comes to protecting our most fundamental constitutional rights.

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. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RECOGNIZING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

Mr. REID. Madam President, today I rise to honor and commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Las Vegas News Bureau. Since its inception in 1947, the News Bureau has captured photos and videos of the colorful history of Las Vegas. Community leaders started the News Bureau as a way to generate publicity for Las Vegas through the use of photography and film, and in doing so, they preserved the history of the city.

The News Bureau has been at the forefront of documenting and publicizing Las Vegas as the world's leading destination for decades. Over the years, they have captured memorable moments of some of Vegas's most famous entertainers, illustrated the growth of the iconic skyline, and archived the scenic imagery of the surrounding Las Vegas landscape.

Amidst their archives, the News Bureau captured unforgettable moments of show biz legends and Las Vegas regulars, like Elvis, Liberace, Wayne Newton, and Frank Sinatra, among others. The archive also houses historical moments such as President Kennedy's trip to visit the troops at the Nevada Test Site, where the atomic bomb was detonated during the 1950s and 1960s. And alongside the many photographs of celebrities and familiar faces are millions of photos documenting the various parades, events, and tourists that helped make Las Vegas the thriving destination that it remains today.

The Las Vegas News Bureau plays a unique role in marketing southern Nevada as a one-of-a-kind destination. Their iconic images of Las Vegas provide a competitive advantage that helps distinguish Las Vegas from other destinations, while also acting as an invaluable resource to journalists and historians alike. The unforgettable pictures of the neon lights of historic Fremont Street and glamorous images of Las Vegas show biz are more than just pieces of Las Vegas history: They represent what made Las Vegas the universally renowned city that it is today.

For the past 65 years, the News Bureau has chronicled the rise of Las Vegas into the Entertainment Capital of the World. I am proud to recognize their accomplishments before the Senate today, and I know that they will continue to tell the story of Las Vegas for years to come.

FOOD EMERGENCY

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today I wish to submit for the RECORD my remarks and a speech by Taiwan's top diplomat in Washington, Jason C. Yuan, of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office, who announced on April 25, 2012, the donation by his government of 1,150 metric tons of rice to Kenya through Feed the Children, a well-known and respected charity based in my home State of Oklahoma.

The food emergency in the Horn of Africa is a stark humanitarian crisis and Kenya simply has not received enough rain to feed its people. Record-high food prices, internal conflicts, and insecurity in the region have exacerbated the situation. With malnutrition and disease on the rise, dane Kenyan families are required to travel long distances in search of food. It is evident that outside help must be provided.

The people of Taiwan are providing that help. Its generous gift will have an immediate impact on relieving the hardships brought on by this first drought of the 21st century.

Ronald Reagan once said that ''a hungry child knows no politics,'' meaning that the American people are always willing to open up their hearts and the blessings of their bounty to the less fortunate around the world. The people of Taiwan are doing the same thing today through this generous donation.

Some may say that this gracious donation of rice is a mere drop in the bucket compared to the overall need in Africa. Yet one must remember that every mighty wave starts with a tiny ripple.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD remarks from Ambassador Jason C. Yuan.

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

AMBASSADOR JASON C. YUAN'S REMARKS AT THE TWIN OAKS ESTATE

APRI1 25, 2012

Mr. Steve Whetstone, Congressman Dan Burton, Ms. Barbara Schrage of AIT/W, Mr. Mark Powers and Ms. Kiersten Powers of Senator James Inhofe's Office, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

On behalf of my government, I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the Republic of China (Taiwan), in cooperation with the Red Cross of the Republic of China and Feed the Children have decided to form an alliance to donate 1,150 metric tons of rice to Kenya, a country currently suffering a famine. This partnership will allow the rice donation from Taiwan to be distributed with the help of FTC in refugee camps, to ongoing relief efforts in Turkana and to primary schools in Mombasa, Kenya.

Feed the Children is one of the largest international charities, with its headquarters in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and based on Christian values. It has been dedicated to providing hope and resources for those without life's essentials throughout the United States and the world for decades.

Taiwan and FTC have associated in the past and successfully cooperated in 2005 to deliver 10,000 metric tons of rice to the tsunami ravaged areas in Indonesia. In 2006 Taiwan donated 52 containers of new clothing to FTC worth approximately US $17.6 million, which were later distributed to more than 16,000 children, orphans, elderly, abandoned and others in need in 11 countries (Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Armenia, and Ukraine). In 2007, Taiwan donated 5,000 metric tons of rice to Kenya and 5,000 metric tons of rice to Malawi through FTC, to help people in those two countries suffering from famine. In 2011, Taiwan donated 100 metric tons of rice to restart the Mombasa Kenya School Feeding Program, benefiting 27,000 children for 2 school terms.

Enhancing Taiwan's contributions to international development is one of the three lines of defense that President Ma Ying-jeou has outlined for the ROC's national security. As a maturing democracy and thriving economy, Taiwan has been shouldering our own responsibilities in the world. Humanitarian work has become an especially important platform for Taiwan's contributions to the international community. Taiwan's democracy and economic prosperity have combined to give rise to a vibrant society of numerous non-profit organizations. In almost every major disaster relief program that has occurred in the world recently, Taiwan has been an important contributor, whether this meant providing financial aid to help rebuild homes in Sichuan, or giving life-sustaining medical aid to Haitian children. Taiwan was also one of the first to arrive with emergency relief supplies and rescue teams when Japan was struck by the triple disaster of an earthquake, tsunami and nuclear incident. In fact, Taiwan ended up donating more than US $200 million to the Japanese people.

Last week, President Ma just wrapped up a 12-day official visit to Burkina Faso, Gambia and Swaziland, our three allies in Africa. Pursuing a policy of viable diplomacy that requires that all foreign assistance must be justified, legitimate and efficient, President Ma announced a donation of US $2.1 million worth of support to Mali refugee assistance efforts in Burkina Faso, and US $3 million to emergency food programs in Gambia. The project ''A Lamp Lighting up Africa'' also helps the students of our West African allies study at night with LED lamps.

The Republic of China used to be a country that received economic assistance from other countries, particularly the United States. Now that we are better off, the least we can do is to help other people in need. So we look forward to future cooperation with Feed the Children or other NGOs in the United States for the good cause. Thank you!

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN ECUADOR

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, May 3 was World Press Freedom Day. In this country, we recognize freedom of expression as our most cherished right. It forms the foundation for every other freedom, and an independent press is essential to its exercise. Yet in many countries expression is often censored and punished. Journalists are threatened, imprisoned, and killed for exposing official corruption and criticizing government repression. Not only is the media targeted and silenced, the entire population is denied access to accurate reporting.

The Senate was in recess on May 3, but I would like to call other Senators'

attention to troubling events that currently pose one of the gravest threats to freedom of expression in this hemisphere. I am speaking about the actions of Ecuador's President Rafael Correa and officials in his government to silence independent broadcasters and publishers and watchdog organizations, undermining the fundamental right of free expression in ways that resemble what we have come to expect in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela.

There is no institution more fundamental to democracy than a free and independent press. A free press helps protect the rule of law, to ensure that no person or group is above the rules and procedures that govern a democratic society. A free press helps ensure transparency to prod governments to be honest and accountable to their citizens.

Unfortunately, recent events in Ecuador suggest a deliberate shift away from these democratic traditions, and this could pose grave consequences for democracy in Ecuador.

Although wavering at times, Ecuador has a history of democratic government of which its citizens can be proud. Ecuador's first Constitution, written in 1830, stipulated that ''every citizen can express their thoughts and publish them freely through the press.'' Ecuador's 1998 Constitution guarantees the right of journalists and social communicators to ''seek, receive, learn, and disseminate'' events of general interest, with the goal of ''preserving the values of the community.'' Even Ecuador's latest constitution, ratified just four years ago, protects each citizen's right ''to voice one's opinion and express one's thinking freely and in all of its forms and manifestations.'' However, it appears that these protections—a vital part of Ecuador's history of democratically elected, representative government—now only apply at the discretion of President Correa.

During President Correa's term in office, the number of state-owned media organizations has exploded—growing from just one government-run news outlet to a media conglomerate that today is made up of more than a dozen outlets. He has pursued criminal charges against columnists and newspaper owners, including legal actions aimed at El Universo, one of Ecuador's most respected newspapers. In the El Universo case, President Correa won a $42 million award, and several journalists were sentenced to 3 years in prison following a hearing before a temporary—and recently appointed—magistrate. Although President Correa later pardoned the journalists, an Ecuadoran court rejected his pardon, and their fates remain unresolved. The fear of being charged and dragged through the expensive legal system also silences many other journalists or compels them to temper criticism of the government.

President Correa and his government are not only targeting journalists. Some 200 activists, many of them indigenous people protesting environmentally destructive mining projects, have been criminally charged and detained. The pattern of arresting or threatening to arrest social activists has suppressed the free flow of information in Ecuador, silencing dissenting voices either by legal action or self-censorship.

Perhaps most insidious to the principles of democracy, President Correa's government has ushered in new reforms that could make illegal almost all reporting about electoral campaigns. All censorship is bruising to a democracy, but electoral censorship is a fatal blow. With Presidential elections occurring in Ecuador in the next year, there is growing concern that President Correa's actions represent an attempt to influence the democratic process to his own political and personal benefit.

Dr. Catalina Botero, the special rapporteur for freedom of expression at the Organization of American States, OAS, has rightly criticized President Correa's crusade against the press. In response, President Correa has expanded his campaign of censorship beyond Ecuador's borders and targeted Dr. Botero's office, proposing to the OAS earlier this year a plan that would have restricted the ability of Dr. Botero's office to issue independent reports and cutting off some of its funding. Although the plan was rejected by the member states of the OAS, President Correa's intent remains clear. No longer content to silence his political opponents in Ecuador, he is now targeting his critics elsewhere.

President Correa has tried to cloak his actions in populist vocabulary, declaring that his censorship is motivated by a desire to free the public from the corrupt interests of the business organizations that often ran newspapers before the establishment of a law forbidding anyone with a significant stake in a media company from owning other businesses. Challenging viewpoints expressed in the media of course is legitimate, common, and healthy in any society, but preventing those views from being heard is not.

Mr. President, we should denounce attacks on the press in Ecuador and elsewhere in this hemisphere. We should strongly support Dr. Botero and her office. Protecting freedom of expression, a fundamental right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man is everyone's concern and responsibility. In doing so, we stand with the people of Ecuador and their right to be heard and for the future of their democracy.

WAR IN BOSNIA

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, as we consider the many important issues currently before us, I believe it is worthwhile for us also to pause and recall past events that remain relevant to our work today.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a long-time member and Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I would like to remind my colleagues that it was approximately 20 years ago that the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina began. While seeking to find a peaceful path out of the Yugoslavia which was collapsing around it, Bosnia and its people instead became chief victims of the clearly senseless violence associated with that collapse.

The ethnic cleansing of villages and the shelling of Sarajevo which we first saw in April 1992 were horrific, and little did we know how much worse things would get in subsequent months and years. It was in July and August of 1992 that we first saw the shocking pictures of the detainees in Omarska and other camps run by nationalist, militant Serbs, in northeastern Bosnia. The next year, we saw Croat militants destroy the famous bridge in Mostar for which the city got its name. In 1995, we saw Srebrenica before and after the genocide in which 8,000 people, mostly men and boys, perished.

While the United States and its friends and allies brought the conflict in Bosnia to an end with the Dayton Agreement in 1995, the action we took came too late for those who were ethnically cleansed and displaced, those who were tortured or raped, and those who were injured or killed. It is never too late, however, to provide justice. I am glad that people like Slobodan Milosevic, Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic and all others indicted for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide were apprehended and transferred to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. I am also glad that the United States and some other countries persevered to make this happen despite the resistance to cooperation and the protection afforded these individuals. I want to thank my colleagues who joined me in supporting justice in Bosnia as a matter of U.S. policy.

I think it is important not only to remember the victims and culprits of the conflict in Bosnia but also to remember the heroes. There were those who opposed extreme nationalism and aggression against neighbors. I particularly want to note the small group of human rights advocates and democratic forces in Serbia who opposed what Milosevic was doing allegedly in their name, even when he appeared to be getting away with it. I have met some of these courageous individuals over the years, including last July when I visited Belgrade, and they are truly inspiring people.

Today, Bosnia has recovered from the more than 3 years of brutal, destructive conflict that started 2 decades ago, and the country aspires to join both NATO and the European Union. I believe it is important that we support the people of Bosnia and their desires for integration by holding firm against the lingering forces of ethnic exclusivity, which remain particularly

strong in the entity of Republika Srpska created by the Dayton Agreement, and at the same time encourage practical reforms so that Bosnia can function more effectively as a European partner. When one talks to the young people that represent Bosnia's future, as several of us have, it is clear they do not want to forget the past but they certainly do not want to repeat it. They want a future in Europe, and their political leaders need to give them that future. I hope the United States, which has invested so much in Bosnia thus far, will be there as necessary to help.

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICES

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I have introduced the Diagnostic Imaging Services Access Protection Act of 2012, joined by my colleague from Louisiana, Senator DAVID VITTER. Our goal is to preserve Medicare beneficiaries' access to life-saving advanced diagnostic imaging services, such as magnetic resonance imaging, MRI, computed tomography, CT, and ultrasound.

Let me explain why this legislation is necessary. Medicare reimbursement for radiology services is based on two components: technical and professional. The technical component comprises the cost of equipment, nonphysician personnel, and medical supplies associated with the imaging process. The professional component is calculated by factoring in the radiologist's time, effort, and skill involved in interpreting images, rendering patient diagnoses, and reporting the findings in the patient's medical record. In recent years, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services sought to control imaging growth by cutting reimbursement for the technical component—reducing payment for multiple imaging services administered by the same physician to the same patient during a single office visit. This policy is referred to as the multiple procedure payment reduction, or MPPR. It is designed to take into account the efficiencies achieved by doing same-day procedures on the same patient, and for the technical component of radiology, it makes sense.

However this year, CMS decided to apply the MPPR to the professional component as well. The 2012 fee schedule rule, which took effect on January 1, cut the professional component reimbursement for radiologists by 25 percent for additional images. This payment reduction ignores the realities of medical practice. It is not supported by sound data, nor was it developed with meaningful physician input. Because each imaging study produces its own set of images that require individual interpretation, radiologists are ethically and professionally obligated to expend the same amount of time and effort interpreting each one, regardless of the number of images, the section of the body being examined, or the date of service.

Further, because radiologists are referral-based physicians who rarely order the studies they interpret, MPPR is an ineffective tool to reduce inappropriate utilization. Beneficiaries receiving multiple imaging studies often represent the sickest and most complex cases. They may have advanced cancer or be recovering from a stroke, serious car accidents, multiple gunshot wounds, or other forms of deadly trauma.

Not only will CMS' flawed policy disproportionately affect the most vulnerable patients, it may also create incentives to shift services away from the private practice setting, where the physician fee schedule applies, to the more expensive hospital outpatient setting.

Our legislation will ensure that CMS does not arbitrarily undervalue the role of the radiologist within the health care delivery system. It would cancel the MPPR cut to the professional component of radiology services through the end of 2012 and prevent it from taking effect in future years, pending more comprehensive study of the matter. Specifically, the Secretary of Health and Human Services would be prohibited from taking this action unless the reduction is based on the data, analysis, and conclusions of an independent expert panel convened by the Institute of Medicine.

A similar bill, HR 3269, has been introduced in the House of Representatives and it enjoys the strong bipartisan support of more than 240 cosponsors. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan and budget-neutral approach to preserving patient access to community-based diagnostic imaging services.

REMEMBERING DICK CLARK

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Dick Clark, one of our country's most beloved cultural icons who entertained grateful viewers in America and around the world for more than 60 years. He passed away on April 17, 2012, at age 82.

Richard Wagstaff Clark was born on November 30, 1929 in Mount Vernon, NY. As a child, Dick looked up to his older brother, Bradley, who became a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. Dick became depressed after his brother's death, and the only thing that lifted his spirits was music.

In some ways, Dick Clark was destined to work in the broadcasting industry. As a child, he became interested in radio after his parents took him to a live broadcast of the Jimmy Durante and Garry Moore show. Ever the affable young man, Dick participated in A.B. Davis High School's drama club and was elected class president.

After graduating from Syracuse University with a degree in business administration, Dick began working on ''Bandstand'' at Philadelphia's WFIL Radio. The popularity of this program led WFIL TV to begin broadcasting it as an afternoon television show, which Dick started hosting in 1956. The following year, he pitched the show to the American Broadcasting Company, and it became nationally broadcast as ''American Bandstand.''

''American Bandstand'' became a phenomenon, a trendsetting show that touched people around the world across lines of race, culture, and ethnicity. ''Bandstand 's'' integration of African Americans as musicians and dancers played a role breaking down racial barriers at a time when the civil rights movement was coming to the forefront. Over the next three decades, while the show moved from weekdays to Saturdays and from Philadelphia to Los Angeles, Dick Clark introduced American families to many artists who later became icons, including the Supremes, Michael Jackson, Madonna, and Prince. Aretha Franklin recently noted, ''If you didn't go on 'American Bandstand,' you hadn't made it yet.''

Over the course of his career, Dick Clark came to be known as one of the most hard-working people in show business. With Dick Clark Productions, founded in 1956, Clark produced television shows, made-for-TV movies, award shows, and beauty pageants. Unistar, which he cofounded and owned, distributed Clark's radio shows including ''Countdown America'' and ''Dick Clark's Rock, Roll & Remembers.''

In 1972 ''Rockin' Eve'' premiered, and since then generations of Americans have welcomed in the New Year with Dick Clark and watched with him as the ball dropped in New York City—a tradition that continued for 40 years. Throughout his time as host, Dick Clark only missed one New Year's Eve celebration in 2005 due to a stroke. The following year he was once again on the air welcoming the New Year with his beloved wife Kari and showing all of us that with tenacity, anything is possible.

Throughout his career, Clark left an indelible mark on the landscape of American music and television, from his 1974 creation of the American Music Awards to his productions of the Academy of Country Music Awards, Golden Globe Awards, Emmy Awards, Live Aid, and Farm Aid. For his successful career and tireless work ethic, Dick Clark was honored with Daytime and Primetime Emmy Awards, Daytime and Primetime Lifetime Achievement Awards, and inductions into the Radio Hall of Fame, the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame, and the Philadelphia Walk of Fame.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Dick's wife Kari, his sons Richard Augustus II and Duane, his daughter Cindy, and his grandchildren. He will be missed by the millions of people worldwide who were touched by his work.

REMEMBERING DEPUTY ROBERT PARIS

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Deputy Robert ''Bob'' Paris, a dedicated public servant in the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office and a kind and loyal colleague, friend, and family man. On the morning of April 12, 2012, Deputy Paris was tragically killed in the line of duty while serving an eviction notice in north Modesto.

A graduate of Tracy High School and the Ray Simon Criminal Justice Training Center in Modesto, Bob Paris joined the Stanislaus Sheriff's Department as a reserve deputy in May 1996 and became a full-time employee in 1998. During his tenure with the department, he served the community as a court bailiff, a patrol deputy, and as a member of the sheriff's water enforcement team. He was also the department's first-aid and CPR instructor at the sheriff's academy.

For the past 16 years, Deputy Paris dutifully served the citizens and communities of Stanislaus County with great pride, integrity, and valor. His devotion to helping others, along with his passion for law enforcement, helped him become a respected member of the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department.

Deputy Paris served Stanislaus County with honor and bravery, and I send my heartfelt sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues.

HONOR FLIGHT NORTHERN COLORADO

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, today I wish to speak on behalf of my colleagues and a grateful Nation as we welcome to the Nation's capital the 122 men and women of Honor Flight Northern Colorado. Together, they represent soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. These heroes embody the dedication, honor, and selfless service that make this country great. We owe them and all servicemembers a debt that can never be repaid.

Throughout the history of our great Republic, our men and women in uniform have shielded this country from the harm that others wish to inflict on it. We have always asked a great deal from these individuals; that they leave their families to fight in an unknown land against a deadly enemy. They have always bravely answered the call, placing themselves between this country and harm's way.

On this flight are World War II veterans from every branch of service.

From the Army we have:

Robert Barnd, Loveland; Frank Brown, Fort Collins; William Castor, Loveland; Lowell Dart, Berthoud; Donald Draxler, Loveland; Jose Duran, Log Lane Village; Joseph Edwards, Scottsdale; George Emerick, Fort Morgan; Warren Garst, Fort Collins; Joseph Graham, Palo Alto; Roland Kaiser, Longmont; Victor Lazar, Sandy; David Leon, Alliance; Russell Malm, Greeley; W. Dennis McHenry, Estes Park; Raymond Mega, Longmont; Gerald Monroe, LaSalle; Bernard Nettesheim, Loveland; Richard Porter, Longmont; James Rauenbuehler, Fort Collins; Frederick Reck, Julesburg; Walter Sapp, Fort Collins; Alan Shultes, Longmont; Theodore Wahler, Loveland; Evans Woodhouse, Mead.

Army Air Corps veterans include:

Carson Bright, Longmont; Wayne Bullock, Fort Collins; Robert Duntsch, Bozeman; Marvin Fowler, Lamar; Donald Morrison, Limon; Homer Phillips, Jr., Fort Collins; Gilbert Rohde, Longmont; Charles Smoot, Loveland; Gene Thorson, Strasburg; Crowell Werner, Fort Collins.

From the Navy are:

Charles Agnew, Wheat Ridge; Eugene Bonkiewicz, Greeley; Jack Endacott, Estes Park; Robert Gillham, Peetz; William Hampton, Gering; Willis Kramer, Greeley; Harry Livingston, Estes Park; Gilbert Lopez, Denver; Armin Moser, Loveland; Reynold Olson, Estes Park; Marion Raines, Limon; Henry Schmitt, Jr., Longmont; Waldo Smith, Highlands Ranch; Fredrick Stein, Fort Collins; William Stromberg, Sr., Loveland; Clyde Treadway, Brush; Arthur Wartburg, Boulder; James White, Estes Park; Robert Williams, Johnstown.

We welcome Marine Corps veteran Lewis Ashcraft, Littleton.

And finally, from the Women's Auxiliary Corps, we have Mary Livingston, Estes Park.

Also on the flight are veterans from the Korean War.

Help me welcome Army veterans:

Darryl Anderson, Fort Morgan; Raymond Anderson, Gill; Donald Armagost, Greeley; Eugene Ball, Windsor; Harry Bell, Fort Collins; Orlis Charboneau, Pierce; Robert Cupp, Loveland; Samuel Ehrlich, Longmont; Alvin Eurich, Simla; John Hess, Loveland; Donald Hoffner, Eaton; Robert Kramer, Fort Lupton; Robert Kruger, Platteville; Lindy Leifheit, Irvine; Chester McCoy, Brush; William Miller, Fort Collins; James Ochsner, Windsor; Arnold Piel, Stoneham; Wayne Pimple, Greeley; Richard Reagan, Wellington; Gerald Rice, Fort Collins; Joseph Sellers, Ault; William Shirey, Estes Park; Norris Slechta, Berthoud.

Air Force veterans include:

James Ball, Denver; Dale Crist, Frederick; Bobbie Desmond, Loveland; Francis Fleming, Jr., Berthoud; Virgil Hanson, Greeley; Marguerite Ingram, Evans; Harry Rieger, Brush; Edward Roebuck, Greeley; Robert Stanley, Greeley; Darrell Viegut, Loveland.

From the Navy we have:

Emil Badjar, Longmont; Leslie Brumley, Greeley; Edward Eson, Greeley; Clarence Ehlbert, Fort Collins; Leslie Fraley, Jr., Fort Collins; George Frysinger III, Fort Collins; John Goad, Severance; Roman Herrmann, Longmont; Chester McGuire, Loveland; Raymond Nuss, Greeley; Louis Peterson, Longmont; Marshall Petring, Fort Collins; Gerald Ross, Fort Collins; Alan Seaman, Longmont; Clarence Strahan, Jr., Fort Collins; William Striffler, Fort Collins; Irvin Tregoning, Johnstown; Jimmie Tregoning, Greeley; Merril Tregoning, Windsor; Sam Warner, Loveland.

Representing the Marine Corps are:

Timothy Daley, Fort Collins; Richard Gero, Loveland; Billy Hettinger, Fort Collins.

And from the Women's Auxiliary Corps is Elizabeth Strahan, Fort Collins.

Veterans from the Vietnam War are on this flight as well.

From the Army we have:

Dennis Henneberg, Loveland; Donald Hess, Greeley; Jack Roberts, Greeley.

Representing the Navy are:

Edward Fast, Fort Collins; Daniel Menzies, Loveland.

And finally, Marine Corps veterans include:

Doyle Biggs, Loveland; Paul Delgado, Greeley; Steven White, Greeley.

Join me in thanking these Colorado veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight Northern Colorado for their tremendous service to this great Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE WILLIAM J. MOTTO BIOSCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the establishment of the William J. Motto Annual Bioscience Scholarship at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College.

To commemorate the 35th anniversary of its founding, Meridian Bioscience, Inc., is funding a $5,000 annual scholarship to support a deserving student each year at Cincinnati State.

The scholarship is named in honor of Meridian bioscience executive chairman and Founder, William ''Bill'' Motto, who has a passion for creating opportunities for hard-working individuals who wish to improve their lives and our community.

Bill Motto founded Meridian in 1977 in the basement of his home, not far from the company's headquarters in Newtown, just outside of Cincinnati. Today, Meridian is a fully integrated life science company that manufactures, markets, and distributes a broad range of diagnostic test kits, purified reagents, and biopharmaceutical enabling technologies. In addition to products used in the early diagnosis and treatment of common medical conditions, Meridian develops and manufactures a variety of biological and nonbiological materials used in proficiency testing programs.

The scholarship will be geared toward students majoring in biosciences, as the college prepares to open a new bioscience lab in its Health Professions Building. In addition, the college has expanded its curriculum to help students become lab technicians or to pursue bachelor's or other specialized degrees.

Cincinnati State offers more than 75 associate degree and certificate programs in business technologies, health and public safety, engineering technologies, humanities and sciences, and information technologies. Cincinnati State also has one of the largest cooperative education programs in the United States, including a full slate of outstanding workforce training programs and courses. Cincinnati State's Workforce Development Center provides practical, hands-on learning experiences delivering both the professional and educational expertise so critical to effective, efficient workforce training.

Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Cincinnati State and commend Meridian Bioscience and its founder, Bill Motto for giving back to southwest Ohio and the future leaders of bioscience fields in our State.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD AND TIM SMUCKER

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, today I wish to congratulate Richard and Tim Smucker for being awarded the Harvard Business School Club of Northeastern Ohio's 2012 Leadership Award. These two brothers carry the legacy of a company created by Jerome Monroe Smucker over a century ago in 1897. Today, Smucker's employs more than 4,000 people and manages 29 domestic and 5 international brands, including Jif, Folgers, and Crisco. I have visited the company's headquarters and manufacturing facilities and seen firsthand how they have kept this great Ohio company at the forefront.

Richard Smucker has been a Smucker's director, having also served as president, co-chief executive, and executive chairman. In August of 2011, Richard was named chief executive officer of the company and continues to serve in this role.

Tim Smucker became a company director in 1973. He has also served as the company's chairman, as well as its co-chief executive. Since August of 2011, Timothy has served as the company's chairman of the board.

Mr. President, Richard and Tim Smucker received the 2012 Leadership Award for their continued and steadfast commitment to the J.M. Smucker Company, its brands, and its employees. I wish them both continued success in the future and commend them for their outstanding leadership in our State.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MAYOR MIKE WOOLSTON

● Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, on May 22, 2011, the city of Joplin, MO, was struck by an EF5 tornado. The path of devastation was an incredible 6 miles long and almost 1 mile wide. The destruction was beyond words. Too many were lost, and lives were upended. Homes, schools, and businesses were destroyed. Joplin's mayor that terrible day was Mike Woolston. Mayor Woolston showed the world that Joplin was up to the challenge of not only surviving but rebuilding.

Mayor Woolston grew up in Joplin. Mike graduated from Joplin's Parkwood High School and Missouri Southern State University. After graduation from MSSU, Mike served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps at a number of locations at home and abroad. In 1988 Mike returned to Joplin and embarked on a career in real estate. For nearly 25 years Mike has been active in the Joplin community, serving on a number of community organizations such as United Way of Southwest Missouri, Community Blood Center of the Ozarks, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Joplin public schools' Bright Futures Program.

Mike was elected to the Joplin City Council in 2002. In 2010 his council peers elected him mayor. Mike was serving in that position when the most destructive tornado of the last 60 years struck the city of Joplin. Mayor Mike Woolston spent countless hours guiding the city through rescue, recovery, and eventually the beginning of the rebuilding process. Mayor Woolston's calm demeanor, positive attitude, and recognition of the thousands of others who were involved in every stage of post-tornado actions gave the citizens of the Joplin area hope for the future. As the face and voice for the city of Joplin, Mayor Woolston gave the Nation and the world a shining example of the spirit of cooperation and can-do work ethic which exemplifies Joplin, MO.

I hereby recognize and thank Michael R. Woolston for his leadership of the city of Joplin in the wake of the May 22, 2011, tornado and for his commitment to the citizens of his community.●

RECOGNIZING THE JONES BAR-B-Q DINER

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the owners of one of the oldest African-American-owned restaurants in America, the Jones Bar-B-Q Diner in Marianna, AR, which has been honored by the James Beard Foundation Awards.

The foundation recognized Jones Bar-B-Q as one of five restaurants from across the country in the ''America's Classics'' category at the 2012 annual awards ceremony taking place today at the Lincoln Center in New York City.

Foodies will tell you this honor is a big one. Arkansas writer Rex Nelson calls the Beard award the equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize for journalism—certainly high praise for a small operation that began on a back porch, but this is no ordinary run-of-the-mill barbecue.

This honor is a long time in the making. Jones Bar-B-Q Diner has been in operation, in some form, since at least the 1910s. Walter Jones, the founder and first pitmaster, lived in a bare wood dogtrot house and first served barbecue from the screened-in back porch on Fridays and Saturdays. The family recalls that original cooking setup as a ''hole in the ground, some iron pipes, a piece of fence wire and two pieces of tin.''

Eventually, Walter moved from selling the meat on the back porch to a small place in town called the Hole in the Wall. It was literally a window in a wall from which he would sell meat from a washtub. The modern incarnation, the Jones Bar-B-Q Diner, opened in 1964.

The business today remains true to its smalltown, family roots. Hubert Jones, Walter's son, is the present day proprietor and his son, James, tends the pits. The pork shoulder is still smoked with a simple setup over the pit. They still serve a very limited menu that centers around smoked pork hacked into bits and served on white bread with the Jones' vinegary sauce.

The James Beard Foundation—which is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to celebrating, preserving, and nurturing America's culinary heritage—only awards its ''America Classics'' distinction to restaurants with ''timeless appeal . . . that are beloved for quality food that reflects the character of their community.''

To qualify for the ''America's Classics'' award, establishments must have been in existence at 10 years and they must be locally owned. The honorees are selected each year by the James Beard Foundation's Restaurant Committee, which is comprised of 17 people throughout the country, many of whom are notable food critics and culinary writers. The foundation is acutely aware of how special Jones Bar-B-Q Diner is to Marianna, the State of Arkansas, and southern cuisine.

I will leave you with one piece of advice. If you want some of Jones' famous smoke pork, it is best to arrive early. The diner usually opens around 7:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday and then closes by early afternoons when all the meat runs out. So get there early, bring your appetite, and be sure to congratulate the Jones family for being recognized by the James Beard Foundation. Their restaurant is definitely an integral part of the community and of Arkansas's culture. I am proud of Jones family's contribution to the Natural State's heritage and commend them for receiving this honor. The Jones Bar-B-Q Diner in Marianna truly is an American classic.●

RECOGNIZING THE ALASKA QUARTERLY REVIEW

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President. I wish to recognize one of our Nation's literary magazines, the Alaska Quarterly Review. This quiet giant in the Alaska arts scene has earned numerous accolades and high praise. Today I

want to specifically recognize the magazine for reaching its 30-year anniversary and for its continued literary excellence.

Since the magazine's birth at the Anchorage campus of the University of Alaska in 1982, the Alaska Quarterly Review has served as an instrument to give voice to Alaska writers and poets as well as also publishing excellent material from non-Alaskan authors. In other words, while it is firmly rooted in Alaska, it has maintained a national perspective, bridging the distance between the literary centers across the country and Alaska. This balanced presentation of views over the years has earned the Review local, regional, national, and even international recognition.

The founding editor of the Review, Mr. Ronald Spatz, envisioned the Review as a way to break through stereotypes and present Alaska to the greater literary community as a partner. With the Review under his direction for three decades, he has also continued his focus on publishing new and emerging writers. After 30 years of hard work at the Review, each issue still contains the same labor of love and excitement from edition to edition.

Advances in technology have turned publishing on its head, but the Review has remained both a faithful forum for conventional work and an outlet for work that challenges accepted forms and modes of expression. It has established itself as distinctly Alaskan because it is strongly influenced by the place, the people, and the cultural traditions, without ever being restricted by its geographical location. The magazine's body of work is eclectic.

Through its stories, oral histories, folk tales, and poems, the literary magazine seeks to portray Alaska's rich and diverse Native cultures. It pays tribute to the Native language speakers and tradition bearers that keep their cultures alive through their stories and through their words. Over the years Alaskans have learned that one of the best ways to protect the social fabric of Native Alaskans is to protect their culture, thus maintaining their pride in their history and their heritage. In this vein, Ronald Spatz has published stories in Eyak, Haida, Tlingit, Tsimshian, Alutiq, Central Yup'ik, St. Lawrence Island Yup'ik, Inupiaq, and Dena'ina. The Review has done much to preserve the culture and history of Alaska and her people.

To help commemorate these achievements and reaching the 30-year benchmark, the Review is producing an ambitious photojournalism collection in their spring/summer issue. The collection, called ''Liberty and Justice (For All): A Global Photo Mosaic,'' pays tribute to photojournalists Tim Hetherington and Chris Hondros, who died in Libya in 2011. The biannual publication will also feature a special section in the fall/winter edition in the form of 60 poems by 60 different poets.

Alaska, and America, is far richer because of the Alaska Quarterly Review. I commend it and its contributors for its many achievements, as well as the University of Alaska board of regents and the leadership of the University of Alaska Anchorage for its support of the publication. It has taken a tremendous commitment to academic and artistic excellence to continue publication these 30 years. Again, congratulations to the Alaska Quarterly Review for reaching 30 years of continued literary excellence.●

RECOGNIZING THE CITIZENS' HOSE COMPANY NO. 1

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President on behalf of Senator CHRIS COONS, Congressman JOHN CARNEY, and myself, I wish to offer my congratulations to fire chief Isaac Willis, president S. Christopher Hudson, and the entire Citizens' Hose Company No. 1 as they celebrate the Company's 125th anniversary of service to the town of Smyrna in Delaware. The success of the Citizens' Hose Company is a tribute to the many dedicated men and women who not only have served in this company but have served this community in a number of ways.

In 1885, the town of Smyrna installed water mains and fire hydrants throughout the town in preparation of the founding of the Citizens' Hose Company. Since that time the members of this company have protected the property and residents throughout this historic community. The company has reached many milestones throughout the last 125 years—initially fighting fires with a man-drawn hose tender and ladder cart to now answering fire calls using a 100-foot KME Kovatch ladder truck which, in 1999, was the first ladder truck the company purchased new. Additional milestones included the formation of the Ladies Auxiliary in 1950, as well as the expansion of the station in 1985 to accommodate office space and future growth. With over 440 members today, the Citizens' Hose Company No. 1 maintains the highest level of excellence. Over the last several years, the Citizens' Hose Company has answered an average of 475 calls per year and are on pace to keep that record in 2012.

The Citizens' Hose Company serves as a great neighbor to all in the Smyrna area. The company participates in numerous community activities throughout the year and has a renowned company band. Since 1947, the Citizens' Hose Company Band has provided music for the marching unit of the company during parades and other community gatherings. An annual participant in the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association Parade, the Citizens' Hose Company has won the prestigious Governor's Cup Award a record 31 times. The company band has had the honor of playing music throughout Delaware as well as in Dublin, Ireland, New York City, and even represented the First State at the inaugural parades of both President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama in Washington, DC.

Delaware's firefighters are dedicated and caring professionals who willingly put themselves at risk—day and night, in all kinds of weather. As their congressional delegation, we are all sincerely grateful for the continued service of the men and women of Citizens' Hose Company. The hard work and commitment of these devoted volunteers is an inspiration to us all. Moreover, the Citizens' Hose Company No. 1 has crafted a tradition of superior and selfless service.

Today, we send our warmest congratulations to the members, volunteers and families of Citizens' Hose Company No. 1 on this momentous anniversary, and we look forward to hearing of their continued success and exemplary service for another 125 years and beyond.●

RECOGNIZING 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF NUMBERSUSA

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 15th anniversary of NumbersUSA, a national grassroots organization that advocates for immigration policies that seek to serve the national interest.

NumbersUSA was formed in 1997 by Roy Beck, a former journalist who has been recognized by the Houston Chronicle as ''one of the five leading thinkers in the national immigration debate.'' Under his leadership, NumbersUSA has grown from a mostly Internet-based organization of about 2,000 grassroots members to nearly 1.3 million activists, giving a voice to American citizens on the important issue of immigration and securing our border.

Those who were in Congress during the 2006 and 2007 debates on comprehensive immigration reform will confirm just how effective NumbersUSA is. NumbersUSA was an active leader in an outgunned coalition that stood up to virtually all the elites in Washington. The big lobbies pulled out all the stops, spent millions of dollars, and bore down hard in their push for mass amnesty. But Goliath fell to the grassroots David, whose faxes, e-mails, rallies, visits to our offices, and phone calls registered the clear message that the American people would not accept Washington rewarding lawbreaking. The overwhelming grassroots response actuated by the NumbersUSA coalition was most evident when citizens called Capitol Hill in such volume that it shut down the Senate's telephone system.

NumbersUSA approaches the important and sensitive issue of immigration by emphasizing the number of immigrants that are lawfully admitted to the United States. Their approach is captured in a statement prominently placed on their website: ''To talk about changing immigration numbers is to say nothing against the individual immigrants in this country. Rather, it is about deciding how many foreign citizens living in their own countries right

now should be allowed to immigrate in the future'' and ''about protecting and enhancing the United States' unique experiment in democracy for all Americans, including recent immigrants, regardless of their particular ethnicity.''

I commend NumbersUSA for speaking out effectively on these important issues for America. Their voice has added a valuable perspective to the discussion. I congratulate them on a successful first 15 years and wish them even greater success over its next 15 years.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 27, 2012, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 43. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2050. An act to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2096. An act to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical standards, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2240. An act to authorize the exchange of land or interest in land between Lowell National Historical Park and the city of Lowell in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3523. An act to provide for the sharing of certain cyber threat intelligence and cyber threat information between the intelligence community and cybersecurity entities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3834. An act to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4257. An act to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to revise requirements relating to Federal information security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4628. An act to extend student loan interest rates for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans.

H.R. 4849. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue commercial use authorizations to commercial stock operators for operations in designated wilderness within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431 note) as amended, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Speaker appoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on International Religious Freedom for a term ending May 14, 2014: Mr. Samuel Gejdenson of Branford, Connecticut.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2096. An act to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3523. An act to provide for the sharing of certain cyber threat intelligence and cyber threat information between the intelligence community and cybersecurity entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence.

H.R. 3834. An act to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, and for other purposes: to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4257. An act to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to revise requirements relating to Federal information security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 2050. An act to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2240. An act to authorize the exchange of land or interest in land between Lowell National Historical Park and the city of Lowell in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4628. An act to extend student loan interest rates for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans.

H.R. 4849. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue commercial use authorizations to commercial stock operators for operations in designated wilderness within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC 5924. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Metconazole; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9345 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC 5925. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Carfentrazone-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9346 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC 5926. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Dimethomorph; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9346 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC 5927. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fluoxastrobin; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9345 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC 5928. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Thiamethoxam; Pesticide Tolerances; Technical Correction'' (FRL No. 9344 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC 5929. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Acequinocyl; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9346 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC 5930. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Market Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commodity Options'' (RIN3038 AD62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC 5931. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC 5932. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Brazil; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC 5933. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to South Korea; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC 5934. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Chile; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC 5935. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC 5936. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Approval of 2011 Consent Decree to Control Emissions From the GenOn Chalk Point Generating Station; Removal of 1978 and 1979 Consent Orders'' (FRL No. 9666 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC 5937. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Effluent Limitations Guidelines and New Source Performance Standards for the Airport Deicing Category'' (FRL No. 9667 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC 5938. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Charlotte; Ozone 2002 Base Year Emissions Inventory'' (FRL No. 9666 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC 5939. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to Final Response to Petition From New Jersey Regarding SO2 Emissions From the Portland Generating Station'' (FRL No. RIN2060 AR42) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC 5940. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of Regulations Requiring 3% Withholding by Government Entities'' (RIN1545 BK83) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC 5941. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Treatment of Gain Recognized with Respect to Stock in Certain Foreign Corporations Upon Distributions'' (RIN1545 BI41) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC 5942. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Purchase Price Safe Harbors for Sections 143 and 25'' (Rev. Proc. 2012 25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC 5943. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Applicable Federal Rates—May 2012'' (Rev. Rul. 2012 13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC 5944. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implementation of Nonresident Alien Deposit Interest Regulations'' (Rev. Proc. 2012 24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC 5945. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, certification for the export of various calibers of center and rim bolt action rifles to the Country of Belgium in the amount of $1,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5946. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, or defense services for the design, development, manufacture, test, on-ground launch-site delivery, completion of in-orbit testing and long-term support for the MEXSAT Commercial Communication Satellite Program; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5947. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment to a manufacturing license agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to the Republic of Korea for the manufacture of FA 50 Light Attack Aircraft in the amount of $100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5948. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to support the Proton launch of the W3D Commercial Communication Satellites from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in the amount of $50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5949. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to support the design, manufacturing and delivery phases of the SES 8 Commercial Communications Satellite Program for the Netherlands in the amount of $50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5950. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment to a technical assistance agreement to France, Italy, Belgium and Spain for the design, manufacture, and delivery of Satellite Subsystems On-Board Processors for the Iridium NEXT program in the amount of $100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5951. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom in support of the sale of one C 17 Globemaster III transport aircraft in the amount of $50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5952. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits'' (RIN1212 AB04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC 5953. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Roth Feature to the Thrift Savings Plan and Miscellaneous Uniformed Services Account Amendments'' (5 CFR Parts 1600, 1601, 1604, 1605, 1650, 1651, 1653, 1655, and 1690) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC 5954. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19 345 ''Raising the Expectations for Education Outcomes Omnibus Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC 5955. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA 3335 EM in the State of Maryland having exceeded the $5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC 5956. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the six-month period from October 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC 5957. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on applications made by the Government for authority to conduct electronic surveillance and physical searches during calendar year 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC 5958. A communication from the Chair, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines that were proposed by the Commission during the 2011 2012 amendment cycle; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 2668. A bill to designate the station of the United States Border Patrol located at 2136 South Naco Highway in Bisbee, Arizona, as the ''Brian A. Terry Border Patrol Station''.

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 435. A resolution calling for democratic change in Syria, and for other purposes.

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 2516. An original bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, to establish user-fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars, and for other purposes.

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. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2508. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on carbonic dihydrazide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2509. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on programmable controllers certified by the importer as designed for use in agricultural and off-road construction vehicles to control vehicle accessories and auxiliary functions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2510. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain drive axles designed for use in off-road construction loaders and backhoes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2511. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on certain forged ring gear components and certain other parts of crankshafts and connecting rods; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2512. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Captan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2513. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Fosamine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2514. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on orthotoluidine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2515. A bill to promote the use of clean cookstoves and fuels to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat harmful pollution by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2516. An original bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, to establish user-fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; placed on the calendar.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2517. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on tertiobutyl catechol flakes and tertiobutyl catechol with 85% water or methanol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2518. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on aqueous mixtures of polyvinyl alcohol and polyvinyl pyrrolidone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2519. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on s-Metolachlor; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2520. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on glyoxylic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2521. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Mandipropamid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2522. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on onitrophenol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2523. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 1-Chloro-2-propanone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2524. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on DEMBB; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2525. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Mesotrione; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2526. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on triflic anhydride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2527. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on triflic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2528. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on para-methoxyphenol or hydroquinone monomethylether; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2529. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on certain truck cabs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 2530. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain compression-ignition internal combustion piston engines; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 2531. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain portable personal area mosquito repellants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 2532. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Laromer PE 55 F; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 2533. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on poly(urea/formaldehyde/isobutyraldehyde); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2534. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on specially designed vehicles, not elsewhere specified or indicated; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2535. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on calcium chloride phosphate phosphor activated by manganese and antimony; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2536. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on drinking glasses valued not over $0.30; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2537. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on formaldehyde, polymer with methylphenol, 2-hydroxy-3[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)oxy]propyl ether and formaldehyde, polymer with (chloromethyl) oxirane and methylphenol, 4-cyclohexene-1,2-dicarboxylate 2-propenoate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2538. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-propenoic acid, reaction products with o-cresol-epichlorohydrin-formaldehyde polymer and 3a,4,7,7a-tetrahydro-1,3-isobenzofurandione; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2539. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on Basic Violet 11; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2540. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on Basic Violet 11:1; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2541. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on phosphorescent pigment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2542. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Solvent Orange 115, Marigold Orange; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2543. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Solvent Yellow 131, Fluorescent Yellow M, Mohawk; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2544. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on compound of barium magnesium aluminate phosphor, activated by europium or manganese; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2545. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to clarify the duty on sanitary towels and tampons, diapers and diaper liners for babies, and similar articles, of any material; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2546. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Reactive Red; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2547. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on strontium halophosphate doped with europium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2548. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Solvent Yellow 195; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2549. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Huron Yellow Dye; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2550. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Invisible Blue Dye; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2551. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Solvent Yellow 160:1, Potomac; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2552. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on yttrium oxide phosphor, activated by europium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2553. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on lanthanum phosphate phosphor, activated by cerium and terbium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KOHL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2554. A bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2555. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain parts and accessories of measuring or checking instruments; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2556. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on oysters (other than smoked), prepared or preserved; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2557. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on artichokes, prepared or

preserved by vinegar or acetic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2558. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on artichokes, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, not frozen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2559. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain infant products; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2560. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain bags for toys; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2561. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain educational toys or devices; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2562. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain cases or containers to be used for electronic drawing toys, electronic games, or educational toys; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2563. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain protective cases of molded silicone for toys; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2564. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain zippered cases of textile materials with textile straps for toys; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2565. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain carrying cases of plastics with molded handles shaped to hold toys; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2566. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain plastic stylus pens for use with toys; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2567. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain headphones, AC adapters, and protective cases of molded silicone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2568. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain mechanics' work gloves; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2569. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain mechanics' work gloves; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2570. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain mechanics' work gloves; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2571. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain mechanics' work gloves; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2572. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain wide-range high sensitivity zoom security cameras; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2573. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on metal halide lamps designed for use in video projectors; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2574. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain mechanics' work gloves; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2575. A bill to reduce the duty on golf club putter heads; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2576. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain toric shaped polarized materials; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2577. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain non-toric shaped polarized materials of 80mm or less diameter; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2578. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain non-toric shaped polarized materials of more than 80mm diameter; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2579. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on insulated food or beverage bags with outer surface of man made fiber, with removable inner liner of hard plastic, certified by the importer as containing over 40 percent by weight of recycled plastics, exceeding 300 mm in length; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2580. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on insulated food or beverage bags with outer surface of man made fiber, with removable inner liner of hard plastic, certified by the importer as containing over 40 percent by weight of recycled plastics, not to exceed 300 mm in length; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2581. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain plastic device book style covers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2582. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain textile device book style covers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2583. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain textile device covers and stands; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2584. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain plastic device covers and stands; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2585. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on floor coverings and mats, of over 30% recycled Polyethylene (PE) or Ethylene-Vinyl Acetate (EVA), of the kind used for temporary cushioning for children and adults; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2586. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain subassemblies for measuring equipment for telecommunications; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 2587. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Carbaryl; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. 2588. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-amino-5-cyano-N,3-dimethylbenzamide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. 2589. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Picoxystrobin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. 2590. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on A5546 sulfonamide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2591. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on ultraviolet lamps filled with deuterium gas; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2592. A bill to extend the temporary duty on staple fibers of viscose rayon, not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2593. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on trifloxysulfuron-sodium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2594. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on Thiamethoxam; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2595. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on phosphoric acid, tris (2-ethylhexyl) ester; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2596. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on Triasulfuron; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2597. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on benzene, 2,4-dichloro-1,3-dinitro-5-(trifluoromethyl); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2598. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dichloroacetyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2599. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Fenpyroximate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2600. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Pyraflufen-ethyl; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2601. A bill to extend temporarily the suspension of duty on Flutolanil; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2602. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Buprofezin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2603. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on tolfenpyrad technical; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2604. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on cyan 854 inkjet printing ink; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2605. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on cyan 1 RO inkjet printing ink; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2606. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on black 661 inkjet printing ink; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2607. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on black 820 inkjet printing ink; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS:

S. 2608. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on methyl 4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl-N-(chlorocarbonyl) carbamate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS:

S. 2609. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Famoxadone, Cymoxanil, and application adjuvants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS:

S. 2610. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Esfenvalerate technical; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS:

S. 2611. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on phenyl (4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl) carbamate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS:

S. 2612. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of methyl 2-[[[[[4-(dimethylamino)-6-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl]amino]carbonyl]amino]-sulfonyl]-3-methylbenzoate and application adjuvants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS:

S. 2613. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Pyrithiobac-sodium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS:

S. 2614. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on ethyl 2-(Isocyanatosulfonyl)benzoate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS:

S. 2615. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Benzyl carbazate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2616. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on pyraflufen-ethyl; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2617. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on flubendiamide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2618. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of difenoconazole and mefenoxam; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2619. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 1,3-benzenedicarbonitrile; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2620. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN:

S. 2621. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain rooftop cargo bags; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN:

S. 2622. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-aminopyridine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN:

S. 2623. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzoic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 2624. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on Avermectin B; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 2625. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Cyproconazole; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 2626. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on clodinafop-propargyl; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 2627. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on fludioxonil; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 2628. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on formulations of Thiamethoxam, Difenoconazole, Fludioxinil, and Mefenoxam; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 2629. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on (R,S)—2-((2,6-dimethylphenyl)methoxyacetylamino) propionic acid, methyl ester; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 2630. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Pymetrozine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 2631. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on azoxystrobin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 2632. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Cloquintocet-mexyl; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 2633. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on Pinoxaden; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2634. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on perfluorocarbon amines; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2635. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on C5-8 perfluorocarbonalkanes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2636. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of C5-18 perfluorocarbon alkanes, perfluorocarbon amines, and/or perfluorocarbon ethers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2637. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on C1-3 perfluoroalkyl perfluoromorpholine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2638. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on copoly(acrylic acid/itaconic acid); to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2639. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on bisphenol A Bis(3-methacryloyloxypropyl) ether substituted dimethacylate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2640. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on potassium persulfate encapsulated in cellulose acetate butyrate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2641. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoropolymers containing 95 percent or more by weight of the monomer units tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene, and vinylidene fluoride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2642. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain polycrystalline fibers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2643. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on perfluorobutanesulfonyl fluoride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2644. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain catalytic converter mats of glass fibers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2645. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain catalytic converter mounting mats; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2646. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on ascorbic acid encapsulated in cellulose acetate butyrate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2647. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on certain bicycle brakes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2648. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on bicycle wheel rims; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2649. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on bicycle speedometers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2650. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on wide angle reflectors; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2651. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on baby or child carriers designed for use on bicycles; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2652. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on bicycle speedometer parts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2653. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on diethenyl-benzene polymer with ethenylbenzene and ethenylethylbenzene, sulfonated; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2654. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 2 propenoic acid, polymer with diethenylbenzene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2655. A bill to sextend the temporary suspension of duty on Styrene, ar-ethyl-, polymer with divinylbenzene and styrene beads having low ash content; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2656. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on ion exchange resin powder comprising a copolymer of methacrylic acid crosslinked with divinylbenzene, in the potassium ionic form; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2657. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on macroporous ion-exchange resin comprising a copolymer of styrene crosslinked with divinylbenzene, thio functionalized; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2658. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on ion exchange resin—Methanamine, N methyl reaction products with chloromethylated divinylbenzene-styrene polymer; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2659. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on methylated and butylated melamine-formaldehyde polymer; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2660. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Brine Electrolysis Ion Exchange Apparatus; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2661. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Agilon 400; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2662. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on pigments based on titanium dioxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2663. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Pigment Violet 23; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2664. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,3-dichloronitrobenzene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2665. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on phenyl isocyanate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2666. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on tungsten concentrate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2667. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Vacuum-Grade Ferroniobium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2668. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on tungsten oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2669. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Metallic Manganese; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2670. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on tungsten carbide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2671. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1-(2-chloroethyl)-4-ethyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-tetraxol-5-one; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2672. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1,1-cyclobutanedicarboxylic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2673. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on ferroniobium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2674. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on N-[(4-methoxymethyl)-1-phenylmethyl-4-piperidinyl]N-phenylpropanamide-etha edioate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2675. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Ancamine 2422 Curing Agent; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2676. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-butyl-5-chloro-3H-imidazole-4-carbaldhyde; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2677. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1-benzyl-4-phenyl-4-piperdine carboxylic acid ethyl ester HCl; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2678. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1,2,4 Triazole; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2679. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain rolled glass in sheets; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2680. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and tebuconazole; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2681. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing flupyram and application adjuvants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2682. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Strong Base Anionic Resin-Quaternary amine styrene divinylbenzene copolymer in the chloride form; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2683. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on ion exchange resin of benzene, diethenyl, polymer, with ethnylbenzene and ethenylethylbenzene, chloromethylated, trimethylaminoquaternized; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2684. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Disflamoll TOF; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2685. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5-hexanediol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2686. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Preventol ON Extra Preservative; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2687. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dimethylisopropylamine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2688. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on P-Toluidine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2689. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on poly(styrene-co-methyl methacrylate); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2690. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on poly(methyl methacrylate); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2691. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on p-Nitrotoluene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2692. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures of phenyl esters of C10 C18 alkylsulfonic acids; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2693. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on micro-porous, ultrafine, spherical polyamide powders of polyamide 6; polyamide-12; and polyamide 6, 12; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2694. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on chlorobenzene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2695. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on p-dichlorobenzene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2696. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on piperazine co-polymerized copolyamide resin high-temperature melt adhesive pellets; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2697. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dimethyl dicarbonate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2698. A bill to extend and modify the temporary duty on 11-aminoundecanoic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2699. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on phosphorous sulfochloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2700. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on pyrimethanil; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2701. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Phenmedipham; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2702. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Spirodiclofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2703. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 2-acetylbutyrolactone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2704. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Fosetyl-Al; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2705. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain smooth nonwoven fiberglass sheets of a type primarily used as acoustical facing for ceiling panels; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2706. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Iminodisuccinate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2707. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Levapren-Levamel; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2708. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain fiberglass sheets used in flooring; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2709. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Bayderm Bottom DLV-N; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2710. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on thionyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2711. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Di-cup Organic Peroxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2712. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Bayowet C4; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2713. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-chlorotoluene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2714. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on methanesulfonic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2715. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on chloromethylbenzene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2716. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on tetraethylammonium perfluoroctanesulfonate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2717. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on methanesulfonyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2718. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on disflamoll DPK; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2719. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and prothioconazole; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2720. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and trifloxystrobin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2721. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and pyrimethanil; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2722. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on spirotetramat; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2723. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on thiacloprid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2724. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on (RS)-1-(B-allyloxy-2,4-dichlorophenethyl)imidazole; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2725. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on thidiazuron; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2726. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures of cyprosulfamide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2727. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on modified aliphatic amine mixtures containing benzyl alcohol, formaldehyde, polymer with 1,3-benezenedimethanamine and phenol, 1,3-benzenedimethanamine, phenol, 4,4′-(1-methylethylidene)bis-, polymer with 2-(chloromethyl)oxirane, reaction products with ethylene-diamine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2728. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on phenyl-2-pyridyl acetamide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2729. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on triethylenediamine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2730. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on alpha-threo phenyl-2-piperidyl acetamide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2731. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain pressure distillation columns; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2732. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on alpha-phenyl-2-piperdylacetic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2733. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on aqueous emulsion of a modified aliphatic amine mixture of: decanedioic acid, compounds with 1,3-benzene-dimethanamine-bisphenol A-bisphenol A diglycidyl ether-diethylenetriamine glycidyl phenyl ether reaction product-epichlorohydrinformaldehyde- propylene oxide-triethylenetetramine polymer; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2734. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on 4-bromobenzyl bromide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2735. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on helium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2736. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 5(1,1-dimethylheptyl) resorcinol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2737. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on cast stainless steel single-piece exhaust gas manifolds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2738. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of formaldehyde polymers with aniline and with 4,4′-methylendianiline; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2739. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on cerium nitrate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2740. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of alkene polylmers with maleic anhydride, 2-(1-piperazinyl) ethylimides, diisononyl phthalate and bis(1-methylethyl)-naphthalene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2741. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on gadolinium oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2742. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lanthanum oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2743. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on knitted or crocheted fabrics of a width exceeding 30 cm, containing by weight 5 percent or more of elastomeric yarn but not containing rubber thread; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2744. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on europium oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2745. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixed xylidines; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2746. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on yttrium oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2747. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures or coprecipitates of lanthanum phosphate, cerium-doped lanthanum phosphate, cerium phosphate, and terbium phosphate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2748. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on benzamine, dodecyl-, branched; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2749. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures or coprecitates of yttrium oxide and europium oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2750. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures of aminocyclopyrachlor and inert ingredients; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2751. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on n-ethyl-n-benzyl aniline; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2752. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on picoxystrobin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2753. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on potassium 1,3-dioxo-1H,3H-naphthol[1,8-cd]pyran-6-sulfonate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2754. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 4,4′-oxydianiline; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2755. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 3,3′,4,4′-biphenyltetracarboxylic dianhydride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2756. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on nitroaniline; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2757. A bill to extend temporary suspension of duty on pyromellitic dianhydride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2758. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on Aspirin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2759. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 3,5,5-trimethylhexylamine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2760. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on poly(toluene diisocyanate); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2761. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-ethylhexylamine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2762. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of tris(4-isocyanatophenyl)thiophosphate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2763. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dimethyl carbonate polymer with 1,6-hexanediol and 2-oxepanone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2764. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Vat Violet 10; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2765. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on copoly(dimethyl carbonate/1,6-hexanediol); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2766. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Lambda-Cy; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2767. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dimethyl carbonate polymer with 1,6-hexanediol and 1,5-pentanediol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2768. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxyfluorfen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2769. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on liquid-filled glass bulbs designed for sprinkler systems and other release devices; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2770. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on reaction product of 3,5-dimethyl-1,2-diazole with polymer of hexane-1,6-diyl diisocyanate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2771. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on captan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2772. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxirane, 2-methyl-, polymer with oxirane, ether with 1,2,3-propanetriol (3:1), polymer with 2,4-diisocyanato-1-methylbenzene and a-hydro-w-hydroxypoly[oxy(methyl-1,2-ethanediyl)] ether with 2-ethyl-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1,3-propanediol (3:1), caprolactam-blocked; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2773. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on hexanedioic acid, dihydrazide, polymer with 5-amino-1,3,3-trimethylcyclohexanemethanamine, 1,3-butanediol and 1,1′-methylenebis[4-isocyanatocyclohexane], Me Et ketone oxime- and polyethylene glycol mono-Me ether-blocked; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2774. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on N-[methoxy(methylthio) phosphinoyl] acetamide formulation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2775. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on N,N′N″-[(2,4,5-trioxo-1,3,5-triazine-1,3,5(2H,4H,6H)-triyl)tris[methylene(3,5,5-trimetyl-3,1-cyclohexanediyl)]]tris[hexahydro-2-oxo-1H-azepine-1-carboxamide]; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2776. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of thiophanate methyl and application adjuvants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2777. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on methyl sulfanilylcarbamate, sodium salt; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2778. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on reaction product of 3,5-dimethyl-1,2-diazole with polymer of hexane-1,6-diyl diisocyanate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2779. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on poly(1,6-diisocyanatohexane-block-polyethylene-block-poly-propylene glycol monobutyl ether); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2780. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Cypermethrin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2781. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on water-dispersible polyisocyanate products based on nexamethylene

diisocyanate trimer and cyclohexanamine, N,N-dimethyl-, compounds with 3-(cyclohexylamino)-1-propanesulfonic acid-blocked 1,6-diisocyanatohexane homopolymer; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2782. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Oryzalin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2783. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 2-oxepanone polymer with 1,4-butanediol and 5-isocyanato-1-(isocyanatomethyl)-1,3,3-trimethylcyclohexane, 2-ethyl-1-hexanol-blocked; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2784. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 1,2,3-propanetriol, polymer with 2,4-diisocyanato-1-methylbenzene, 2-ethyl-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1,3-propanediol, methyloxirane and oxirane; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2785. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on zinc dimethyldithiocarbamate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2786. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on 1,3-diisocyanatomethylbenzene, polymer with 1,6-diisocyanatohexane; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2787. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on temporary suspension of duty on thiophanate methyl; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2788. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on polyisocyanate cross linking agent products containing triphenylmethane triisocyanate in solvents; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2789. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Preventol O Extra; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2790. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-benzothiazolythio butanedioic acid (2BBA); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2791. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on stannic oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2792. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1-methylimidazole; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2793. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on copper peptide (GHK-Cu 1:1); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2794. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4-oxo-4-p-tolylbutyric acid adduct with 4-ethylmorpholine (NEM Salt); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2795. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on copper peptide (AHK-Cu); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2796. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on hydrazine hydrate, aqueous solution; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2797. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on leather basketballs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2798. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on basketballs having an external surface other than leather or rubber; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2799. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on rubber basketballs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. REID, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2800. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on volleyballs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2801. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Pigment Yellow 180; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2802. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on benzenesulfonic acid, 4-chloro-2-[[4,5-dihydro-3-methyl-5-oxo-1-(3-sulfophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]azo]-5-methyl-, calcium salt; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2803. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on butanamide, N-(2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-1 H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-2-[2-(2-methoxyphenyl) diazenyl]-3-oxo; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2804. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain high-performance loudspeakers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2805. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain electrical transformers rated at 40VA; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2806. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on fasteners, in clips suitable for use in a mechanical attaching device; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2807. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on hand tools designed for securing plastic fasteners; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2808. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on golf club driver heads; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2809. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on fairway wood heads; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2810. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on golf club iron heads; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2811. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on golf wedge club heads; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2812. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on hybrid golf club heads; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2813. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on yttrium oxides having a purity of at least 99.9 percent; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2814. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain synthetic filament yarns; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2815. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain untwisted filament yarns; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2816. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on cellular plastic sheets for micron-retention filters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2817. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain plastic fittings of perfluoroalkoxy; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2818. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on plastic mesh for filters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2819. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on plastic mesh for filters (high flow); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2820. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on cellular plastic sheets for nano-retention filters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2821. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on acetoacetyl-2,5-dimethoxy-4-chloroanilide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2822. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on p-Aminobenzamide (4-aminobenzamide); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2823. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on 3-amino-4-methylbenzamide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2824. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Basic Blue 7; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2825. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Basic Red 1:1; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2826. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Basic Red 1; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2827. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Basic Violet 1; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2828. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on 5-chloro-3-hydroxy-2-methoxy-2-naphthanilide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2829. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on 5-chloro-3-hydroxy-2-methyl-2-naphthanilide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2830. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on 3,3'-dichlorobenzidine dihydrochloride ([1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diamino, 3,3'-dichloro-); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2831. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on Pigment Red 187; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2832. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Pigment Yellow 181; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2833. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on alginic acid, ammonium alginate, potassium alginate, calcium alginate, and magnesium alginate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts:

S. 2834. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts:

S. 2835. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to post certain IRS returns on their websites; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2836. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on sodium alginate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2837. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on propylene glycol alginates; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2838. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on viscose rayon staple fibers having a decitex of less than 5.0; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 584

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 584, a bill to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work, and for other purposes.

S. 657

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 657, a bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

S. 738

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of comprehensive Alzheimer's disease and related dementia diagnosis and services in order to improve care and outcomes for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias by improving detection, diagnosis, and care planning.

S. 886

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 886, a bill to amend the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 to prohibit the use of performance-enhancing drugs in horseracing, and for other purposes.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1039, a bill to impose sanctions on persons responsible for the detention, abuse, or death of Sergei Magnitsky, for the conspiracy to defraud the Russian Federation of taxes on corporate profits through fraudulent transactions and lawsuits against Hermitage, and for other gross violations of human rights in the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

S. 1107

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1107, a bill to authorize and support psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis data collection, to express the sense of the Congress to encourage and leverage public and private investment in psoriasis research with a particular focus on interdisciplinary collaborative research on the relationship between psoriasis and its comorbid conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 1297

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1297, a bill to preserve State and institutional authority relating to State authorization and the definition of credit hour.

S. 1454

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1454, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions.

S. 1561

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1561, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the deductibility of charitable contributions to agricultural research organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 1591

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1591, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

S. 1629

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1629, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 1670

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1670, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1734

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1734, a bill to provide incentives for the development of qualified infectious disease products.

S. 1751

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1751, a bill to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to facilitate recovery and beneficial use, and provide for the proper management and disposal, of materials generated by the combustion of coal and other fossil fuels.

S. 1809

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1809, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for viral hepatitis surveillance, education, and testing in order to prevent deaths from liver cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1884

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1884, a bill to provide States with incentives to require elementary schools and secondary schools to maintain, and permit school personnel to administer, epinephrine at schools.

S. 1935

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1935, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes Foundation.

S. 2050

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2050, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain provisions of the Creating Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

S. 2060

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2060, a bill to provide for the payment of a benefit to members eligible for participation in the Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence program for days of nonparticipation due to Government error.

S. 2076

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2076, a bill to improve security at State and local courthouses.

S. 2112

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2112, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize space-available travel on military aircraft for members of the reserve components, a member or former member of a reserve component who is eligible for retired pay but for age, widows and widowers of retired members, and dependents.

S. 2143

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2143, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that

paper which is commonly recycled does not constitute a qualified energy resource under the section 45 credit for renewable electricity production.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2165

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2165, a bill to enhance strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2179, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve oversight of educational assistance provided under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2239

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2239, a bill to direct the head of each agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses.

S. 2241

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2241, a bill to ensure that veterans have the information and protections they require to make informed decisions regarding use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 2244

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2244, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assist in the identification of unclaimed and abandoned human remains to determine if any such remains are eligible for burial in a national cemetery, and for other purposes.

S. 2299

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2299, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of civil relief to members of the uniformed services and to improve the enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of such members, and for other purposes.

S. 2320

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. 2320, a bill to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to provide for the ongoing maintenance of Clark Veterans Cemetery in the Republic of the Philippines, and for other purposes.

S. 2325

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2325, a bill to authorize further assistance to Israel for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system.

S. 2343

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2343, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and for other purposes.

S. 2364

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2364, a bill to extend the availability of low-interest refinancing under the local development business loan program of the Small Business Administration.

S. RES. 429

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 429, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2515. A bill to promote the use of clean cookstoves and fuels to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat harmful pollution by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce The Clean Cookstoves Support Act, which addresses a serious global environmental and public health issue. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by my friend and colleague, Senator DURBIN.

Nearly half the world's population cooks food over open fires or inefficient, polluting, and unsafe cookstoves, using firewood, dung, or coal as fuel. Smoke from these traditional cookstoves and open fires is associated with a number of chronic and acute diseases, with women and young children affected disproportionately. The World Health Organization estimates cookstove smoke to be one of the top five threats to public health in poor, developing countries. This smoke may account for nearly two million deaths annually in the developing world, which is more than the deaths from malaria, tuberculosis, or HIV.

Traditional cookstoves also create serious environmental impacts. The amount of biomass cooking fuel required each year can reach up to two tons per family, and local environmental degradation can result where demand for fuel outstrips the natural regrowth of resources. Recent studies show that emissions of black carbon, or common soot, from biomass cookstoves significantly contribute to climate change, second only to carbon dioxide in impact.

These stoves should be replaced with modern alternatives to reverse these alarming health and environmental trends. Fortunately, modern stoves, designed to burn fuel efficiently, can eliminate up to 90 percent of the black carbon produced during cooking and home heating. This would be relatively inexpensive and could be done quickly it is what scientists call the ''low-hanging fruit'' of environmental fixes.

Through the leadership of Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and the United Nations Foundation, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves was formed in 2010. Recognizing the severity of the global health and environmental issues, this public-private partnership aims to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat pollution by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. The Alliance partners are working to help overcome the market barriers that currently impede the production, deployment, and use of clean cookstoves in the developing world.

To assist in this important endeavor, several Federal agencies the Departments of State, Energy, and Health and Human Services, including NIH and CDC, the United States Agency for International Development, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation have committed to contribute to the Alliance in three key areas.

First: support for research and development to improve design, lower costs, and develop global industry standards and testing protocols for cookstoves. Second: diplomatic engagement to encourage a commercial market for clean stoves and promote several strategies, including reducing trade barriers, promoting consumer awareness, and improving access to financing. Third: the launch of international development projects to distribute the clean stoves to targeted areas, including refugee camps, disaster relief efforts, and long-term aid programs, as well as projects

aimed at women and girls. These contributions will assist the Alliance in reaching its goal of spurring the adoption of clean cookstoves in 100 million households by 2020.

Our legislation reinforces the commitment these U.S. agencies have made to the Alliance and requires the Secretary of State in consultation with the relevant Federal agencies, and in coordination with relevant international nongovernmental organizations and private and governmental entities to work to advance the goals of the Alliance. In addition, our bill formally authorizes the agency's funding commitments to ensure that these crucial pledges toward preventing unnecessary illness and reducing pollution around the globe are met.

By supporting the work of the Alliance to replace primitive stoves with modern versions that emit far less soot, this legislation would directly benefit some of the world's poorest people and reduce harmful pollution that affects us all.

This measure addresses an important global pollutant and alleviates a serious public health and environmental concern affecting developing nations. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting The Clean Cookstoves Support Act.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KOHL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2554. A bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am proud to introduce a bill to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act.

I am pleased that Senator COONS, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and Senator SCHUMER have joined me in this effort. When enacted, this legislation will continue for another five years the lifesaving grant program that Senator Campbell and I authored in 1998. This measure will continue Congress' strong commitment to the safety and security of our Nation's law enforcement officers.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, administered by the Department of Justice, provides financial assistance to State law enforcement agencies to help purchase bulletproof vests. This program is an important part of the Federal Government's overall policy to assist and support State and local law enforcement partners around the country.

In February, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing on this program and the need for reauthorization to emphasize just how important and effective this program has been. At that hearing, a representative from the Government Accountability Office testified that since 1987, data shows that body armor has saved the lives of 3,000 law enforcement officers. That is 3,000 men and women who may not otherwise have made it home to their families and loved ones. The BVP Program has assisted State and local jurisdictions with the purchase of nearly one million bulletproof vests since 1999. That is a measure of success all Senators should be proud of. I hope we can support the continuation of this program unanimously, as the Senate did most recently in 2008.

Despite the progress that has been made in the improvement of lifesaving equipment and training, there is much work to be done. The year 2011 was an especially tragic one for the law enforcement community. Last year, 163 State and Federal law enforcement officers lost their lives and thousands were injured or disabled in the line of duty. This is an increase from 2010 and a grim reminder of the sacrifices far too many individuals make in the service of their communities and fellow citizens. The Senate should continue to do its part to help reverse the trend of the last several years.

The safety and support of law enforcement officers across the United States should be something on which we can all agree. As we look toward National Police Week this month, Senators have an opportunity with this legislation to help make a difference and to show the thousands of law enforcement officers and their family members who will be in Washington that the Senate stands with them. I encourage their support and I look forward to the enactment of this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2554

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 ''Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2012''.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 1001(a)(23) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3793(a)(23)) is amended by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2017''.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Thursday, May 10, 2012, at 10 a.m. in SD 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Beyond Mother's Day: Helping the Middle Class Balance Work and Family.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the committee on (202) 224 5441.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 2374, The Helium Stewardship Act of 2012.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510 6150, or by email to *Abigail*__Campbell@energy. senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Kelly Kryc at (202) 224 0537, or Abigail Campbell at (202) 224 1219.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, May 17, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 2146, the Clean Energy Standard Act of 2012.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, room 304 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 6150, or by email to Meagan__Gins@energy .senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Kevin Rennert at (202) 224 7826 or Meagan Gins at (202) 224 0883.

NOTICE: PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS

The filing date for the 2011 Public Financial Disclosure reports is Tuesday, May 15, 2012. Senators, political fund designees and staff members whose salaries exceed 120% of the GS 15 pay scale must file reports.

Public Financial Disclosure reports should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC. 20510.

The Public Records office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records office at (202) 224 0322.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2050, H.R. 2240, H.R. 4628, AND H.R. 4849

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I understand there are four bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2050) to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 2240) to authorize the exchange of land or interest in land between Lowell National Historical Park and the city of Lowell in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 4628) to extend student loan interest rates for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans.

A bill (H.R. 4849) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue commercial use authorizations to commercial stock operators for operations in designated wilderness within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and for other purposes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I now ask for a second reading en bloc, and I object to my own request en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until Tuesday, May 8, at 10 a.m.; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2343, the Stop Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act, with the time until noon evenly divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; and that following the remarks of the two leaders, the majority control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans control the second 30 minutes; and that following the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 2343, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, the first vote tomorrow will be at noon on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2343, the Stop Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:46 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 7, 2012:

THE JUDICIARY

JACQUELINE H. NGUYEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

AJIT VARADARAJ PAI, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2011.

JESSICA ROSENWORCEL, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2010.

THE JUDICIARY

KRISTINE GERHARD BAKER, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS.

JOHN Z. LEE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH MAY 1, 2012

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Asthma Awareness Month. Nearly 26 million Americans, including more than 7 million children are affected by asthma. I am encouraging Americans to fight against asthma by learning more about the disease and how it affects families and their communities.

As part of Asthma Awareness Month, there are many public and private organizations working hand and hand to honor those who are taking on the challenge of fighting this chronic respiratory disease. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, is honoring exceptional health plans, health care providers and communities in action for their efforts to improve the lives of people with asthma in underserved communities across the country.

There are many triggers during the spring season making it particularly difficult for asthma patients. The annual economic cost of asthma, including direct medical costs from hospital stays and indirect costs such as lost school and work days, amount to approximately $56 billion. The EPA is working hard to clean the air we breathe and reduce the environmental causes of asthma and other respiratory illnesses. We can ease this financial burden on Americans by supporting the EPA and legislation such as the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, DERA.

Maintaining an active lifestyle is important in staying healthy and if symptoms are properly managed Americans who suffer from asthma can stay active. Here are some simple steps: learn your triggers and avoid them in your home and neighborhood. With a doctor's help, you can create an asthma action plan to help you effectively manage your asthma and reduce exposure to triggers. Taking the appropriate medications and avoiding your triggers. Check local air quality conditions at airnow.gov and make informed decisions about participating in outdoor activities. In addition a downloadable Air Quality Index mobile app is available for smart phones.

Mr. Speaker, this month, it is important to support the nearly 26 million Americans who suffer from asthma. I am encouraging Americans to educate themselves on the chronic respiratory disease, asthma.

SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and commend the efforts of the Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign; a grassroots organization founded by college and high school students toward promoting greater awareness and respect for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Created by young people with disabilities and their typical peers, Spread the Word to End the Word promotes the undeniable truth that everyone matters, everyone is accepted and, most importantly, everyone is valued. Today, young activists across the country are leading local efforts to raise awareness and collect pledges from peers and the community to vow not to use the word ''retarded'' and recognize the first Wednesday of every March as a national awareness day for The Spread the Word to End the Word campaign.

Best Buddies and Special Olympics participants across the nation have enthusiastically taken the pledge to stop the derogatory use of the word ''retarded,'' and have collectively encouraged hundreds of thousands of others to do the same. I am proud to speak about this amazing group of young activists who are spreading hope each and every day; not just in their own communities but across the country and the world by making communities inclusive of people of all ability levels.

I am proud to have taken the pledge, and I thank all who also pledge to think of others before they speak and, in so doing, promote universal human dignity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RIVERBANK LIONS CLUB

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize the chartering of the Riverbank Lions Club and its chartering members for their commitment to community and humanitarian service.

Lions Club International was founded in 1917 by a group of business leaders who desired working towards the betterment of their community and the world. Boasting over 46,000 clubs and 1.35 million members, it is now the world's largest service organization. Together, they strive to promote the organization's mission to ''empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding.'' Through community volunteer work, implementing programs to encourage good health and youth empowerment, as well as community and environmental awareness programs, they are truly working to make the world a better place to live.

On May 5, 2012, the Riverbank Lions Club joined this prestigious organization with the chartering of its chapter in Riverbank, California. This group will undoubtedly uphold the Lions' vision and help those in need through community service and fundraising projects.

Members of the chartering club are: Linda Abid-Cummings, Annabelle Aguilar, Tom Aja, Mia Alcala-Van Houten, Cynthia Avila, Lynette Bradley, James ''Doc'' Dachenhaus, Charlie Grom, Carrie Higby, Patty Hughes, Chip Langman, Sharon Langman, Don Langman, Laura Wilson, Leta Larkin, Sandy Lucas, Dotty Nygard, Billy Powell, Bill Redford, Jennifer Redford, Dawn Rios, Angie Timpone, and Joe Timpone.

Mr. Speaker, we thank you for the opportunity to honor the Riverbank Lions Club here today. Further, we appreciate you joining us in congratulating its members on the chartering of their new chapter and to recognize their commitment to service.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ED HUNT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Edward Woodrow Hunt, who passed away on April 21, 2012 at the age of 69. Mr. Hunt served as Fresno County's District Attorney for two decades, from 1982 to 2002. He was a passionate prosecutor, who sought justice for victims and was instrumental in the passage of California's ''Three Strikes'' law.

Mr. Hunt was born on July 27, 1942 in Huntsville, Alabama to Ed and Ethel Hunt. He demonstrated his dedication to public service early in his life, when he enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1961. He served proudly until 1964. His military work brought him to California's San Joaquin Valley, where he worked as an aircraft mechanic at the Castle Air Force Base in Atwater, California.

A proud product of Valley schools, Mr. Hunt graduated from California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and earned his law degree from the San Joaquin College of Law.

Early in his career, Mr. Hunt worked as a Deputy District Attorney, where his love of public service grew. His zest for the law and service led him to seek election to become Fresno County's District Attorney.

After a demanding 1982 election cycle, the voters selected Mr. Hunt as their District Attorney. As Fresno's Chief Law Enforcement Officer, Mr. Hunt hit the ground running, and worked diligently to take action against those who had violated the law. Not only was he an impeccable District Attorney, he was also an important partner in ensuring the well-being and safety of our Valley, and eventually the entire State.

When two former California Assembly Members, myself and Mr. Bill Jones, co-authored legislation for our State's ''Three Strikes and You're Out,'' which eventually was placed on the ballot as an initiative by the people of California, Mr. Hunt was one of its staunchest

supporters. California's "Three Strikes" law sought to increase sentences for repeat offenders in order to significantly decrease crime. Mr. Hunt recognized the value of the proposition and worked hard to earn the support of the California District Attorneys Association.

An exceptional and savvy prosecutor, Mr. Hunt was truly a valuable asset for the people of Central California. During his tenure, he helped reduce crime rates, and established specialty prosecution teams, including the Multi Agency Gang Enforcement Consortium (MAGEC), a nationally recognized gang unit.

He will be sorely missed by friends and family. He is survived by his wife, Linda; his daughter Tami; and stepson Steve Sirman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Mr. Edward Woodrow Hunt. His service to our Valley will ensure that his legacy lives on for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK MOTTA, A DEDICATED SAMARITAN AND PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to honor the life Frank Motta, a Good Samaritan who paid the ultimate price for helping his community. Frank—known in Eastern Washington as a man who would stand up for what was right no matter the cost—passed away in March after being assaulted while trying to break up an underage drinking party. His legacy of utmost care and concern for others will be remembered and sorely missed by the community.

Frank, a Vietnam veteran, served in the United States Air Force from 1964–1968, receiving an Honorable Discharge as well as 2 Presidential Unit Citations, 2 Outstanding Unit Awards, and 2 Vietnamese Crosses for Gallantry. He continued his service to the country by taking a prominent role in Central Washington youth education, working for over 30 years as an English teacher, football coach, principal, and assistant superintendant. He received degrees and certifications in education from California State University at Fullerton, Azusa Pacific University, Washington State University, and Central Washington University. One of his greatest honors was receiving the Young Educator of the Year Award from the Othello High School in 1979, which recognized his tremendous service to the youth of Central Washington.

After retiring from his education career, Frank continued his service as a volunteer in the Spokane VA. His compassion and concern ultimately earned him a full-time position. His coworkers remember him as a man with an unwavering commitment to serve those who served us, saying he's had a true impact on every employee in the hospital.

While we mourn the loss of this dedicated servant and everyday hero, it is with great joy that we remember his life of commitment to others. We are honored to have had such a tremendous man as a part of our community, and ask that his passing serve as a reminder to us all that we are meant to live for one another, and a life built around dedication to others is a life truly lived. May he live on in the heart of service everywhere.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. LLOYD RODUNER

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, together with Congressman JIM COSTA, I rise today to recognize Mr. Lloyd Roduner on the event of his retirement as Chairman and Division Five Director for the Lower San Joaquin Levee District.

Lloyd was born in Merced in 1932 and grew up on his family's farm. He graduated from Merced High School where he served as the student body president. Lloyd then went on to attend Cal Poly on a scholastic scholarship. After college, Lloyd served in the Army from 1952–1954. He was stationed in San Diego and served as a food inspector. When he left the Army, he went back to work at his family's ranch.

Lloyd, along with his brother Richard, runs the family business, W.P. Roduner Cattle & Farming Company. He was also a member of the California Beef Council and the California Cattlemen's Association. In addition, he was the charter president of the El Nido Lion's Club in 1964.

Lloyd faithfully served the Lower San Joaquin Levee District since October 1985. Through his wisdom, vision and leadership he earned the respect of local, State and Federal officials and entities in support of the District. In doing this he was able to lead and guide other directors, staff and personnel in operating and maintaining the District in the most efficient and economical way possible. He always kept in mind the benefits of the District for its landowners.

Lloyd has a passion for horses and roping which he learned from his father. He was an accomplished showman of horses since he was fifteen and just retired from this five years ago. Many generations of his family are ropers and as soon as his grandchildren were old enough, he taught them. Lloyd has been married to his wife, Patricia, since 1955. They have two children, Michael and Lloydeen, and eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, along with Congressman JIM COSTA, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Lloyd Roduner for his years of dedication and service to the Lower San Joaquin Levee District.

HONORING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the most diverse Congressional District in Washington State—more than 100,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders live in the 7th Congressional District. Fourteen percent of my constituents are of Asian American and Pacific Islander descent. Their contributions throughout Washington State and across our country have been integral to our Nation's success.

During this commemorative month, we also should remind ourselves of past treatment of these groups, which has been marred by discrimination and bigotry. This year marks the 70th year since the signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the Japanese American internment during World War II, and the 130th year since the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

Only by learning and remembering our history can we hope to avoid repeating its difficult lessons. I applaud the efforts of organizations dedicated to telling the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Seattle's Wing Luke Asian Museum, the Seattle Asian Art Museum, the Filipino American National Historical Society, and the Japanese American Legacy Project are among those committed to preserving and narrating the stories of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who helped to shape our common history.

I have been privileged to introduce numerous measures to honor the legacies of Asian Americans in my district including legislation to designate a federal courthouse in Seattle, the William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse. Mr. Nakamura, a member of the storied 442nd Regimental Combat Team, posthumously received the Medal of Honor in recognition of his extraordinary bravery during World War II.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders long have made and continue to make very meaningful contributions to our country and to our society. This month, we honor them.

MEGA PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGER (PBM)—MERGER OF EXPRESS SCRIPTS AND MEDCO

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to make a statement because I'm concerned with the newly created mega pharmacy benefit manager (PBM). The Federal Trade Commission recently concluded its investigation into the merger of Express Scripts and Medco, two of the three largest PBMs. PBMs are primarily responsible for implementing and administering benefit plans that are care-effective and lower prescription drug spending. Now, approximately 135 million Americans will be forced to rely on this new mega PBM to manage their prescription drug benefits. This merger also creates the nation's largest mail-order pharmacy, accounting for close to 60 percent of all mail-order prescriptions processed in the U.S.

PBMs claim to reduce prescription drug costs; in fact, they are contributing to the increase in healthcare spending. They create artificial barriers that limit patient choice and competition through referring patients to their own mail-order operations. PBMs also switch patients to more expensive medications allowing these companies to collect rebates from drug makers. Employers and health plans end up paying more for these expensive drugs.

Since 2000, the number of large PBMs has declined and the concentration among the ''Big Three'' PBMs has increased. The merger of Express Scripts and Medco reduces the options for large plans from three to two. This new mega PBM will control over 40 percent of the national prescription drug volume.

Mr. Speaker, given the possible concentration of market share by the mega PBM, I urge my fellow colleagues to demand transparency and accountability in this industry.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD TYLER-TIGERMAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of Richard Tyler-Tigerman, who recently passed away at the age of 89. Richard was a remarkable man, beloved by all who had the great fortune to know him. Our nation is a more cultured place for his lifetime of efforts.

Richard became best known in my hometown of Carmel, California, as the Director of the Sunset Cultural Center. In that role he helped develop the Sunset Center—at one time the elementary school that I attended as a boy—into a world renowned performing arts center. And while he was expanding the national and international cultural impact of the Sunset Center, he never lost sight of his neighbors and made sure that he and the Sunset Center were still a local community resource. Richard was a true cultural icon in Carmel, always welcoming, convivial, and engaging.

Richard Tyler-Tigerman was born September 28, 1922, in Chicago, the ninth son of Hungarian immigrants. Apart from a two year stay in New York, where Richard participated in a WPA-sponsored children's theatre project, Richard grew up in Chicago. His mother Minna, a classically trained singer herself, encouraged him and he got his break on stage playing Robin Hood in a high school production. He later studied theater at the University of Chicago until World War II started. He enlisted in the United States Army which eventually took him to the Philippines where he worked with different entertainment groups that came to lift troop morale. After the war, Richard studied theatre in Florida and Chicago on the G.I. Bill. Then, at Northwestern University, he taught and turned professional. For the rest of his life he remained a professional performance man: music, theater, recitals, opera, musical comedy, and eventually directing and producing. He directed the Chicago premiere of Leonard Bernstein's opera ''Trouble in Tahiti'' to wonderful reviews.

He came to Carmel in 1975 to take on the directorship of the Sunset Center, a post he held until his retirement in 1990. He helped revive the Center, which had been struggling ever since the city of Carmel had converted the old school into a performing arts and cultural center. Richard saw his signal accomplishments there as presenting a performance pattern of dance companies, stimulating and interesting professional theater, opera, and people of note, a film series chosen by the audience, and a series of varied and interesting entertainers. He continued beyond retirement to advise local officials who sought his insights about the unique artistic heritage of that city. He served on numerous civic boards and committees, including the Monterey Film Commission, Arts Habitat, and the State Theatre Preservation Group.

His partner of thirty-eight years is Constantine ''Dino'' Cocalis, with whom he shared a home and traveled extensively, particularly to the Greek isles. Richard had one son, Craig Ellis Tigerman, of Rock Island, IL. Grandchildren include Christopher Lee Gibrich of Grand Prairie, TX, Bethany Judith Kump of Rock Island, Chelli Marie Esser of Apple Valley, MN, Justin Thomas Wilson Tigerman of Chicago and Rock Island, and a step-grandchild, Richard Michael Albertson of Carbondale and Moline, IL. Great-grandchildren include Andrew James Doyle and Owen Benjamin Kump of Rock Island, and Sophia Marylyn Esser of Apple Valley. Two more great-grandchildren are on the way later this year.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in extending our condolences to his loved ones and friends for their loss, and in honoring Richard's contribution to our lives. The world is a better place because of Richard Tyler-Tigerman's presence.

INTEREST RATE REDUCTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4628: the Interest Rate Reduction Act.

Congress has a unique opportunity to prevent the scheduled doubling of student loan interest rates before July. Our failure to act will have debilitating effects on millions of Americans. Rather than serve as an obstacle to students wishing to further their education, Congress should work to make college accessible to all. Yet Congress is standing in the way by considering legislation that would pay for the extension of the interest rate reduction by repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which funds essential health services for millions of Americans, including women and children. There is another sensible and responsible way to pay for keeping student loan rates low: end tax subsidies for big oil companies.

Young, educated Americans begin their adult lives financially strapped. Not only do these recent graduates have debt, they also have some of the greatest difficulty finding gainful employment. Recent college graduates have a higher unemployment rate than any other demographic group in the country. Sixty-six percent of students graduating from college today are leaving with student loan debt. On average, those students graduate with $25,000 in debt. The total amount of student loan debt in this country is more than $1 trillion dollars.

If we do not pass a measure that extends the reduced interest rate on student loans, more than 7 million students' rates will double to 6.8 percent. Students who borrow the maximum in subsidized student loans will pay up to an additional $1,000 in interest costs. It is our responsibility to give these students a chance to earn a quality education without the strings of unmanageable debt.

There is little profit to be had from trying to prevent diseases from occurring in the first place, which means pharmaceutical companies and others who profit from efforts to treat and cure diseases will not pay for such efforts. If we want to prevent cancer, the spread of HIV, outbreaks of West Nile Virus, and protect mothers and babies from tobacco; if we want to promote better nutrition, birth defect reduction, preparedness for bioterrorism, and breast and cervical cancer screenings; if we want to protect our children from lead in our homes and yards, the childhood obesity epidemic, and otherwise invisible clusters of chronic diseases like Multiple Sclerosis, we have to fund these programs ourselves. The Prevention and Public Health Fund must be protected as a measure of self-protection.

This bill repeals the Prevention and Public Health Fund. I cannot support this bill.

DR. JAMES L. DOTI

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and contributions of a visionary in higher education, Dr. James L. Doti, on the start of his third decade as President of Chapman University.

Dr. Doti has devoted his academic career to Chapman University and has transformed it from a small local college to a prominent nationally ranked university.

Under his leadership, Chapman University has attracted exceptional faculty and students, including international and national award winners, noted scholars, best-selling authors, highly respected researchers and world-renowned performers.

Dr. Doti is an accomplished and active scholar, having published numerous articles, co-authoring two textbooks and serving as co-editor of a collection of readings in private enterprise.

Among his many accolades, Dr. Doti has received the George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and has been inducted into the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans.

In addition, Dr. Doti has played a critical role in establishing the School of Law and the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at Chapman, both of which have achieved national distinction in their fields.

I congratulate President Doti on his exemplary service to higher education and wish him continued success.

HONORING GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACTIVISTS DURING THE ''LAST COLONY MARCH AND RALLY FOR D.C. DEMOCRACY''

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in a week spent commemorating the 150th anniversary of the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act, which was signed into law on April 16, 1862, freeing the first slaves in the United States. District residents were again reminded of the denial of freedom and democracy that exist at home. On Thursday, April 19, 2012, leaders of the D.C. Statehood Student Association and George Washington University students marched from The George Washington University campus to the Capitol as part of the ''Last Colony March and Rally for D.C. Democracy.'' Six of them engaged in acts of civil disobedience and were arrested.

Along the three-mile route from Kogan Plaza to Upper Senate Park, others joined the young activists, calling for action on important matters of D.C. democracy, ranging from budget autonomy to full congressional representation. The six activists, Brian Crawford, Corante Henderson, Moo Ho Bae II, Markus Batchelor, Matt Laurinavicus, and Patrick Kennedy, went into the street at Constitution Avenue and First Street, where they sat down and blocked traffic, and were arrested for their act of civil disobedience.

Their courage shows that the civil disobedience that began here one year ago will continue until Congress grants D.C. full democracy. On April 11, 2011, the D.C. Mayor and six members of the D.C. Council were among 41 people who were arrested on Capitol Hill in a large display of civil disobedience. They protested the action of Congress and the administration in trading away the District's right to spend its local funds on abortion services for low-income women.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the courageous acts of Brian Crawford, Corante Henderson, Moo Ho Bae II, Markus Batchelor, Matt Laurinavicus, and Patrick Kennedy, students at The George Washington University and leaders in the D.C. Statehood Student Association. They exemplify the time-honored tradition of using civil disobedience to combat injustice, and remind us that the District's great struggle for democracy is expanding and will continue until freedom and equality come to the District of Columbia.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe National Teacher Appreciation Week and to thank teachers across the nation for their dedication. Teachers touch the lives of so many children throughout their careers and have a unique role in bringing together families and communities to develop our Nation's most valuable resource, our children.

Our former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt first introduced the idea of a National Teachers' Day in 1953. Mrs. Roosevelt said, ''I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift would be curiosity.'' Thankfully, our children do have such figures in their lives: the teachers who instill curiosity and a love of learning. I think we can all point to a teacher in our past who inspired imagination and a sense of discovery.

As a former preschool teacher, I understand the difficulties teachers face today. With growing class sizes, shrinking budgets, and harsh scrutiny of standardized testing, this important profession has become more challenging than ever, and we must do more to reaffirm our commitment to educators.

Education is the key to our economic success. The quality of our education system affects us as a country and as individuals who provide for ourselves and our families. We cannot remain competitive without an educated and passionate workforce, and supporting our teachers is the wisest investment we can make in our country's future.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a heartfelt thanks to the hardworking teachers of the 37th Congressional District and across the Nation. I encourage students, parents and school officials to participate in the events of National Teacher Appreciation Week.

THE FEDERAL RESERVE AND THE 1%

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, an op-ed in the April 19, 2012 Wall Street Journal by Mark Spitznagel explains how the Federal Reserve's monetary easing program, in place since the financial crisis of 2008, has continued the massive transfer of wealth from the Middle Class directly to the richest.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Apr. 19, 2012]

HOW THE FED FAVORS THE 1%

(By Mark Spitznagel)

A major issue in this year's presidential campaign is the growing disparity between rich and poor, the 1% versus the 99%. While the president's solutions differ from those of his likely Republican opponent, they both ignore a principal source of this growing disparity.

The source is not runaway entrepreneurial capitalism, which rewards those who best serve the consumer in product and price. (Would we really want it any other way?) There is another force that has turned a natural divide into a chasm: the Federal Reserve. The relentless expansion of credit by the Fed creates artificial disparities based on political privilege and economic power.

David Hume, the 18th-century Scottish philosopher, pointed out that when money is inserted into the economy (from a government printing press or, as in Hume's time, the importation of gold and silver), it is not distributed evenly but ''confined to the coffers of a few persons, who immediately seek to employ it to advantage.''

In the 20th century, the economists of the Austrian school built upon this fact as their central monetary tenet. Ludwig von Mises and his students demonstrated how an increase in money supply is beneficial to those who get it first and is detrimental to those who get it last. Monetary inflation is a process, not a static effect. To think of it only in terms of aggregate price levels (which is all Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke seems capable of) is to ignore this pernicious process and the imbalance and economic dislocation that it creates.

As Mises protégé Murray Rothbard explained, monetary inflation is akin to counterfeiting, which necessitates that some benefit and others don't. After all, if everyone counterfeited in proportion to their wealth, there would be no real economic benefit to anyone. Similarly, the expansion of credit is uneven in the economy, which results in wealth redistribution. To borrow a visual from another Mises student, Friedrich von Hayek, the Fed's money creation does not flow evenly like water into a tank, but rather oozes like honey into a saucer, dolloping one area first and only then very slowly dribbling to the rest. The Fed doesn't expand the money supply by uniformly dropping cash from helicopters over the hapless masses. Rather, it directs capital transfers to the largest banks (whether by overpaying them for their financial assets or by lending to them on the cheap), minimizes their borrowing costs, and lowers their reserve requirements. All of these actions result in immediate handouts to the financial elite first, with the hope that they will subsequently unleash this fresh capital onto the unsuspecting markets, raising demand and prices wherever they do.

The Fed, having gone on an unprecedented credit expansion spree, has benefited the recipients who were first in line at the trough: banks (imagine borrowing for free and then buying up assets that you know the Fed is aggressively buying with you) and those favored entities and individuals deemed most creditworthy. Flush with capital, these recipients have proceeded to bid up the prices of assets and resources, while everyone else has watched their purchasing power decline.

At some point, of course, the honey flow stops—but not before much malinvestment. Such malinvestment is precisely what we saw in the historic 1990s equity and subsequent real-estate bubbles (and what we're likely seeing again today in overheated credit and equity markets), culminating in painful liquidation. The Fed is transferring immense wealth from the middle class to the most affluent, from the least privileged to the most privileged. This coercive redistribution has been a far more egregious source of disparity than the president's presumption of tax unfairness (if there is anything unfair about approximately half of a population paying zero income taxes) or deregulation.

Pitting economic classes against each other is a divisive tactic that benefits no one. Yet if there is any upside, it is perhaps a closer examination of the true causes of the problem. Before we start down the path of arguing about the merits of redistributing wealth to benefit the many, why not first stop redistributing it to the most privileged?

HONORING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the thirteen Medal of Honor

recipients who trained in Mineral Wells, Texas, at Camp Wolters during World War II and at Fort Wolters during the Vietnam War. On March 23, 2012, the Fort Wolters Gate Committee joined with the citizens of Mineral Wells to honor these brave men with two ceremonies on Medal of Honor Day.

These thirteen outstanding individuals are First Lieutenant Eli L. Whiteley, First Lieutenant James M. Sprayberry, First Lieutenant Charles L. Thomas, First Lieutenant Vernon Baker, First Lieutenant Jack L. Knight, Second Lieutenant Audie L. Murphy, Staff Sergeant Edward A. Carter, Jr., Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel, Chief Warrant Officer Frederick Edgar Ferguson, Captain Ed Freeman, Captain Jon E. Swanson, Major Patrick H. Brady, and Major William E. Adams.

The Medal of Honor is our nation's highest military honor that can be bestowed upon an individual service member by the United States government. It is given to men and women of the Armed Forces who set themselves apart through their uncommon courage, selflessness, and valor which goes above and beyond the call of duty. The recipients of this prestigious award are not only leaders among those with whom they serve, they are also the role models to whom future generations of Americans will always look. I am honored to be able to join in recognizing these heroes before Congress today.

HONORING THE LEGENDARY CAROLE KING

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about my friend Carole King.

Carole King is a music legend, with hundreds of pop hits, including the recognizable "I Feel the Earth Move." She has won four Grammys, and is a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Many of her songs have been featured in commercials, TV shows, and movies, and she has worked with many music icons such as Eric Clapton and Celine Dion.

In addition to her fame as a musician, King is also a strong activist for environmental issues. She is often here in our offices on Capitol Hill fighting for the protection of our wildlife and ecosystems, both in her native Idaho and worldwide.

While Carole and I do not always agree on the issues, I have always been impressed by her tenacity. She is truly dedicated to this cause, and her perseverance is something to be admired. Many of us do not have the opportunity to meet someone like Carole. She has a great heart and is a great asset to America.

I want to congratulate Carole King on all of her accomplishments. It has been a pleasure to work with her over the years.

MALAWI PRESIDENT JOYCE BANDA SWEARING-IN ADDRESS ON APRIL 7, 2012

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the April 7, 2012 swearing-in address by Malawi President Joyce Banda.

This is a unique occasion.

May his soul rest in peace.

I am not here to give a long speech considering the circumstances we are in. Let us focus on mourning our father, former President Mutharika.

I also would like to report to all you people that this afternoon I had a cabinet meeting. We felt the holy spirit in that room. It was a good meeting, as a nation we should realize that, because it was significant and marks a starting point for healing the wounds of this nation . . .

I thank you all for showing me great humility and honor as I accept the huge responsibility. I also thank you all for the peaceful transition and I appeal to the nation to mourn the former president with dignity and thank all of you who have come to witness this occasion from all walks of life, irrespective of political, spiritual, regional backgrounds . . .

I want to ask all of us to move into the future with hope and the spirit of oneness and unity. I sincerely hope there is no room for revenge, that we shall stand united . . .

As a God fearing nation we shall allow God to come before us because if we do not do that, we have failed.

IN HONOR OF ANDREW F. SIMMONS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Andrew F. Simmons, a native of Yonkers, has spent a good deal of his adult life in improving housing in his hometown. He began a partnership with Yonkers 15 years ago in assisting with the development of affordable homes in the distressed southwest area.

Since 1999 he had managed numerous development projects, including the Gazette Building Waterfront Development. He was contractor for the Hamilton Heights renovation project, the Metro North Train Station demonstration projects in Yonkers and Croton-Harmon.

He has helped to lead the completion of the pre-development of three two-family homes and worked as general contractor and developer of an additional three two-family homes. Further, he is developing an affordable twelve-unit condo on the Hudson River.

Andrew Simmons developed Think Services, a consulting firm which works with Community Development Corporations with design phase, budget and community inclusion in project development.

I am proud to join with the Women's Civic Club of Nepperhan in honoring Andrew Simmons for his outstanding work in developing and building homes for those who need it most.

IN HONOR OF GEORGIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE BOB HANNER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Southwest Georgia's most respected public officials, Georgia State Representative Bob Hanner. Representative Hanner, first elected as a member of the Georgia General Assembly in 1975, recently announced that he will not run for re-election after serving 37 years in Georgia's House of Representatives.

His longevity of dedicated public service and steadfast representation of his constituents in Chattahoochee, Lee, Quitman, Stewart, Terrell and Webster counties, are just a few of the many reasons as to why Representative Hanner has been an invaluable member of the Georgia General Assembly.

Representative Hanner hails from Parrott, Georgia and is a graduate of both Gordon Military and Southwestern Colleges. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard in Vietnam from 1967–1968.

Following his collegiate career and military service, he worked in the private sector as a farmer and an estate planner. Prior to being elected to the Georgia General Assembly, he also served as a member of the Terrell County Hospital Authority.

Representative Hanner's first election to the Georgia General Assembly was in a September 1975 runoff in what was then the 130th House District. He successfully claimed 2,811 votes of the 5,442 votes cast in the special election runoff.

Over the course of his distinguished legislative career, he has served as a member of the House Appropriations and Rules Committees and as Secretary of the House Committees on Natural Resources & Environment, and Public Safety and Homeland Security. For the last 15 years, Representative Hanner has served as the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and he co-chaired a state-wide water management study committee.

In conjunction with his legislative responsibilities and other important duties associated with his public service, Representative Hanner has played an active role in several civic and community service organizations in Southwest Georgia. He is a member of the P.T. Schley Masonic Lodge #229 in Dawson, Georgia; the Terrell County Chamber of Commerce; and has served as a past director of the United States Jaycees.

It cannot be disputed that Representative Hanner has achieved numerous successes throughout his life. However, none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and the support of his loving wife, Linda. Mr. and Mrs. Hanner are the proud parents of three magnificent children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting an outstanding legislator and one of Georgia's most respected public figures, Representative Bob Hanner, on the occasion of his well-deserved retirement.

MILITARY COMMISSIONS

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, no one in this body was untouched by the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, which will stand in our history as one of the most infamous crimes ever perpetrated against the people of the United States. It not only cast a shadow of despair over America, but also thrust us into a different kind of global conflict, fighting an unconventional, adaptive enemy that has adopted the mass murder of innocent civilians as a weapon of war.

More than four years ago, we apprehended the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 plot, Khalid Sheikh Mohammad. He and four others are awaiting trial in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility on charges that include 2,973 individual acts of murder. That trial will take place before a reformed military commission.

I believe that such commissions are the appropriate venue for this proceeding. They are modeled on the federal civilian criminal justice system. They protect the rights of the accused. They respect the rule of law. They reflect our core values as Americans. They are transparent. In short, they provide an instrument that is fair, principled, accountable, and effective, one that satisfies the imperative of justice rather than the thirst for revenge.

This confidence is underscored by the fact that Brig. Gen. Mark Martins is the chief prosecutor of the military commissions at Guantanamo Bay. Gen. Martins is a lawyer of tremendous skill, and a man of great integrity, character, and judgment. Reflecting his commitment to this case, he recently declined promotion in order to see these matters through to their conclusion. As the war against terrorism moves to the legal arena, we are indeed fortunate that Gen. Martins is leading the effort to ensure that justice is fairly dispensed to those charged with the horrific acts of 9/11.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, Gen. Martins and the reformed military commission were the subjects of a news report from National Public Radio. With your permission, I would like to include the text of that report in my remarks and urge that my colleagues take a moment to read this article and learn more about the man that Gen. David Petraeus described as "one of those rare individuals who always seems to end up in the toughest assignments and always performs exceedingly well in them."

A PROSECUTOR MAKES THE CASE FOR MILITARY TRIALS

(By Dina Temple-Raston)

The chief prosecutor for the military commissions at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is arguing a difficult case: that the commissions are not only fair, but can take pride of place alongside the civilian criminal justice system.

Brig. Gen. Mark Martins is the chief prosecutor for the commissions, the courts at the naval base that try high-profile terrorism suspects.

He has been called Guantanamo's detox man largely because he has made it his mission to show that the military commissions system at Guantanamo is no longer a toxic version of victor's justice.

When the Bush administration resurrected the commissions system in the days after the 9–11 attacks, it was seen as a convenient way to process the hundreds of detainees at Guantanamo.

The fullness of time, Martins argues, has turned the commissions into something more: something that actually resembles an adversarial judicial process.

"Law is being applied, judges are interpreting laws, counsel are arguing for different pieces of a particular motion," Martins told NPR in an interview. "Justice is being done, we're just absolutely committed to that. We've worked hard on reforms. Congress has been involved twice. The Supreme Court has ruled upon this."

"The current system is fair, but I understand that people will have to see that for themselves," said Martins, who graduated first in his class at West Point, studied as a Rhodes scholar and then went to Harvard Law School.

CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV FEEDS OF TRIALS

Actually watching the proceedings used to be one of the system's basic shortcomings.

Proceedings were all secret. To see what was going on in the courtroom required traveling to Guantanamo and getting a bevy of clearances. Not anymore. The curious can now watch the trials on closed-circuit television feeds at selected army bases. To get in, citizens just need to show a picture ID, officials say.

Court transcripts are available online. So are motions. Martins says this new transparency is part of a broader effort to convince naysayers that the military commissions aren't so different from civilian courts.

To underscore the point, eight Justice Department attorneys are part of the prosecution teams working on two of the marquee trials the military commissions are hearing: the trial of Abd alRahim al-Nashiri, the man who allegedly planned the attack against the USS *Cole* in Yemen in 2000, and the trial of the alleged Sept. 11 mastermind, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and his alleged co-conspirators.

Those Justice Department lawyers work for Martins. He assigns them to cases, and they answer to him as well as the Justice Department.

BLENDING MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SYSTEMS

Martins himself is no stranger to the Department of Justice.

For seven months in 2009, between deployments, Martins worked at Justice on President Obama's Detention Policy Task Force.

Then, three years ago, he became the first soldier to have his promotion ceremony held in the Justice Department's Great Hall. The country's top civilian lawyer, Attorney General Eric Holder, spoke at the ceremony as did Gen. David Petraeus who, at the time, was the head of the United States Central Command. Petraeus and Martins have worked together for more than two decades.

At the ceremony, Petraeus praised Martins: "Above all he is one of those rare individuals who always seems to end up in the toughest assignments and always performs exceedingly well in them."

Petraeus was Martins' first boss when Martins was a junior JAG officer with the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, Ky. Years later, Martins helped Petraeus during the surge of U.S. troops in Iraq. Then Martins served in Afghanistan. He was in charge of a field team that was supposed to transform lawless areas in Afghanistan into law abiding ones. Now he's being asked to transform the military commissions at Guantanamo.

SUPPORT FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Martins has some unexpected allies on this mission, including key people at the Justice Department. Just last month, Holder, the attorney general, called the military commissions "essential to the effective administration of justice."

And he isn't alone. Lisa Monaco, the assistant attorney general for National Security at Justice, said the reformed military commissions have the "same fundamental guarantees of fairness that are the hallmark of criminal trials."

This is a far cry from the grumbling that could be heard coming out of the Justice Department when Congress passed a law that essentially required that detainees at Guantanamo be tried on base.

Still, critics have reservations.

"One of the biggest problems is that today's military commissions carry with them the baggage of the military commissions from the Bush era and there is no way to get around that," says Karen Greenberg, director of the Center on National Security at Fordham Law School.

That's why Greenberg says Martins has a Sisyphean task of correcting the commissions' difficult history. For example, the Bush era military commissions allowed hearsay evidence and coerced statements—statements that might have come from torture and while the reformed commissions, as Martins calls them, no longer permit that, the old system still manages to cast a pall over the new.

"There are other problems," says Greenberg. "Basic things like attorney-client privilege. Defense attorneys and their clients at Guantanamo have their mail read. This might be okay under some sort of military commission, but it carries with it the legacy that was part of the Bush administration's policy. The Bush administration treated defense attorneys as if they were collaborating with the enemy and that sense hasn't really gone away."

Martins acknowledges the difficulty: he says the Bush-era commissions system in 2001 was flawed. But the case he is making is that today's system is something else altogether.

Now commissions give those on trial a meaningful opportunity to mount a defense. "I believe that as people watch this system and see it is sharply adversarial, it has all the protections that are demanded by our values . . . that they will see that this is a system they can have confidence in," says Martins.

PLANS TO RETIRE FROM THE MILITARY

Martins would like to remain in the post for two more years, but has asked the military to allow him to retire after he finishes his current assignment as chief prosecutor.

"I've decided to request that this be my last assignment in the military," he told NPR in an interview. "That will afford a measure of continuity of the commissions process and it will enable me to stay at least until November 2014."

The departure of a chief prosecutor at Guantanamo has happened before, but under very different circumstances.

One chief prosecutor who preceded Martins was accused of rigging the military commissions process to ensure convictions.

Another quit after he said he felt pressured to include evidence derived from torture in commissions proceedings. He later said that he left because he didn't feel he could do that in good conscience.

Martins says his decision comes out of a need to make the commissions right. He says he wants to finish the job he started.

That job will be under even more scrutiny in the coming weeks. That's when Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other men accused of taking part in the 9–11 attacks are expected to be arraigned in a Guantanamo courtroom. Martins is keenly aware that everyone will be watching.

IN HONOR OF ELAINE DAVID

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Elaine David comes to us from Nova Scotia when her parents moved here to relocate in Mount Vernon where she graduated from high school, and by taking weekend and evening courses while working, she also graduated from Elizabeth Seton College.

As a hobby, she and her sister-in-law took classes in floral design and with the encouragement of her family, opened her own flower shop.

Elaine carried over that dedication into her community life. She is a devoted member of the Macedonian Baptist Church of Mount Vernon, a past member of the Black Women's Political Caucus of Westchester, and a member of several floral trade associations. She has received awards from Westchester School for Special Children, the Westchester Chapter of the National Association of Negro Professional Women's Club, the Empire State Funeral Directors Association and the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce.

For more than two decades Elaine David has served her community and the people in it faithfully and with devotion. I am happy to join with the Women's Civic Club of Nepperhan in honoring her for this dedication and thank her for all she has given.

HONORING COLONEL GEORGE D. BURROW

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a decorated war veteran who has made countless sacrifices for our great nation. Retired Colonel George D. Burrow, an American hero, has received numerous medals and recognitions for his unwavering service.

Colonel Burrow was born on May 6, 1932 in Port Arthur, Texas. He began his military career in 1950, when he joined the Texas National Guard. By 1958, he graduated from Officer Candidate School as a Distinguished Military Graduate with an Army commission. Shortly after becoming an officer, Mr. Burrow became airborne and aviator qualified.

Colonel Burrow served five tours overseas during times of crisis, including in Germany, Korea and Vietnam. During these conflicts, Mr. Burrow built the reputation of a genuinely modest, superior warrior that executed his missions with phenomenal efficiency and brilliance.

One of the many examples of Burrow's impressive leadership was his guidance over the Bravo Troop of the famed 1st Squadron, 9th Calvary during the Vietnam War. Burrow commanded the 27 Huey helicopters of Bravo Troop and the legendary group of choppers acquired the nickname-''Burrow's Barbarians.'' Bravo Troop accounted for more than 2,000 confirmed enemy kills between April 1967 and February 1968.

Colonel Burrow demonstrated unparalleled bravery and perseverance during battle. He was shot down a total of 13 times in Vietnam. When asked about how he managed to survive these seemingly hopeless events, he doesn't boast of his courage and inordinate ability to lead. Instead, Burrow praises his fellow service men that courageously fought alongside him and often times rescued Colonel Burrow and his men.

Colonel George Burrow retired after 39 years of service to the United State of America; his medals include the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Crosses (3rd Award), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (2nd Award), Air Medal (34th Award), Purple Heart (31st Award), DOD Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award), Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Master Army Aviator Wings, Parachute Badge, and Joint Chief of Staff Badge. Furthermore, to continue the remembrance of Burrow's service, he was inducted into the Infantry Hall of Fame in 1979.

Mr. Speaker, Retired Colonel George Burrow celebrated his Eightieth Birthday on May 6th, 2012 and it is a great honor for me to recognize an American hero on this day. I will conclude this account of Colonel Burrow's selfless accomplishments by asking my colleagues to join me in reflecting on, and recognizing him, as one of America's greatest men.

IN HONOR OF JAMES L. SIMMONS, JR.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, James L. Simmons, Jr., is a Yonkers native who has been giving back to his community for years. For many of those years he was owner/operator of a hair care salon in Yonkers while also serving as a community planner for affordable housing.

In 1999 Mr. Simmons started a partnership with the city of Yonkers to assist in developing affordable homes in distressed areas of southwest Yonkers. Under his leadership as Director of the Center for Urban Rehabilitation and Empowerment, CURE, as it is known, acquired numerous parcels of land in southwest Yonkers with the aid of the Bureau of Planning and Development.

With the land, Mr. Simmons, as general contractor, then obtained various grants and loans to complete two- and three-family homes. He acquired another parcel of land on which he built twelve condominium units and named the development after his late mother.

He had worked on numerous developments including the Waterfront Development Project Gazette Building, and he is now in the predevelopment stage of Cook's Landing, his largest project, which will be 77 affordable rental units.

Mr. Simmons has served on the Yonkers Community Advisory Committee and has received numerous awards for his achievements. He currently serves on the board of the Yonkers Community Action Program and is commissioner of the Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

I am proud to join with the Women's Civic Club of Nepperhan in honoring James Simmons for his outstanding work in developing and building homes for those who need them most.

IN RECOGNITION OF OFELIA RUDER'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE CUBAN HEBREW CONGREGATION OF MIAMI

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a remarkable woman who has meant so much to our South Florida community—Ofelia Ruder. Ofelia has dedicated her life in service to the Cuban Hebrew Congregation of Miami for the last 50 years, starting out as Secretary in 1962 and eventually becoming its Executive Director.

For the last half-century, Ofelia has been the cornerstone of the Cuban Hebrew Congregation in Miami Beach. Through her tireless work on behalf of the congregation she has become an influential leader and role-model, not just for the Cuban-Jewish community, but for South Florida as a whole.

What started out as a small group of Jewish Cuban families in 1961, many of whom having been forced to flee their home country for a second time, the Cuban Hebrew Congregation has become a dynamic and thriving institution that represents a cultural and educational epicenter for Judaism in South Florida. The Cuban Hebrew Congregation's community, ''El Circulo,'' with Ofelia at the forefront, has been committed to outstanding service to the Jewish community. For more than half a century Ofelia has been actively engaging our entire community, committed to improving our South Florida community and instilling the importance of community service and unity among those around her.

In addition to her numerous accomplishments, Ofelia is a proud mother of two sons, Albert and Bernie, who have continued her legacy of public service and have become dedicated public servants themselves.

On behalf of ''El Circulo'' and the entire South Florida community, I wish to congratulate and thank Ofelia for her 50 years of service with the Cuban Hebrew Congregation. I expect to hear ever greater things yet from Ofelia and the Cuban Hebrew Congregation.

IN HONOR OF NICHELE JOHNSON AND BROTHER ARTHUR MUHAMMAD

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Nichele Johnson and her husband Arthur Muhammad are continuing working for the youth of Mount Vernon and they raise four daughters of their own.

Nichele is Corporation Council for the City of Mount Vernon but it is her work with our young people and their families as a counselor and mentor that led to her being honored tonight by the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation. Her husband, Brother Arthur Muhammad can usually be found on streets where troubled youth congregate, there and in the classrooms of Mount Vernon High School where he engages with some of our city's most troubled youth.

Nichele was raised to embrace her multicultural heritage, to appreciate the power of prayer, and to contribute to society. This manifests itself through her counseling, her giving our food at soup kitchens, to gathering clothing for the needy.

Brother Arthur combines a soft-spoken demeanor with, when necessary, the firmness of one who knows what he is talking about. The respect he has earned often leads to his being called on as a mediator for all age groups.

The Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation is honoring Nichele and Brother Arthur who have worked to help all in need, no matter what the need. I am proud to join with the Foundation in praising the work of Nichele Johnson and Brother Arthur Muhammed for what they have done so much to make Mount Vernon a better place to live.

HONORING JUNE BURKART

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a dedicated wife, proud supporter of our military and veterans, and most importantly, a great Alaskan. On April 26, 2012, Alaska lost one of its hardest working and most dedicated daughters, Mrs. June Burkart.

Mrs. Burkhart was a loving wife and mother whose life was defined by service to her family and community. For decades she served on the boards of countless organizations that supported Alaskans, most recently raising significant funds for the Wounded Warriors Program. As an avid outdoor lover, she worked to ensure that any wounded warrior who wished to hunt or fish had the opportunity to do so through the Safari Club International Alaska Chapter.

For days, I can continue praising her many accomplishments and the many ways that she improved my life and the lives of anyone who knew her. Her memory will continue to live on in our hearts and souls. I hope that June's family, and especially her husband Roy, can take comfort in the bond they had with June as it will be with them always. I hope the precious memories the family has of her will bring them comfort, and that they will come to find, in the lovely words of Hugh Robert Orr:

''They are not dead who live in lives they leave behind. In those whom they have blessed, they live a life again, and shall live through the years eternal life, and shall grow each day more beautiful, as time declares their good, forgets the rest, and proves their immortality.''

IN HONOR OF CANTOR ERIK CONTZIUS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Cantor fills a special role within the Jewish community; leading worship, officiating at lifecycle events, teaching adults and children, conducting synagogue music programs, and offering pastoral care.

Ten years ago Cantor Erik Contzius brought his talent, his commitment to Reform Judaism and unique personality to Temple Israel of New Rochelle. All the congregants have been touched by him, from the training of children to become B'nai Mitzhvahs, to making the High Holidays alive with sound, to entertaining us with song. He holds a special place at Temple Israel of New Rochelle.

Cantor Contzius founded Kol Simkha, the Temple's youth choir, as soon as he arrived in New Rochelle. A decade and hundreds of students later, Kol Simkha is going strong, singing the beloved prayers at Family Services. Cantor Contzius has cultivated many young voices in the congregation, giving them a chance to be heard during special services and on his own album, Teach My Lips a Blessing.

Cantor Contzius has given many distinguished solo presentations, most recently with the Westchester Chorale, singing the Darius Milhaud Service Sacré. Within the synagogue, he performed with its own jazz band, Yidlock, as part of the annual Follies show, and with the Chordsmen, a barbershop quartet.

In November of 2010, the Cantor's original composition, ''Ma Ashiv Ladonai,'' was premiered at the Vatican—a true honor.

He was raised in Parsippany, N.J., received his B.A. in Psychology from Rutgers College and went on to study abroad at the University of York, England. He received his Master of Sacred Music degree from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, School of Sacred Music, studying in Israel and New York.

Before becoming a part of the Temple Israel family, along with his wife Monica and son Jacob, he served as Cantor at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel of Elkins Park, PA, and Temple Israel of Omaha.

I enthusiastically join with Temple Israel of New Rochelle in honoring Cantor Erik Contzius for the joy, guidance and leadership he has provided over the past decade and wish him many more years among us.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H. Res. 242, Recognizing May As National Foster Care Month, I rise to recognize this month dedicated to celebrating selfless foster families who open their hearts and their homes for children in need as well as rededicate myself to ensuring that every child has an opportunity for a brighter future.

I am honored to be a charter member of the Congressional Caucus for Foster Youth, a caucus that allows Members to gain a better understanding of the current state of foster care throughout the nation and identify potential federal policy modifications that could improve outcomes for the children in our country's foster care systems. On February 24, 2012, in an effort to address many of the ongoing issues foster youth face, members of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth launched a national listening tour which began in my district.

Mr. Speaker, currently there are over 463,000 children living in foster care. These children have been placed in homes on the account of the physical, sexual and emotional abuse they have endured with their biological caretaker. My state of California currently has the largest foster care population with the number of youths in foster care tripling since 1981.

Sixty-five percent of children who are not placed in a permanent home emancipate themselves from the system often left unemployed, without a place to live and resorting to homeless shelters. Less than 3 percent go on to college and emancipated females end up four times more likely to receive public assistance compared to the overall population of the United States.

Almost 30,000 children who are victims of abuse and neglect are entrusted to the care of the Los Angeles County Juvenile Dependency Court system. The court's primary mission is to ensure that these youth are safe, happy and secure. As a result, Los Angeles established the country's first courthouse especially designed for children and families.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we provide more programs, events, activities, and funding that will educate Americans about the success of children placed in permanent homes, debunk myths about the process and acknowledge the thousands of children who could potentially become a part of these statistics. Through these efforts we can increase the rate of adoption, decrease the rate of homelessness among the youths in this group and help develop future leaders and innovative thinkers of tomorrow.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the families who have opened their hearts and homes to foster children. Foster parents play a critical role in the lives of some of the most vulnerable youth in California and across the country. They help hold our nation's social fabric together by ensuring that thousands of young people in this country stay on track towards successful futures.

In addition, I would like to commend SHIELDS for Families, an internationally recognized organization in my district that transforms the lives of parents by providing them with resources to prevent children from going into the foster care system. This month, we celebrate these unsung heroes and their efforts to change the lives of these children.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor H.R. 2012, Foster Care Mentoring Act, focused on connecting foster youth with responsible and caring adults and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact legislation that addresses the very real and persisting needs of young people in our foster cares system.

During this month, we recognize all those who are helping to improve the lives of children in foster care but it also serves as a reminder that more must be done. These children deserve to grow up in a loving home that is safe, happy, and most importantly one they can call their own.

IN HONOR OF ELEAZER AND SARI KLEIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Eleazer and Sari Klein are admirably refreshing in that despite their impressive accomplishments, they remain a sincerely caring, responsive and unassuming couple. Both have much to be proud of. They come from families who have created worlds of good in diverse arenas. They use their talents to run successful businesses and support organizations of Torah and chesed. And for all this, it is clear that they take most pride in raising children who are a credit to their families.

Eleazer's father, Rabbi Dr. Bernard Klein, z''l, originally from Munkatch, survived the Holocaust, and went on to receive Smicha from Torah Vodaath, attend Columbia University and become a practicing Rav and Chairman of the Department of History, Philosophy and Political Science at the City University of New York. Mrs. Shirley Klein, amu''sh, granddaughter of Rav Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld zt''l, was a teacher and educator with a Masters in Education. Together, they infused their children with the primary goals of commitment to family, education and placing Torah values above all.

Sari's family, the esteemed Gotlib/Fink Family, remains one of the most respected families in Belgium. Her role models, Sari's parents and grandparents, realized success in business, but always kept at the top of their priorities raising a refined Torah family as well as doing their utmost to be Osek B'Tzarchei Tzibur. In a heart-warming gesture of generational bonding, Sari took their son, Michael, to Antwerp, to provide him the privilege of hearing his great-grandfather, Chazzan Fink, lead the tefillos this past Yom Kippur.

Catching a glimpse of Eleazer's modest demeanor walking into shul, ready to lain any kria, always with a sefer in his hand, one would be hard pressed to believe his imposing bio—Senior Partner in Schulte Roth & Zabel's corporate law department, rated one of NY's top attorneys by Super Lawyers, Senior Editor of the Yale Law Journal, noted legal speaker and author. And yet, he helped found the Agudah of Madison in Flatbush, is the first to deliver mishloach monos every Purim to his Rosh Yeshiva of Torah Vodaath, Rav Yisroel Reisman, Shlit''a, and makes himself available to dispense clarifying advice to anyone in need. With Smicha from Rav Pam zt''l, Eleazer maintains a very strong relationship with his Rabbeim, exemplifying what they taught: impeccable integrity, unflagging menschlikeit.

A graduate of Michlala and Stern, Sari, too is not complacent with past accomplishments. Juggling many roles—owner and manager of Virgo Business Centers which offers turnkey business offices, steadfast, sensitive confidante to friends on both sides of the ocean, organized chesed supporter—she takes overwhelming joy in being emotionally in tune with her husband and children. Truly, it is the Klein children who personify all that their parents and grandparents stand for—quietly strong, well mannered, articulate. Calling their children the Klein's ''masterpieces'', Rabbi Chaim Pechter, Menahel, comments, ''You cannot impose such things on children. Their behavior testifies to generations of midos tovos and hanhagos tovos in a home of Torah, Kedusha and Tahara.''

As Sari says, ''It's all about appreciating what you have and instilling the correct values into your children.'' It is our heartfelt brocha that all these extraordinary attributes, exemplifying ''Mah Tovu Ohalecha'' continue in their doros, ad bli dai.

May I have the honor of joining in congratulating Eleazer and Sari Klein as Guests of honor at the 13th Anniversary Dinner of Yeshiva Ohavei Torah.

HONORING ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a beacon of light in Tennessee. Built five decades ago on the belief that ''no child should die in the dawn of life,'' St. Jude is a place where children afflicted with disease, and parents burdened by lost hope, can find healing and the promise of tomorrow.

In its first ten years, the hard working medical team of St. Jude brought to 50 percent the survival rate for the most common form of childhood cancer. Building on that hard work and success, the research team of St. Jude continued to break through childhood disease barriers. Serving 7,800 active patients a year, the medical and professional staffs, along with volunteers around the country, serve the most vulnerable among us regardless of their ability to pay.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a glimmer of hope to the families of children faced with medical lost causes. I am thankful for the noble work of all those who are a part of the St. Jude community and look forward to the next 50 years of healing and hope. I rise today in support of St. Jude and ask my colleagues to join with me as we celebrate half a century of service to our children.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STOUGHTON AREA SENIOR CENTER

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of the Stoughton Area Senior Center and to recognize its outstanding commitment and contribution to our community.

The Stoughton Area Senior Center began operating out of the basement of Our Saviors Lutheran Church as a social gathering place for local seniors in 1972 and eventually relocated to the First Federal Bank building in 1994. Situated along the banks of the Yahara River, the Senior Center's distinctive Norwegian-style building not only provides essential support and programming, but also greets all of Stoughton's residents and visitors as they drive down Main Street and into town. Over the years both my staff and I have had the privilege of holding public meetings at the Senior Center.

The Senior Center is committed to the enrichment of the lives of seniors and their families through a wide array of programs. However, this building is a hub for much more than a few games of bingo or euchre. The vision and dedication of staff and volunteers has led to the development of innovative programs like Zumba and Tai Chi, classes on health insurance and economics, and support groups for families. A team of Case Managers strive to help seniors remain independent by providing information and guidance about local services. Additionally, the Senior Center prides itself on its nutritional program, which is funded through the Older Americans Act and directed by the staff nutritionist. Last year, the Senior Center served 4,531 meals in-house and delivered 15,140 more meals directly to homes.

From these vital services to community partnerships to annual pool tournaments, the Senior Center could not operate without the devotion and hard work of volunteers. Throughout the years, countless volunteers of all ages have contributed to and supported the Senior Center. In 2011, a total of 177 volunteers contributed a staggering 11,111 hours of service.

The Stoughton Area Senior Center believes that, ''Aging brings changes. You make life choices. We provide options.'' For the past 40 years, the Stoughton Area Senior Center has provided options, invaluable services, and programming for our seniors and community. I offer hearty congratulations to the staff, volunteers, community partners, and the City of Stoughton for remaining committed to providing the highest level of service to our seniors. I wish the Stoughton Area Senior Center the very best and many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF CALVIN JONES

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Calvin Jones, called CJ, has been involved with the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club, and counseling the youth of Mt. Vernon for more than 40 years. CJ first came to the Mt. Vernon Boy's Club at the age of 12 after he and another boy were seen fighting by then Director Dick Cuputo who stopped the fight and asked them to instead join the Club.

He would ask CJ, now a member, to help with odd jobs around the Boys Club and through his efforts and merit CJ was made a ''Lifetime Member'' of the Boys Club. In 1972 CJ was recruited by his brother James, who was Athletic Director and a basketball coach at the North Side unit of the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club, to become a basketball coach. Since then CJ has been a mentor and

counselor for thousands of children who have grown to become men and women living and serving in communities across America.

CJ has always stressed education and being a ''Student Athlete'' over just being an athlete. He continues to work at the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club as the Athletic Director and Head / Director of the Mount Vernon ''Elite'' AAU Basketball program.

Calvin Jones is being honored by the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation for his decades of good work for and among the youth of Mount Vernon. His motto, relevant to all of us, is that we should listen to our children because they have a lot to say and need to be heard.

I am proud to join with the Foundation in honoring CJ for his work in inculcating wise counsel into our young boys and girls, the fruit of which is growing and thriving across the country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. 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 $15,671,916,356,611.36. We've added $5,045,039,307,693.28 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORCHARDS CHILDREN'S SERVICES

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th Anniversary of Orchards Children's Services of Southfield, Michigan. For five decades, Orchards has been providing critical support services to families and youth in need across Southeast Michigan.

It was 1958 when the founding women of Orchards, all members of the National Council of Jewish Women, gathered to address a growing dilemma in communities across the region: inadequate resources available for families of at-risk youth. All too often, at-risk youth would end up being removed from their families and moved to facilities outside of Michigan. This led to the separation of many families and to moments of crisis for them. It was just four years later that Orchards was born—first as a single residence serving just seven young boys, then later with additional homes serving adolescent boys and girls.

After officially launching as an independent child care agency in 1987, Orchards has grown and expanded its programs to meet the changing needs of at-risk youth in a community uniquely challenged by long-term economic uncertainty. However, in-spite of these obstacles, Orchards has endured and its thousands of clients have achieved a brighter future. Today, Orchards' programs include foster care and adoption services, a complete array of services for strengthening family cohesiveness and a set of programs geared toward providing at-risk youth with the opportunities necessary to ensure a well-rounded development.

The importance of Orchards' services, in a time of unprecedented pressure and financial crisis for families across Southeast Michigan, cannot be overstated. Each year, Orchards serves over four thousand children and families, two thousand of them with its family preservation services, and all of them are at-risk. And even more telling, the average age of the youth Orchards supports is eight, which underscores the existing need for these critical services at an early age. In just one measure of its success, 96 percent of the youth in the Detroit School System that are served by Orchards complete their high school education and graduate—a figure almost three times the current rate system wide.

Mr. Speaker, for half of a century, Orchards Children's Services has been an orchard for its clients; a place where they can grow and prosper. Many times, Orchards' employees and supporters have been there during seminal moments of crisis to support at-risk youth and their families with critical social services. There is no doubt that Orchards' work has strengthened the core of Michigan's communities, its families, and our greatest asset, our children. I am so pleased to recognize Orchards on achieving this significant milestone, and I wish its CEO Michael Williams, its Board Chairperson Carol Klein and its employees, supporters and clients many decades of success to come.

IN HONOR OF DEACON MIRIAM LOPEZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Miriam Lopez is a retired New York City police officer who worked jointly with federal agencies because of her expertise in laws that governed firearms and explosives. She was in charge of the inspection of fire arm dealers in New York City and the tri-state area and the renewal or removal of the dealers' licenses.

After retiring from the Police Department, Deacon Lopez became more involved in the church and with youth. She had mentored teenagers for years through the Police Athletic League program, and now she is a member of the Generation X Ministry in Kingdom Baptist Church, serves as a Deacon for the congregation, and is the office and bookstore manager. Her passion for youth and the community has led her to pursue mission work, which is her next endeavor. Deacon Lopez is mother, grandmother, sister and daughter as well as a pillar of strength to the community she serves.

Deacon Miriam Lopez is being honored by the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation and I join with the Foundation in congratulating her for her years of working with our youth.

HONORING MAURICE AND SOPHIE CONTI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and selflessness of Maurice and Sophie Conti of Muir Beach, California. On October 13, 2008, the Contis, along with their young children Massimo and Annabelle, led the rescue of three sailors stranded by the sinking of their yacht some 60 miles from Fiji. The Contis have been recognized internationally for putting their own lives at risk in the service of others, and their example is a true credit to the sailing community and the people of Marin County.

On the night of October 12, 2008, the Australian and New Zealand crew of the Timella issued a distress call after running aground on the Takau Lakaleka reef in Fijian waters. After contacting the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions, the Contis quickly realized that no other vessel was in a position to assist the Timella. In the darkness, they set out on the two-and-a-half hour voyage to meet the stranded sailors, whose ship and life raft had both already sunk by the time of their arrival.

While Sophie Conti handled the Contis' catamaran in swells measuring 10 to 15 feet, Maurice Conti carefully navigated the reef to reach the crew of the Timella by dinghy. Coordinating with rescue teams based in New Zealand, the Contis then brought the stranded sailors safely to Fiji.

The Contis were awarded the International Maritime Organization Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea in 2009, and Cruising Club of America has awarded them the 2009 Rod Stephens Trophy for Outstanding Seamanship. This month, Maurice and Sophie Conti are also receiving New Zealand Bravery Medals from the government of New Zealand.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking the Conti family for their courage. They represent the best of the maritime tradition, and they are exemplary ambassadors for the civic-minded spirit of our community.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS STROKE AWARENESS MONTH AND HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of May as Stroke Awareness Month and High Blood Pressure Awareness Month. I encourage Americans to fight against stroke and high blood pressure and support individuals and their families who suffer from these devastating and debilitating afflictions.

In the United States, stroke is the third leading cause of death and the leading cause of long-term disability. In fact, one in four deaths in California is related to heart disease and stroke. While all ages, races and classes are at risk, African Americans are disproportionately at risk of experiencing high blood pressure and are almost twice as likely as other groups to experience a stroke.

As we enter into the month of May, we can all spread knowledge on prevention, changing the risk factors over which we have control. The Stroke Association of Southern California has reported that 70 percent of strokes are preventable through lifestyle changes, control of risk factors, and medical care. Several dangerous factors include physical inactivity and obesity, excessive alcohol consumption, and smoking.

The good news is that efforts aimed at prevention are working. Between the years 2000 and 2008, stroke mortality rates in California have declined from an average of 61.2 deaths per 100,000 people to 38.9 deaths per 100,000 people. We can continue this trend by raising awareness of risk factors and reducing inequalities in access to information and healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, American families deserve healthy and happy lives. This month let us rededicate ourselves to helping our families and neighbors become more aware of the risks and causes of high blood pressure and stroke.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOPKINS JUNIOR HIGH

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable achievement of the Hopkins Junior High School Science Team of Fremont, California for winning the National Science Bowl. This is the second time in four years that Hopkins Junior High School has won the National Science Bowl, sponsored by the Department of Energy.

Hopkins Junior High owes their success to team members Karthik Bharathala, Dhruv Muley, Catherine Zeng, Brian Tseng, Mark Choi and their teacher Paul Ricks, who practiced tirelessly for this year's competition. Clearly, that practice certainly paid off.

In the National Science Bowl, judged by United States Energy Secretary Steven Chu, five member teams compete against each other in a fast paced Jeopardy style format where teams try to be the first to correctly answer an oral question posed about science or math. Nearly 14,000 students participated in regional tournaments and more than 100 teams competed in the Nationals.

This accomplishment is evidence of the quality of Fremont's public schools. The dedication of students, teachers and parents has led to this great success, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them. We are incredibly proud of the Hopkins Junior High Science Team and their coach for this outstanding achievement.

IN HONOR OF MICCERICA THOMAS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, those who give back to their communities as especial treasures for the actively seek to better their inheritance. Miccerica Thomas grew up in Mount Vernon on a quiet street where her parents owned their home. She began her studies in the city's public schools and graduated from Roosevelt High School in Yonkers. She went on to achieve a degree in Business Accounting from Westchester Community College. While she now lives in White Plains, she continues to devote most of her time to Mount Vernon.

When she began working with Henry Allen over eleven years ago, she knew she had found an organization where she would be committed to for the long haul. At that time Henry was producing the Two Fools Charity Basketball Games out of his own pocket. He had the idea of giving back to the elementary school that he went to when he came to New York after losing his parents. Miccerica volunteered to help out and has never left.

Whether seeking donations, stuffing bags or making phone calls, Miccerica is an essential component of the small team that has made an idea a reality. When it was impossible for anyone to be on site while workmen were constructing the new computer lab, Miccerica jumped in a car and came to Mount Vernon to supervise. When a child lost her telephone at a game, Miccerica scoured the bleachers looking for it.

When not working with the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation, Miccerica can be found shopping for her favorite items—shoes, or working with the White Plains Housing Authority's summer basketball games.

Her son, Quan, and daughter, Roben, are currently in college pursuing psychology and forensic science studies. While they're away at school she concentrates spending more time with her adopted daughters, Kassandra and Carolyn.

I enthusiastically join with the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation in honoring Miccerica Thomas for the good work she has done with the Foundation for the people of Mount Vernon.

IN SUPPORT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we have spent months in this House watching the Republicans create an unstable business environment and hurt U.S. jobs while they delay the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. While the Export-Import Bank supports hundreds of thousands of American jobs every year at no cost and no risk to the taxpayer, the Republicans have been stuck between their radical tea-party ideology of pure free-markets on one side and the Republican Majority's relationship with Delta Airlines on the other. We now have a compromise that does not extend the Bank for as long as it needs to be or for as much as it needs to be long-term. We also have a real lack of understanding in the Congress and in the Public of what this Export-Import Bank does.

Over 50 countries have export-import banks and all of the them are growing right now. While they are competing and running faster, the Republicans have us sitting on our hands and unilaterally disarming. I could fill this chamber with the bipartisan, non-partisan, expert studies telling us for decades that we here in the United States don't do a good job promoting our exports.

My constituents, the port in my district and the huge number of exporting businesses in my district need the same kind of support from their government that all of their Chinese, and Indian, and European competitors are getting.

The current deal that's being worked on only reauthorizes the Export-Import Bank for a few years. My bill uses the same bipartisan framework that exists today and would authorize it for 10, through 2021.

Building on this bipartisan framework, my bill would also truly expand the Export-Import Bank's lending authorities, doubling it to $200 Billion. The Export-Import Bank makes money for the taxpayer, is virtually no risk, and the lending authority should be big enough so that it will actually keep up with our exports into the foreseeable future. This higher authority, along with the longer extension, will create the stability businesses and their workers need.

Finally, my bill asks the Government Accountability Office to study the Export-Import Bank and compare it to the Export-Import Banks its competing against in other countries around the world. How are we competing now that we have real stability and a cap that's responsible but doesn't constrain us? What can the Exlm Bank do better? This is the kind of forward analysis Congress needs to help our exporters.

Mr. Speaker, it's long past time for us to get the lobbyists out of the way of all other American businesses so that we can create jobs here at home.

PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support of H.R. 4215—The Medicare Pharmacy Transparency and Fair Auditing Act. This bill, introduced by Ms. MCMORRIS-RODGERS and Mr. ROSS, has bipartisan support and will result in more competitive practices in the Pharmaceutical industry. H.R. 4215 will require increased regulation of Pharmacy Benefit Managers, also known as PBMs, to ensure that consumers are receiving the care they deserve at competitive and fair costs.

Mr. Speaker, within the pharmaceutical industry there is a pressing issue concerning the lack of transparency surrounding PBM business practices. We cannot afford to allow these businesses to continue as usual in the pharmaceutical industry. The recent Express Scripts and Medco merger means that ''the big three'' PBMs will now control benefits for 72% of all Americans. I believe this makes it much more important that we act decisively and pass this legislation.

PBMs have engaged in practices that include: negotiating with drug manufacturers at the same time as employers and health plans to ensure they secure prescription drug plans that will benefit themselves, switching customers to higher priced plans and benefitting from both the rebate and higher payment without any benefit to the health plan provider and

employer, and also repeatedly changing pharmacy audit rules which makes it more difficult to ensure compliance. Mr. Speaker, these are only a few of the issues that plague loosely regulated PBMs and the pharmaceutical industry. We must bring this to an end.

H.R. 4215 will provide a greater level of transparency in PBM business practices, interactions with Medicare Part D, and other pharmaceutical stakeholders. It will increase regulation on PBMs, which are currently regulated in only a handful of states, and make certain that our Nation's pharmaceutical consumers are adequately protected. This should not be seen as a partisan issue, but rather, a quality of life issue that affects every single American.

Mr. Speaker, let's act now to pass this legislation and put a stop to anti-competitive practices in the prescription drug market. Let's protect consumers from being forced to pay higher prices for their medication. Let's do our part to lower healthcare costs, and ensure the best care for our constituents.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE SCOTT FOR RECEIVING THIS YEAR'S FEDERAL SERVICE AWARD

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michelle Scott of Raleigh, North Carolina, for receiving this year's Federal Service Award at the Department of Justice's annual victim's service awards. Having worked with crime victims for the past 12 years, she has shown great dedication to the people of North Carolina. The award she received recognizes service providers, other professionals, or volunteers, for their exceptional contributions and extraordinary impact on behalf of crime victims in Indian Country, on military installations, in national parks, or in other areas under federal jurisdiction.

Since 2003, Ms. Scott has led the biannual Federal Domestic Violence Conference in North Carolina. In response to the requirements of Title I of the Justice for All Act of 2004, Ms. Scott led the judges and prosecutors in the Eastern District of North Carolina to place the victim at the forefront of criminal proceedings. Ms. Scott developed and implemented model victim-witness training programs in Kosovo and Albania for judges, prosecutors, victim advocates, law enforcement offices, and non-governmental agencies.

I would like to express my sincere congratulations to Michelle Scott on receiving this year's Federal Service Award. I join with her family, friends, and colleagues in offering my praise and admiration for her work on behalf of crime victims here and abroad. I applaud what Michelle has done for the citizens of North Carolina and in Kosovo. We are lucky to have such a champion of victim's rights in our great state.

The 2nd district of North Carolina thrives on strong leaders like Michelle, who work hard every day to protect and serve the people of our community. I look forward to hearing about her future achievements, and may God continue to grant her success and happiness in all her endeavors.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRACY RANCH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tracy Ranch on the occasion of its 150th anniversary celebration. The Tracy Ranch has made a significant and historical impact on agriculture in Kern County. During its 150 year history, the Tracy Ranch has become a family-held operation that grows cotton, wheat, potatoes, tomatoes, almonds and pistachios. Beef raising rounds out the operations of Buttonwillow Land & Cattle Company, a partnership made up of three families: the Freys, Selvidges and Tracys.

The Tracy Ranch legacy officially began in 1862 when Ferdinand Tracy and Wellington Canfield formed the partnership Canfield & Tracy, a rangeland cattle operation. Their herds roamed the lower San Joaquin Valley, grazing on wild grass in an untamed dominion ruled by the likes of rattlesnakes, jackrabbits, coyotes and waterfowl. In 1875, Ferdinand married Ellen Baker, the widow of Colonel Thomas Baker. In 1898, Ferdinand's nephew, William Tracy, established what would be today's headquarters and historical park on Wildwood Road, 5 miles northeast of Buttonwillow. This era was marked by the raising of Belgian draft horses and later, ostriches. His marriage in 1904 to the daughter of another pioneer family, Fannie C. Rowlee, would yield six children.

With the death of William Tracy in 1941, his widow Fannie Tracy rallied her widespread children and their spouses back to the ranch. The result was a turning point that saved a ranch ravaged by bad luck of the 1920s and the Great Depression of the 1930s. Fueled by the talents and resources of the Freys, Selvidges and Tracys, made urgent by World War II, the ranch was transformed from an equine epoch into a mechanized farming operation. Today in the fifth generation, diversity is their strength. The Tracy Ranch is respected and should be honored for the achievement of their unity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work and dedication that the Tracy Ranch has put forth. Reaching its 150th year, the Tracy Ranch is joined today by only a handful of other surviving Kern County operations with roots going back to early California. I congratulate the Tracy Ranch on its many years of dedicated and successful work in California, and wish the families many successful years to come.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD SOSIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Richard Sosis is a committed social activist who has contributed to his communities through his work as a teacher and an attorney. He was born in 1941 in the Bronx to Phil, a union activist father, and Muriel, a mother active in tenant's-rights causes including the unsuccessful integration of Parkchester. His parents worked for racial and economic justice, rearing Richard in a household where politics was a constant conversation, even bringing him to demonstrations for civil rights causes.

This turned near tragic when the family attended a concert in Peekskill featuring Paul Robeson which was attacked by local racists protesting an integrated gathering. On the bus ride home, rocks smashed the bus windows and Muriel had to remove pieces of glass from his hair.

Not unexpectedly, Richard joined the civil rights and anti-war struggles of his youth. At CCNY he was a leader in gathering support for Freedom Rides and marches on Washington to press for greater civil rights for all Americans.

In 1963 he graduated and taught social studies teacher in a Queens middle school. In 1964 he entered St. John's University School of Law, graduating in 1967, passing the bar and becoming a practicing attorney. For eight years he had two full-time jobs—a teacher in Queens and as a lawyer in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

In 1971 Richard married Marion McBride, and they bought a brownstone in Cobble Hill. In 1975 their daughter Karin was born and in 1978 their son Andrew was born. Andrew passed away several years ago, and Karin lives and works in central Africa.

After Karin's birth Richard focused on teaching, with one of the first programs teaching law in a NYC public school. In 1995 he pursued his legal practice full-time.

Richard and Marion divorced in 1989, and Richard moved to Hillcrest Avenue and was elected President of the PTA at Albert Leonard Middle School. He met math teacher Judith Bobrow, and in 1991 they were married. Judith and Richard had a daughter Leah, in 1994, who is a senior and on the high honor roll at New Rochelle High School.

Richard has been on the Board of the New Rochelle Bar Association, and served as its president from 2007 to 2009. He continues his work with the Lawyer-in-the-Classroom program, which partners local attorneys with teachers and schools across the city.

Richard is the current Chair of the New Rochelle Zoning Board, having served on the board as a member and chair for almost 10 years.

For his years of service to his communities, I join with the New Rochelle Democratic Club in honoring Richard Sosis and wish him every success.

COMMEMORATING CINCO DE MAYO AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINO AMERICANS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, May 5 is the 150th anniversary of Cinco de Mayo which marks the historic triumph of the Mexican people over the French Army in Puebla. This holiday commemorates the Battle of Puebla where General Zaragoza and his ragtag band of patriots fought off the powerful and large French Army for their independence.

This battle and victory is an example of the many common bonds Mexicans and Americans have, such as, liberty and democracy.

This is also an example of the Mexican people's positive influence on the American people and culture through their continuous struggle for freedom. Today, young Mexican women and men serve in the Armed Forces defending our country from those who would do us harm.

Mr. Speaker, there are over 44 million Mexican-Americans living and contributing to the United States through their tenacious work ethic, positive energy and love for this country. As a representative of the 37th Congressional District of California which is home to over 300,000 constituents with Mexican and Latino heritage, it is my honor to rise in celebration of the Mexican and Latino people's struggles and achievements.

I am proud that Latinos have risen to leadership roles in every sector of American life—politics, law, medicine, entertainment, the media, sports, business, and the arts. Today there are 30 Latino Members of the United States Congress, including 7 California Democrats. I am privileged to serve with them in our fight to create jobs for Latinos and Latinas; make college more affordable for Latino young people, including by preventing interest rates on need-based student loans from doubling in July; and protecting Social Security and Medicare for the millions of Latino seniors who rely on these programs.

So on this glorious day let me wish my constituents, and all Americans, a very Happy Cinco de Mayo.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DAN UTLEY

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report the tragic loss of a young man who was born and raised in Kentucky's second district.

Captain Dan Utley, born in Bowling Green, Kentucky in 1979, and who was raised and educated in Glasgow, Kentucky, before graduating from the University of Louisville, was killed in action while serving in the U.S. Army in Mali on April 20, 2012, while on a training mission to help the people of that country combat terrorism.

Captain Utley was 33 years old. And I am told that in those 33 years he touched many lives with his intellect, his compassion, and his warmth. He was a sharp young man who, at every turn in his life, made the kind of selfless choices that define what it means to be an American hero. And make no mistake—Dan Utley and the members of America's Armed Forces who die defending our nation are indeed heroes. They put defending their country, their families, and our freedom ahead of their own lives.

During his Army service, Captain Utley served in many posts, all of them challenging and proof of his skill and talent. His deployments included serving in South Korea for 24 months, in Kuwait for 12 months, in Afghanistan for 13 months, and in Mali for seven months. It was in that North African country that Captain Utley lost his life.

A recent news article published by Reuters outlined the challenges facing Mali:

> Within weeks, Mali has plunged from being a sovereign democracy to a fractured territory without a state, occupied by competing rebel groups in the north while politicians and coup leaders in the south jostle for control of the capital Bamako.
>
> There is no sign the broken nation can be put back together soon—raising concerns among neighbors and Western powers of the emergence of a lawless ''rogue state'' exploited by al Qaeda and criminals.
>
> ''We have never been in such a dire situation at any other time in our history,'' said Mahmoud Dicko, influential head of the Islamic High Council in the poor former French colony once seen as a poster child for electoral democracy in West Africa.

Captain Utley was there because America is engaged in a worldwide fight against al Qaeda and other terrorist networks. His devotion to his country and to the less fortunate people of the third world took him to one of the most dangerous places on Earth. He made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the people of Mali and so that everyone back home can continue to enjoy freedom and safety. I am humbled every time I hear of one of these young men and women who have given their life so that their fellow citizens can enjoy their own life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Dan served with distinction during each of his missions. He served as a tactical communications platoon leader, an operations officer while in Kuwait, as aide-de-camp for the 160th Signal Brigade, and as a brigade civil affairs officer in the 101st Airborne. After completing a civil affairs qualifications course, Dan was assigned to F Company, 91st Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) as a Team Leader.

During the course of his service, Dan Utley won several awards and commendations, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Combat Star, The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the NATO Medal. Captain Utley also received the Basic Parachutist Badge and his Thailand Jump Wings.

What I've been told about Dan Utley is what I think every parent ultimately wants for their children—that they grow up with a strong desire to serve their fellow man, their country, and their community. That they grow up with an incredible work ethic. That they grow up with compassion and a desire to make a difference.

Dan Utley lived that kind of life, and I couldn't agree more with Dr. Gary Gregg, the Director of the McConnell Center at the University of Louisville where Captain Utley was a graduate, who lamented, ''America has lost one of its rising stars.'' And to my friend, the Senior Senator from Kentucky, MITCH MCCONNELL, I offer my sympathy on the loss of one of the greatest McConnell Scholars who has passed through the wonderful program that he set up at the University of Louisville to nurture the next generation of leadership for our Commonwealth.

Dan Utley is no longer with us, but he had already grown into a great leader, an American hero, and will forever serve as an example to others who seek positions of leadership. If every person who desires a chance to lead had the heart and values of Dan Utley, I imagine we would be living in a much better world.

Today, I offer condolences to Captain Utley's widow, Captain Katie M. Utley, who we also thank for serving in America's military; to Captain Utley's father, Charles L. Utley; his mother, Linda H. Utley; his brother and sister-in-law, Charles L. Utley II and Maria; his brother and sister-in-law, Matthew R. Utley and Michelle; his nephews, Matthew Ryan Utley and Mason Robert Utley; his niece, Marleigh Rose Utley; his maternal grandmother, Pauline Haynes; his parents-in-law, Chris and Peggy Michael; his brother-in-law, Matthew Michael; and many other friends and family members.

I am saddened by this loss, but heartened at the enduring courage of those who serve in America's Armed Forces. Kentucky is home to a great many families who have lost loved ones in the War on Terrorism and in previous conflicts in which our country has been engaged. We mourn always for their loss, and remain eternally grateful for their sacrifice.

HONORING ELMER ELLIS LIBRARY AT THE UNIVERISTY OF MISSOURI

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elmer Ellis Library at the University of Missouri on its 150th year of service in the Federal Depository Library Program, a program whose origins date back to 1813, when Congress first authorized the printing and distribution of copies of the Journals of the House and Senate, and other documents the chambers had ordered printed. One hundred and fifty years is a long time to do anything, especially, I would argue, to keep track of our government's too-numerous-to-name documents. Of course, I say that in jest—retention and preservation of tangible and digital information is critical, and future generations and scholars need an accurate record of the proceedings and actions of their government.

Since 1813, depository libraries have safeguarded the public's right to know by collecting, organizing, maintaining, preserving and assisting users with information from the federal government. Government documents span a wide range—from agency information, appropriations, census data and technical reports to Supreme Court decisions and insertions into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, such as my remarks today.

I also would like to take this opportunity to recognize Elmer Ellis Library on its recent receipt of the Federal Depository Library Program Spotlight Award, which highlights that not only is the library one of the oldest participants of the program, starting its program in 1862 in the midst of the Civil War, it also has one of the largest collections in the country, housing 1.5 million federal and Missouri state documents. Unbelievably, some of these documents date back to the founding of our nation.

Since the Federal Depository Library Program's inception in 1813, much has changed. Depository libraries still act as the bridge between our nation's government and its services, offering free access and assistance to interested individuals. However, technology has

transformed the way we create, process, store and distribute information. This means depository libraries must face the challenge of migrating government information to newer formats. Congress appreciates all of depository libraries' hard work and hopes to help move forward on these issues with them.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Elmer Ellis Library and its current coordinator, Marie Concannon, on reaching this significant milestone. Here's to another 150 years of Elmer Ellis Library's chronicling this body's steps and missteps!

IN HONOR OF THE 68TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USS YF–415 TRAGEDY

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and to honor the sacrifice of the men who lost their lives in a tragic accident on May 11, 1944, sixty-eight years ago. This tragedy occurred just fourteen miles off the coast of Massachusetts.

On that fateful day, the nine member crew of the USS YF–415 and twenty-one men from the Hingham, MA, Ammunition Depot were disposing of obsolete ammunition. The ship was loaded with one hundred fifty tons of ammunition and explosives. While they were performing their duties, the ammunition caught fire. The resulting fire and subsequent explosions lasted for nearly forty minutes. The ship went down and seventeen lives were lost. The USS *Zircon*, a weather observing ship, was fortunately nearby, and rescued fourteen men from the ocean.

From that day until July 20, 2003, the ship lay, undiscovered, at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. Amateur divers located the ship and reported it to the United States Navy. Once the United States Navy properly identified the ship, Navy divers were dispatched to investigate its remnants. Unfortunately, they were unable to find any trace of the missing men.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that today, we remember those men who lost their lives in the service of the United States of America sixty-eight years ago. Their courage and their devotion to their duty continue to inspire us today. It is appropriate that we as a nation express our condolences to their families who have suffered and endured their loss all these many years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add the names of these brave men into the RECORD so that all Americans may recognize their service and their sacrifice: William J. Bradley, Adell Braxton, Joseph F. Burke, Raymond N. Carr, Truman S. Chittick, George M. Cook, James Cox, Jr., Freddie Edwards, Jr., F.E. Federle, James S. Griffin, Charles R. Harris, Raymond L. Henry, Julian Jackson, Yee M. Jin, Mike Peschunka, Vernon Smith, James B. Turner.

CONGRESSIONAL ARTS COMPETITION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students participated in the 2012 Congressional Arts Competition, ''An Artistic Discovery.'' Their works of art are exceptional!

Sixty young men and women participated. That is a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition. First place was awarded to Jessica Menchon from Mt. Olive High School for her oil on canvas entitled, ''History of Waterloo Village.'' Second place was awarded to Vicki Liu from Ridge High School for her acrylic entitled, ''Shameless.'' Third place was awarded to Rachel Elias from Montville High School for her charcoal and chalk pastel entitled, ''Looking Up.''

Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Marlaina Lutz from Roxbury High School for her photograph entitled, ''Swallow and Hummingbird'' and Nicolas McMillen from Parsippany Christian School for his photograph entitled, ''Brotherly Tree.''

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name and the title of their contest entries for the official RECORD.

Boonton High School; Emily DiLaura ''Spring Labor.''

Franchesca LeBrun ''Portrait (Self);'' Sara Leslie ''When I Was a Little Girl;'' Sabrina Noel ''My Dog Trixie.''

Chatham High School; Zachary Blake ''Job Interview;'' Laura Cheong ''Boxful;'' Megan Gesell ''Autumn Change;'' Natalie Smith ''Untitled.''

Hopatcong High School; Katelyn Downey ''Capitol Building;'' Katlyn Garcia ''The North Tower;'' Gregory P. Smyth III ''Sussex Swans.''

Livingston High School; Sharon Aliev ''Gossip Girls;'' Andrea Cao ''Another Plague;'' Laura Lin ''Breath;'' Christina Torrens ''Fracture.''

Madison High School; Teri Minogue ''Reflection;'' Kyle T. Smith ''Falling Snow.''

Millburn High School; Alexandra Bass ''Section of a Collection;'' Zoe Denenberg ''Liberty.''

Millburn High School; Emily Draper ''Roses.''

Montville High School; Alexa D'Arienzo ''Goddess in Despair;'' Nicolette Russo ''Dripping;'' Jesse Stathis ''Apart of Me.''

Morris Catholic High School; Austin Dimore ''Behind the Mask;'' Lucas Milone ''Swamp Tree;'' Darius Osario ''Koi Pond;'' Diamante Soto ''The Dancer.''

Morris Knolls High School; Stefanie Fischer ''Watchtower;'' Emily Kovach ''Venice;'' Kathleen McGlynn ''America.'' Abigail Schaefer ''King of Spades.''

Mt. Olive High School; Emily Coughlah ''Stasis;'' Michael DiCola ''Hidden Beneath;'' Lori Tatum ''Autumn Glow.''

Parsippany Christian School; Troy Costa ''Reunion;'' Elisee Jean-Pierre ''The Lonely Bench;'' Daniel McMillen ''Root Life.''

Parsippany High School; Ashley Del Rio ''Untitled.''

Pequannock High School; Emily Grimaldi ''Great Apple Massacre;'' Thomas Kozell ''Lovely Agony;'' James Quinn ''Cosmos Hair;'' Joaquin Roca ''Bloody Mary.''

Pope John XXIII High School; Kelly King ''Government.''

Ridge High School; Clair Chin ''In This Day and Age;'' Laura Cursi ''Freedom's Reflection;'' Sophie Harris ''Modern World.''

Roxbury High School; Brianna Krop ''My 3rd Period Daydream;'' Cara Resiak ''One Fish, Two Fish, Me Fish, You Fish;'' Elizabeth Synalovski ''Madison.''

Sparta High School; Melissa Hespelt ''Four Eyed.''

Watchung Hills Regional High School; Steve Dodge ''Windows;'' Jesse Kukucka ''Creep;'' Carly Vautin ''Plant;'' Briarma Wallisch ''Unforgotten.''

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of our fellow Americans walk through the exhibition and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF OSCAR T. KADLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask for the House's attention today to honor Mr. Oscar T. Kadle.

Oscar T. Kadle was born April 2, 1921 in Four Mile, Alabama. He married Martha Brooks on February 22, 1958 and they have always lived in the Saks community. He was drafted into the Army in 1941 first stationed at Fort McPherson, Georgia and then Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, for boot camp. He left Fort Bliss and went to Hawaii on his way to the South Pacific where he served his country during World War II.

Oscar took part in the invasion of Saipan in 1944. After Saipan he was sent to Iwo Jima. In 1945, he was on a ship headed for mainland Japan for an invasion there. The ship was stopped before arriving in Japan, and the soldiers were left sitting in the ocean for two days waiting for orders. The first Atomic Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima at this time. Oscar's ship was ordered back to Iwo Jima. The war ended not long after this and Oscar was headed home to be discharged from the Army at Fort Shelby, Mississippi.

After returning home Oscar went to work for Seven Up Bottling Company for 25 years. He left Seven Up to go into the plumbing business and later went to work for Davis & Daniels Construction where he worked for 15 years until his retirement.

Oscar was very active in the construction of Harvest Media Center in 1995 and later in the construction of the Harvest Church of God Sanctuary. He was saved in 1985 while he was driving back home from a job in Tuscaloosa. Oscar started attending Harvest Church of God in 1985.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Mr. Kadle today and thank him for his outstanding service to our country.

THE SATELLITE SENTINEL PROJECT: MONITORING WAR CRIMES IN SUDAN

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, in late 2010 a remarkable and innovative project was established to use real-time satellite imagery to monitor and document the humanitarian and human rights situation on-the-ground in Sudan. The idea was the brainchild of activist and actor George Clooney and came into being through a remarkable collaboration between Clooney's humanitarian foundation Not on Our Watch, the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the incredible generosity of DigitalGlobal, the commercial satellite company that has donated thousands of images of activities taking place on-the-ground in Sudan. Through these images, the world has seen images in southern Sudan that may be mass graves, and others documenting military attacks on civilian targets. The project is an invaluable tool not only for understanding what is happening in real-time in Sudan, but in providing evidence that may one day be used in international trials for war crimes committed against Sudan's defenseless civilian population. A story about how this project was set up and the team of Harvard faculty, students and interns who monitor and analyze the satellite imagery was published in the April 29th edition of the Boston Globe Sunday Magazine. I salute the Satellite Sentinel Project and all its collaborators for their singular contribution in documenting the human rights and humanitarian reality in Sudan.

Attachment:

[From the Boston Globe Sunday Magazine, Apr. 29, 2012]

SPYLAB: HOW A TEAM OF HARVARD GEEKS IS USING A SATELLITE—PLUS A LITTLE HELP FROM GEORGE CLOONEY—TO REWRITE THE RULES OF HUMANITARIANISM

(By Michael Blanding)

Late-afternoon light slants outside the windows of a Harvard Square conference room where half a dozen twenty- and thirty-somethings huddle around a table covered with laptops, several cups of coffee, and one falafel sandwich. It could be a grad student study session, at least until a young woman named Brittany Card stands up in front of a white board covered in drawings of soldiers and tanks in Sudan.

''I'm just going to go through the sitrep from memory, so everyone's on the same page,'' Card begins, sounding more like a general in uniform than a 23-year-old in pearls and a plum-colored dress. Her situation report on the afternoon of March 27 goes on to cite massive troop movements, aerial bombardments, and a flurry of acronyms. As she talks, the group looks at satellite images of scrub desert and buildings projected on a pull-down screen at the far end of the room.

Last year, South Sudan split from Sudan, and the North African countries have teetered on the verge of war ever since. A day earlier, Card continues, the fragile cease-fire seemed to snap. It appeared that Sudan Armed Forces (SAP) had bombed an oil field in South Sudan; meanwhile, southern militias from the Sudan People's liberation Army (SPLA) had apparently attacked an oil field in the north. The question was, who started the fighting—and what would happen next?

Card is the data analysis coordinator for The Satellite Sentinel Project, which has been asking questions like this since late 2010, when a foundation cofounded by actor George Clooney put up the money for an audacious project to use satellites to spy on combatants in an active conflict zone. Operating out of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, the project's goal is to protect civilians, but to do that the team has had to learn to think like military commanders.

''Is this a SAF play or a southern play?'' asks Satellite Sentinel Project's director of operations, Nathaniel Raymond, a 34-year-old with mussed-up hair and tortoiseshell glasses.

''Whoever's play it is,'' replies Benjamin Davies, the 34-year-old fast-talking deputy director, ''we had rapid events take place'' on the border.

And while they weren't watching. like everyone else, they had been focused on Sudan's Kauda Valley, where the Sudanese government has hemmed in rebels and civilians alike, blocking food shipments and conducting bombing raids that drive them into the surrounding Nuba Mountains.

The team begins throwing out ideas for what could be happening.

Davies theorizes the Sudan military could finally be preparing for an assault on the Kauda Valley. No, Raymond says; they would have seen more activity from all the troops in that area. ''It's like The Two Towers. You look out, and there are a lot of orcs and torches,'' he says. If you're stuck in the Nuba Mountains, he adds, ''you are saying, 'Where is Gandalf right about now? Can you text him again?' ''

The group is fond of movie analogies. Before the night is through, they'll reference Harry Potter, The Matrix, WarGames, and The Hunt for Red October as part of their unusual mix of war-room bravado, nonprofit earnestness, and dorm-room antics.

Suddenly a thought occurs to Raymond: What if the SAF troop buildup in Kauda is a trick to draw in southern rebels? He slams the table. ''Oh man, it's obvious. You draw them in and then you hit their flanks.'' He points to an area in Sudan by the cities of Muglad and Babanusa, where tanks dropped off by train would have an uncontested route to the border. In minutes, Card finds that the nomads usually seen in the region are much farther south—that could mean they've been driven out. The team's manager of imagery analysis, Isaac Baker, 32, calls up satellite shots that show roads being built from Muglad and tanks stationed in Babanusa. The evidence is mounting.

This theory would be a change from the one the Satellite Sentinel Project has been building. Just a week earlier, on March 16, Clooney and other activists led a protest in front of the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, D.C., to draw attention to the plight of the refugees in the Nuba Mountains. ''It's about to start raining, and once it starts raining there, thousands of people are going to die,'' the actor said. He then crossed a police line and was arrested, and his message was broadcast everywhere from CNN to TMZ.

Now, however, the Harvard group suspects everyone was looking at the wrong spot. If their theory proves true, they will have predicted an invasion before it happened. If it's not, they will have wasted thousands of dollars in free imagery from a satellite company that has already given them millions' worth, and taken their eyes off the real conflict ''How confident do we feel about this?'' Raymond asks.

They decide to go for it. Since the images won't come in until tomorrow, all they can do now is wait. It's close to 9 p.m. when the group breaks up. ''It's addictive, isn't it?'' says Jody Heck, a Harvard sophomore. ''I have to study for a 10 o'clock exam tomorrow''

Using satellites to search for war crimes in the Sudan was George Clooney's idea. He had started making trips to the country six years ago. In October 2010, just months before South Sudan voted to declare independence, he returned with the Enough Project, a Washington-based nongovernmental organization working to end genocide and other crimes against humanity. ''If entertainment is going to trump news,'' Clooney says by phone from Los Angeles, ''then entertainment should go where the news is.''

Whenever violence had occurred in Sudan in the past, the government had always been able to deny it Sitting in the desert one night with Enough's cofounder, John Prendergast, Clooney asked, ''Why is it that you can Google Earth my house, but you can't do the same thing to war criminals?'' There had to be away, he continued, they could turn satellites into the humanitarian equivalent of paparazzi.

They could certainly try, figured Jonathan Hutson, Enough's communications director. He had previously worked with Nathaniel Raymond at Physicians for Human Rights in Cambridge, where they had used them to investigate mass graves in Afghanistan. A few nights after Clooney's trip, Hutson found himself in the actor's suite at D.C.'s Willard InterContinental, eating pizza and setting up a conference call with Google and the United Nations. Their goal, Hutson says, was to figure out a way to ''stop a war before it starts:''

It took less than three months for the Enough team to launch the Satellite Sentinel Project, with $750,000 in seed money from Not on Our Watch, the humanitarian foundation Clooney started with actors Don Cheadle, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon and others. Hutson got Raymond to direct the operations of the project, and Raymond got Harvard to host it. Finally commercial satellite company DigitalGlobe agreed to donate images—which can cost thousands of dollars apiece—and helped train Isaac Baker and student interns to analyze the footage.

With four staff members and a half-dozen interns, the new team quickly learned to search for clues of impending attacks. Nine after launching the project, they detected SAF troops gathering within 40 miles of the Sudanese village of Kurmuk. After the Satellite Sentinel Project issued a report about it over the Internet, more than 1,500 villagers fled across the border to Ethiopia. By the time the invasion took place, there were few people left to kill. ''We saw that coming and went all Paul Revere up in that,'' Raymond says.

The project's ability to warn civilians of impending violence ''is unique in my experience,'' says Stephen Wood, an ex-CIA analyst who is vice president of DigitalGlobe's Analysis Center. Just as important, though, is how they document past abuses. ''We've watched villages being absolutely destroyed, and being able to help explain how dire that is has been very significant.''

Last summer, for instance, the Satellite Sentinel Project alleged Sudan was killing

civilians and burying them in mass graves in the town of Kadugli. Yet in a Washington Post article, the United States' special envoy to Sudan said US intelligence reports showed no evidence such graves actually existed.

The team kept looking. ''We had multiple people speaking to us saying bodies were being buried near a [particular] water tower,'' recalls Benjamin Davies. One day, Ben Wang, an 18-year-old intern from Tufts, was looking at satellite images when he noticed the tower had moved. He pointed to a hole in the ground where it had been. ''The grave is there,'' he said.

Over the next month, the team watched the tower move back to its original place, covering up the grave. In August, they released a report and, by year's end, Time magazine reported that the International Criminal Court was investigating war crimes based largely on information gathered by the group.

As Satellite Sentinel Project reports were increasingly being cited by Congress members and UN officials, the team began to realize something new was happening. Rather than remaining passive observers, they were affecting the actions of the combatants. The Sudan Armed Forces started hiding their tanks inside tarps and bunkers, camouflaging them not from the enemy on the ground but from a satellite 300 miles above it. Major offensives began starting on American holidays—Thanksgiving, Presidents' Day weekend—as if the fighters hoped the people watching in Cambridge would be away from their computers. Then this past January, days after the project issued a report mentioning road construction, 29 Chinese workers helping build the road for the SAF—innocents in the conflict—were kidnapped by Sudanese rebels. They weren't released for 11 days. ''It was the sum of all fears,'' Raymond says. ''It's what we work every day to avoid.''

Raymond and the others at Harvard may toil on laptops half a world away from any violence, but their work isn't virtual. Every member of the team has had ''Sudan dreams,'' as they call their nightmares of shooting and being shot. ''There is an immense intimacy to the violence; Raymond says. ''We are not sifting through reports to create a static archive of events. We are actually affecting the ways in which perpetrators make decisions.''

It's a heady responsibility for a team whose eldest member is 34. But while members hasten to add that Harvard professors and DigitalGlobe analysts are advising their moves, there is something about the digital generation of activists that uniquely suits them to the task. ''We could not reproduce this with people who have been trained in other [nongovernmental organizations],'' says Davies. The qualities said to characterize Generation Y—the ability to multitask on multiple technologies, a facility for social networking and teamwork, and even the individual sense of entitlement over deference to hierarchy—all help this group analyze data and make decisions quickly. ''People overvalue expertise,'' says Raymond, perhaps the first time those words have been spoken at Harvard. ''Critical thinking and the ability to learn complex systems is more important than some one walking in with six PhDs.''

The amateur satellite sleuths were put to the test in March when Clooney was set to meet with President Obama and testify before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. On a recent trip to the Nuba Mountains, he'd witnessed a rocket attack and interviewed children who had lost limbs from bombings—but his testimony would not be proof. And while the Satellite Sentinel Project had satellite images from the time showing smoke from alleged bombings, they couldn't find the ''shooter''—artillery or aircraft—that caused it ''We are presenting a report with the biggest movie star in the world meeting with the president of the United States,'' recalls Raymond. ''You want to find the shooter.''

Baker kept at it. After days of triangulating from nearby airstrips and squinting at his computer screen, he finally noticed a speck he hadn't seen before—it was an Antonov AN–26, a Soviet-era cargo plane Sudan uses as a makeshift bomber. ''This was literally the smoking gun,'' says Davies.

Two days later, Clooney showed the satellite image to the Senate committee, with the Antonov outlined in blue. He credited the Harvard team with the evidence.

''Their level of expertise is incredible, but more than that is their level of commitment,'' Clooney says now. ''Sometimes they are up all night trying to figure this stuff out, for no other reason than they are trying to save lives. And they don't get enough acknowledgment for that.''

It looks as if the project staff has been up all night. It's March 29, two days after they'd decided to search for the flanking attack, and they're again gathered around their conference table. Eyes are bleary, and the group is quiet. They've got the satellite images they asked for, but not the proof of an imminent invasion. ''We wanted a softball,'' Davies says. ''Sometimes you don't get that.''

Baker, as he tends to do, is still searching his laptop screen for overlooked clues. Davies starts projecting Beyonce videos from YouTube on the screen. ''We see a lot of dead bodies in here,'' he says. ''Beyonce is deadbody kryptonite.''

After more than an hour, Bakes finds some new checkpoints and signs of tank movements, but still no smoking gun. Raymond prepares to call it a night.

In the days to come, Baker will find two tanks that could signal an invasion. By late April, news reports would indicate the region edging ever closer to wax. After South Sudan seized the oil-rich Sudanese town of Heglig, Sudan bombed a bridge in South Sudan, killing several civilians. Despite pleas from the United Nations and African Union, the violence would continue. The team may have been incorrect about the location of attacks, but they had accurately predicted SAF was mobilizing for a fight.

That realization is still weeks away, though, and tonight the mood is somber. ''Should we move [the satellite's focus] south or stay tight on the border?'' Raymond muses aloud.

The question is a fraught one. After providing some $16 million in pro bono imagery and analysis, DigitalGlobe has been negotiating new pay rates going forward. While Clooney has helped raise an additional million dollars for the project over the past year, much of that money has already been spent. That means even as violence escalates in Africa; the future of the Satellite Sentinel Project is in doubt. ''I am doing the best I can to raise money through speaking engagements,'' Clooney says. ''I believe we are going to be able to keep this up. The question is can we find ways to sustain it.''

For now, though, it's time for the team to regroup. ''This is not a bad day; this is a good day,'' says Raymond, rallying the troops with a kind of battlefield speech. Redirecting the satellite ''was the right thing to do,' he says. ''We needed to make sure we were seeing the whole picture.''

HONORING MARGARET BRACEY PLEASANTS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Margaret Bracy Pleasants, a Florida-born teacher and active member of her community. Ms. Pleasants was 79 years of age.

Ms. Pleasants placed great value in her involvement in various civic organizations and social clubs. Despite moving several times throughout her life, Ms. Pleasants was always an active member of her community, and made lasting connections with her neighbors. From her humble beginnings in Jacksonville, Florida, to her eventual move to Texas and California, Ms. Pleasants always left a lasting impression on those around her.

Ms. Pleasants was blessed with musical talents, and used them in service to her local church.

Ms. Pleasants always wanted to become an educator, and it was her dream to inspire future generations. She taught at the Bryant Academy and later at Jack Yates High School in Houston, Texas. Ms. Pleasants inspired her students and taught them the value of life. While teaching at Whaley Middle School in California, Ms. Pleasants formed the Human Relations Club, a group focused on bringing multicultural events to the entire student body. She used her love of different cultures to inspire her students, expand their horizons, and help them to embrace cultural diversity.

Mr. Speaker, Margaret Pleasants enjoyed many simple pastimes and was always eager to share in those experiences with others. She understood well the importance of living in the moment and bestowing those values upon future generations. While her passing comes as a great loss to many, we may continue to look to her life for inspiration.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCCUPATION OF SHUSHA IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, given the significance of this week to the U.S.-Azerbaijan bilateral relationship, it is important to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Occupation of Shusha in Azerbaijan. Shusha lies within the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and is another painful reminder of the ongoing conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the region.

Twenty years ago today, Armenian forces stormed the strategically important town of Shusha, which lies on a hill just over three miles away from the Nagorno-Karabakh capital of Stepanakert. The town was attacked at the break of dawn from three sides, trapping Azeri military units and civilians on their hilltop.

For hours the town was shelled, killing and wounding thousands of men, women, and children, and the attacking forces have occupied it ever since.

As a result of this tragic incident, the rich history and culture of Shusha remains inaccessible to the Azeri people who are prohibited from visiting the ancient Azeri museums, religious sites, musical schools, and historical sites of their past.

Despite four United Nations resolutions insisting that the Nagorno-Karabakh region—and by extension, the town of Shusha—legally belongs to Azerbaijan, the region remains war-torn and steeped in conflict.

Today we remember those who died defending their homeland and support those who are still affected, unable to return to the homes from which they were separated.

My hope is that this anniversary will provide another opportunity to work together to ensure a peaceable, lasting resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict so that people from both nations will no longer suffer.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 9

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Economic Policy Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the National Flood Insurance Program, focusing on the need for long-term reauthorization and reform.
SD–538

Appropriations
Department of Homeland Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Coast Guard.
SD–138

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Joseph G. Jordan, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, Executive Office of the President.
SD–342

Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator.
SD–226

10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To receive a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Central Command and Africa Command Programs.
SVC–217

2 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine limiting Federal support for financial institutions.
SD–538

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the need for privacy protections, focusing on perspectives from the Administration and the Federal Trade Commission.
SR–253

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert E. Bacharach, of Oklahoma, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Paul William Grimm, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, John E. Dowdell, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, Mark E. Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida, and Brian J. Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.
SD–226

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine building and maintaining an effective human resource workforce in the Federal government.
SD–342

Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.
SH–219

3:30 p.m.
Appropriations
Financial Service and General Government Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine expanding broadband access, promoting innovation, and protecting consumers in a communications revolution, focusing on fiscal year 2013 resource needs for the Federal Communications Commission.
SD–138

MAY 10

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 2374, to amend the Helium Act to ensure the expedient and responsible draw-down of the Federal Helium Reserve in a manner that protects the interests of private industry, the scientific, medical, and industrial communities, commercial users, and Federal agencies.
SD–366

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patricia K. Falcone, of California, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, Marietta S. Robinson, of Michigan, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and William P. Doyle, of Pennsylvania, and Richard A. Lidinsky, Jr., of Maryland, both to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner.
SR–253

Finance
To hold hearings to examine Medicare physician payments, focusing on understanding the past so we can envision the future.
SD–215

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), focusing on Chicago and beyond.
SD–419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine helping the middle class balance work and family.
SD–430

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 2276, to permit Federal officers to remove cases involving crimes of violence to Federal court, S. 2554, to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2017, and the nominations of David Medine, of Maryland, to be Chairman, James Xavier Dempsey, of California, Elisebeth Collins Cook, of Illinois, Rachel L. Brand, of Iowa, and Patricia M. Wald, of the District of Columbia, all to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.
SD–226

Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine current readiness of U.S. forces in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–232A

10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To receive a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Pacific Command Programs.
SVC–217

MAY 16

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine seamless transition, focusing on a review of the Integrated Disability Evaluation System.
SH–216

MAY 17

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 2146, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to create a market-oriented standard for clean electric energy generation.
SD–366

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine creating positive learning environments for all students.
SD–G50

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine fulfilling the Federal trust responsibility, focusing on the foundation of

the government-to-government relationship.

SD–628

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–232A

11 a.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SD–G50

2 p.m.
Armed Services
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–232A

3:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Airland Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–232A

5 p.m.
Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–232A

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Strategic Forces Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–232A

2:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–222

MAY 24

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue markup of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–222

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine programs and services for native veterans.

SD–628

MAY 25

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue markup of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.

SR–222

CANCELLATIONS

MAY 10

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine new tax burdens on tribal self-determination.

SD–628

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2891–S2931

Measures Introduced: Three hundred thirty-one bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2508–2838. **Pages S2922–28**

Measures Reported:

H.R. 2668, to designate the station of the United States Border Patrol located at 2136 South Naco Highway in Bisbee, Arizona, as the "Brian A. Terry Border Patrol Station".

S. Res. 435, calling for democratic change in Syria, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. 2516, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, to establish user-fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars. **Pages S2921–22**

Measures Considered:

Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2343, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans. **Pages S2892–S2906**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, May 8, 2012; with the time until 12 p.m. equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees, and that following the remarks of the two Leaders, the Majority control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans control the second 30 minutes; and that following the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the bill, Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings. **Page S2931**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Ajit Varadaraj Pai, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2011. **Pages S2892, S2931**

Jessica Rosenworcel, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2010. **Pages S2892, S2931**

By 91 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 88), Jacqueline H. Nguyen, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Pages S2907–13, S2931**

Kristine Gerhard Baker, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. **Pages S2907–13, S2931**

John Z. Lee, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. **Pages S2907–13, S2931**

Messages from the House: **Page S2920**

Measures Referred: **Page S2920**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S2920**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2920–21**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2928–29**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2929–30**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2918–20**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S2930**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—88) **Page S2912**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:46 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 8, 2012. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2931.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 215 public bills, H.R. 5327–5541; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 122; and H. Res. 644–646, were introduced. **Pages H2316–21**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2328–30**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed on May 2, 2012 as follows:

H.R. 5325, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 112–462) and

H.R. 5326, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 112–463).

A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 643, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, 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. 112–464). **Page H2316**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Smith (NE) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2291**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H2292**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha: H. Con. Res. 105, to authorize the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 376 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 196; **Pages H2292–95, H2301**

Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby: H. Con. Res. 106, to authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby; **Pages H2295–96**

John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2012: H.R. 4097, to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; **Pages H2296–97**

Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service: H. Con. Res. 117, to authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 377 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 197; **Pages H2297–98 H2301–02**

Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run: H. Con. Res. 118, to authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 375 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 198; and **Pages H2298–99, H2302–03**

Authorizing the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy: S. 1302, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy. **Pages H2299–H2300**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:04 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H2300**

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on page H2330.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2301, H2302, and H2302–03. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SEQUESTER REPLACEMENT ACT OF 2012; AND SEQUESTER REPLACEMENT RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2012

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee began a markup of H.R. 4966, the Sequester Replacement Act of 2012 and the Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act of 2012.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2013

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 5326, making appropriations for the Department of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related

Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 7 to 3, an open rule providing one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI. Under the Rules of the House the bill shall be read for amendment by paragraph. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the Congressional Record. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides that, until the adoption of a conference report on the budget resolution, the allocations of spending authority printed in Tables 11 and 12 of the Budget Committee report accompanying the House-passed budget resolution shall be considered to be the allocations under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. Finally, 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 on May 10, 2012, providing for consideration or disposition of any measure reported by the Committee on the Budget relating to section 201 of House Concurrent Resolution 112. Testimony was heard from Representatives Wolf and Fattah.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to receive a closed briefing on the Defense Clandestine Service in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings to examine tactical aircraft programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program, 3 p.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine expanding refinancing opportunities to improve the housing market, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mark J. Mazur, of New Jersey, and Matthew S. Rutherford, of Illinois, both to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Meredith M. Broadbent, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Joint Meetings

Conference: meeting of conferees on H.R. 4348, to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, and for other purposes, 3 p.m., SH–216.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of May 8 through May 11, 2012

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday,* at approximately 10 a.m., Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2343, Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed at 12 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: May 9, Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Coast Guard, 10 a.m., SD–138.

May 9, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to receive a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Central Command and Africa Command Programs, 10:30 a.m., SVC–217.

May 9, Subcommittee on Financial Service and General Government, to hold hearings to examine expanding broadband access, promoting innovation, and protecting consumers in a communications revolution, focusing on fiscal year 2013 resource needs for the Federal Communications Commission, 3:30 p.m., SD–138.

May 10, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to receive a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Pacific Command Programs, 10:30 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Armed Services: May 8, to receive a closed briefing on the Defense Clandestine Service in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

May 8, Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings to examine tactical aircraft programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program, 3 p.m., SR–232A.

May 10, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine current readiness of U.S. forces in review of the Defense Authorization request

for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program, 10 a.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: May 8, to hold hearings to examine expanding refinancing opportunities to improve the housing market, 10 a.m., SD–538.

May 9, Subcommittee on Economic Policy, to hold hearings to examine the National Flood Insurance Program, focusing on the need for long-term reauthorization and reform, 10 a.m., SD–538.

May 9, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine limiting Federal support for financial institutions, 2 p.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: May 9, to hold hearings to examine the need for privacy protections, focusing on perspectives from the Administration and the Federal Trade Commission, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

May 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patricia K. Falcone, of California, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, Marietta S. Robinson, of Michigan, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and William P. Doyle, of Pennsylvania, and Richard A. Lidinsky, Jr., of Maryland, both to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: May 10, to hold hearings to examine S. 2374, to amend the Helium Act to ensure the expedient and responsible draw-down of the Federal Helium Reserve in a manner that protects the interests of private industry, the scientific, medical, and industrial communities, commercial users, and Federal agencies, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: May 8, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mark J. Mazur, of New Jersey, and Matthew S. Rutherford, of Illinois, both to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Meredith M. Broadbent, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission, 10 a.m., SD–215.

May 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Medicare physician payments, focusing on understanding the past so we can envision the future, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: May 10, to hold hearings to examine the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), focusing on Chicago and beyond, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: May 10, to hold hearings to examine helping the middle class balance work and family, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: May 9, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Joseph G. Jordan, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, Executive Office of the President, 10 a.m., SD–342.

May 9, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine building and maintaining an effective human resource workforce in the Federal government, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: May 9, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, 10 a.m., SD–226.

May 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert E. Bacharach, of Oklahoma, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Paul William Grimm, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, John E. Dowdell, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, Mark E. Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida, and Brian J. Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

May 10, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 2276, to permit Federal officers to remove cases involving crimes of violence to Federal court, S. 2554, to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2017, and the nominations of David Medine, of Maryland, to be Chairman, James Xavier Dempsey, of California, Elisebeth Collins Cook, of Illinois, Rachel L. Brand, of Iowa, and Patricia M. Wald, of the District of Columbia, all to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: May 8, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

May 9, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture: May 8, Subcommittee on Nutrition and Horticulture, hearing entitled ''Formulation of the 2012 Farm Bill: Specialty Crop and Nutrition Programs'', 11 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

May 10, Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, and Credit, hearing entitled ''Formulation of the 2012 Farm Bill: Credit Programs'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations: May 8, Subcommittee on Defense, markup of Defense Appropriations Bill FY 2013, 10 a.m. This is a closed hearing.

May 8, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, markup of Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill FY 2013, 11:30 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

May 9, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, markup of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill FY 2013, 10:15 a.m., H–140, Capitol.

May 9, Subcommittee State and Foreign Operations, markup of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill FY 2013, 11 a.m., H–140, Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, May 9, Full Committee, markup of H.R. 4310, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, May 8, Subcommittee on Health, markup of legislation to reauthorize under fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, established under fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars, and reform FDA programs, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 9, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing on H.R. 4273, the ''Resolving Environmental and Grid Reliability Conflicts Act of 2012''; and Discussion Draft of the ''Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012'', 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 9, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, hearing entitled ''Budget and Spending Concerns at HHS'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services: May 8, Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy and Technology, hearing entitled ''Improving the Federal Reserve System: Examining Legislation to Reform the Fed and Other Alternatives'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

May 9, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''Rising Regulatory Compliance Costs and Their Impact on the Health of Small Financial Institutions'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

May 9, Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Federal Housing Administration's Reverse Mortgage Program for Seniors'', 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

May 10, Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled ''The Costs and Consequences of Dodd-Frank Section 1502: Impacts on America and the Congo'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs: May 9, Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, hearing entitled ''Assessing U.S. Foreign Policy Priorities and Needs Amidst Economic Challenges in the Middle East'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, May 8, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, hearing entitled ''Measuring Border Security: U.S. Border Patrol's New Strategic Plan and the Path Forward'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

May 8, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, hearing entitled ''Building Secure Partnerships in Travel, Commerce, and Trade with the Asia-Pacific Region'', 12:30 p.m., 311 Cannon.

May 9, Full Committee, markup of H.R. 3857, the ''Public Transit Security and Local Law Enforcement Support Act''; H.R. 4005, the ''Gauging American Port Security Act''; H.R. 3173, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to reform the process for the enrollment, activation, issuance, and renewal of a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) to require, in total, not more than one in-person visit to a designated enrollment center; and H. R. 2356, the ''WMD Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2011'', 9:30 a.m., 311 Cannon.

May 9, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications; and Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technology, joint hearing entitled ''First Responder Technologies: Ensuring a Prioritized Approach for Homeland Security Research and Development'', 11 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary: May 8, Full Committee, markup of H.R. 4970, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012; H.R. 4377, the ''Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2012''; and the ''Divisional Realignment Act of 2012'', 10:15 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

May 9, Full Committee, hearing on the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

May 10, Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on H.R. 4369, the ''Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency (FACT) Act of 2012'', 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources: May 8, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 3210, the ''Retailers and Entertainers Lacey Implementation and Enforcement Fairness Act''; and H.R. 4171, the ''Freedom from Over-Criminalization and Unjust Seizures Act of 2012'', 1 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

May 9, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Evaluating President Obama's Offshore Drilling Plan and Impacts on Our Future'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: May 9, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; and Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, joint hearing entitled ''TSA Oversight Part IV: Is TSA Effectively Procuring, Deploying, and Storing Aviation Security Equipment and Technology?'', 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

May 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Where Are All the Watchdogs? Addressing Inspector General Vacancies'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: May 8, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing entitled ''The Science Behind Green Building Rating Systems'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

May 9, Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, hearing entitled ''Ensuring the Best Stewardship of American Taxpayer Dollars at the National Science Foundation'', 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

May 9, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Running on Empty: The Effects of High Gasoline Prices on Small Businesses'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

May 10, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing entitled ''Supporting American Jobs and the Economy through Expanded Energy Production: Challenges and Opportunities of Unconventional Resources Technology'', 9:30 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: May 8, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''VA Mental Health Care Staffing: Ensuring Quality and Quantity'', 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means: May 8, Subcommittee on Oversight and Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing entitled ''Identity Theft and Tax Fraud'', 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

May 9, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Medicare Durable Medical Equipment Competitive Bidding Program'', 9 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

May 9, Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing entitled ''The State of Social Security's Information Technology'', 2 p.m., B–318 Rayburn.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: May 10, Full Committee, hearing on ongoing intelligence activities, 9 a.m., HVC–304. This is a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

Conference: May 8, meeting of conferees on H.R. 4348, to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, and for other purposes, 3 p.m., SH–216.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through April 30, 2012

	Senate	*House*	*Total*
Days in session	52	55	..
Time in session	323 hrs., 48′	258 hrs., 46′	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	2890	2289	..
Extensions of Remarks	..	701	..
Public bills enacted into law	3	13	16
Private bills enacted into law	..	..	..
Bills in conference	1	1	..
Measures passed, total	114	112	226
Senate bills	12	3	..
House bills	25	64	..
Senate joint resolutions	..	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	1	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	5	4	..
House concurrent resolutions	3	5	..
Simple resolutions	69	35	..
Measures reported, total	*87	*98	185
Senate bills	61	6	..
House bills	15	68	..
Senate joint resolutions	..	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	..	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	..	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	..	1	..
Simple resolutions	11	23	..
Special reports	2	1	..
Conference reports	..	2	..
Measures pending on calendar	273	42	..
Measures introduced, total	587	1,729	2,316
Bills	476	1,559	..
Joint resolutions	6	10	..
Concurrent resolutions	10	26	..
Simple resolutions	95	134	..
Quorum calls	..	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	87	82	..
Recorded votes	..	112	..
Bills vetoed	..	..	..
Vetoes overridden	..	..	..

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 62 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 101 reports have been filed in the House.

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through April 30, 2012

Civilian nominations totaling 296, (including 188 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	107
Unconfirmed	180
Withdrawn	9
Other Civilian nominations totaling 920 (including 167 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	441
Unconfirmed	476
Withdrawn	3
Air Force nominations, totaling 4,368, (including 295 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,901
Unconfirmed	2,467
Army nominations, totaling 3,446 (including 16 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	3,430
Unconfirmed	16
Navy nominations, totaling 184 (including 1 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	93
Unconfirmed	91
Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,305, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	124
Unconfirmed	1,181

Summary

Total nominations carried over from the First Session	667
Total nominations received this Session	9,852
Total confirmed	6,096
Total unconfirmed	4,411
Total withdrawn	12
Total returned to the White House	0

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2343, Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed at 12 p.m.

(Senate will recess following the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2343, until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 8

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Begin consideration of H.R. 5326—Making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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Young, Don, Alaska, E710

Congressional Record

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