CORRECTION

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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 16, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

THE McLELLAND-HASSE LINE OF DUTY ACT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, Kaufman County, Texas, Assistant District Attorney Mark Hasse had just pulled into work at the courthouse. He got out of his car and he started walking through the parking lot like he did every day, but Mark never made it to the courthouse to prosecute any other cases. He was ambushed, sprayed with bullets, and murdered in the parking lot. Officials are still uncertain of who murdered him.

Then on March 19, just after suppertime in Colorado, the top prison chief, Tom Clements, heard a knock at his door. When he opened the door, he was shot point blank; and he died in the doorway of his own home in his own blood. Clements' suspected killer, Evan Able, resurfaced in Texas weeks later and died in a shootout with law enforcement officers in north Texas because he promised that he would not ever return to prison.

Just 11 days later back in Kaufman County, Texas, District Attorney Mike McLelland and his wife, Cynthia, were sitting at home when their home was invaded by intruders. Mike was shot 20 times, and his wife, Cynthia, was also murdered. They were assassinated and murdered in their own home. District Attorney Mike McLelland had vowed to bring the scum to justice that had killed his assistant district attorney, Mark Hasse, but the assassins got all of them first: three fallen law enforcement officers and one family member.

And just yesterday, a woman in jail in Texas is accused of trying to hire a hit man to kill Assistant District Attorney Rob Freyer, a friend of mine, and to also injure the district attorney in Montgomery County, Texas, to mimic the Kaufman County shootings.

These attacks, Mr. Speaker, are really attacks on the symbol of the rule of law in the United States. These attacks also hit home for me and others of us who have worked at the courthouse. I spent part of my life as a prosecutor and a judge in Texas.

Bad guys come through the courthouse charged with everything from stealing to killing. And I, like many others, had threats on several occasions; but fortunate for me, law enforcement officers in Houston, Texas, made sure those threats were never carried out. But as we've seen this year, sometimes the bad guys are successful in attacking and killing folks that work at the courthouse.

Law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and judges do the work that many people just don't want to do, or will do. They deliver justice to criminals knowing that they face the threat of retaliation when they administer justice. These public officials enforce the rule of law for those who live outside the law.

That's why I'm introducing the McLelland-Hasse Line of Duty Act. Senator CORNYN has introduced a similar bill in the Senate. This bill would beef up protections for prosecutors and judges who are in danger of retaliation and who are threatened with intimidation. It boosts the punishment for killing these officials or their family members or conspiring to commit these crimes against these individuals. The legislation also allows them to carry firearms in Federal facilities and Federal courts and other jurisdictions for their own self-protection.

Courthouse prosecutors and judges risk their lives every day to administer justice and create order in our communities. This legislation promotes security for those that secure justice for the rest of us.

Because justice is what we do in America.

And that's just the way it is.

PREVENTABLE PATIENT DEATHS

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I want to come to the House floor today to address what I think is a serious issue facing all Americans without regard to race, color, party, region of the country, or anything like that. The issue that I want to talk about is trying to prevent patient deaths.

Back in 1999, the statistics show that about 98,000 people a year died from preventable medical deaths, preventable deaths in hospitals and things like

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that. That number has grown. We're now at about 200,000 people a year who die in hospitals because of preventable death. That's about 3,800 people every week, which is basically the equivalent of two jumbo jet passenger airplanes crashing and killing all of the passengers.

The fact of the matter is that this is something that we as a Nation need to step forward and do something about. It's something that is in our power to do something about. The thing that we need to do to prevent these preventable deaths is to coordinate. It is possible to eliminate these deaths. It is possible through a series of measures to even eliminate them completely.

What we need to do is first of all look at this problem in a holistic way. There's not one magic thing that is going to stop all of them, but a series of small things that are going to prevent and eradicate these preventable deaths.

The first thing I think we need to do is to come together to figure out how to connect our technology, the people and ideas and figure out how to cooperate and, most importantly, make a commitment to prevent these deaths from happening.

Ten years ago, there was a young woman named Lenore Alexander, who had a healthy 11-year-old girl, Leah. Leah underwent elective surgery to correct pectus carinatum at a prestigious southern California hospital. Though the surgery went well, Lenore awoke at around 2 a.m. on the second postoperative night to find Leah dead, the victim of undetected respiratory arrest caused by a drug that was intended to ease her pain. If Leah had been monitored continuously after the surgery, hospital staff and Lenore may have been alerted, and Leah would probably have been rescued.

There are also other sorts of preventable deaths that have to do with the transfer of infections when hands aren't washed properly. Monitoring was already pointed out by Lenore's tragic situation. The fact is that Lenore's situation is not unique, unfortunately. The Patient Safety, Science & Technology Summit is a gathering of people who came together to figure out what we can do to solve the problem—going back to that coordination and cooperation that I spoke about earlier.

The fact is that at this Patient Safety, Science & Technology Summit trained professionals came together to figure out what we can do about it. They came together to talk about, yes, technology, but also just more safe procedures to protect, eliminate, and save people from preventable deaths.

These preventable deaths are tragedies for the families that suffer them. Imagine going into a hospital for a routine procedure that you don't think is going to be serious only to get the tragic news that your loved one has passed away in the course of it.

So today I want to bring attention, Mr. Speaker, to this situation that is within our power to eliminate and stop. I want to salute the people who attended the Patient Safety, Science & Technology Summit, who came together to try to bring real attention to this problem.

A good friend named Joe Kiani brought this issue to my attention. He's a person who has given a lot of time and attention to try to figure out how we can save families from tragic incidents such as what happened to Lenore's family. And, of course, everyone has something that they can do to prevent these serious problems.

□ 1010

At the end of the day, our goal should be to make zero the number of deaths in hospitals, to make preventable deaths something of the past, and to bring Americans to attention so that we can focus our technology, our procedures, our energy, and our love and attention on trying to make sure that no family suffers these tragic incidents anymore. 200,000 deaths is too many. One is too many. Zero should be our goal. Let's stop preventable hospital deaths.

KEEP CRUSHABLE PAIN PILLS OFF THE MARKET

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today marks a critical turning point in our country's battle against prescription drug abuse—what CDC has called a national epidemic. It takes more American lives than car crashes.

Unless the Food and Drug Administration takes action today, generic drug-makers will be free to dump cheap painkillers, lacking abuse deterrence, back into U.S. markets—pills that can be easily crushed and which are to be blamed for tens of thousands of emergency room visits and accidental overdose deaths in the last decade.

Two weeks ago, at the National Rx Drug Abuse Summit, FDA Commissioner Peggy Hamburg acknowledged the many ''individuals and their families whose lives have been shattered by prescription opioid abuse, misuse, and addiction.'' She also affirmed that FDA has the authority to keep these crushable pills off the market when abuse-deterrent technologies are available.

It is time to execute that authority, FDA. On behalf of the thousands of families in my region and all over this country, keep crushable pills off our streets and out of our children's hands.

SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. In the aftermath of the 10th anniversary of the war in Iraq this spring, those of us who oppose the war, as those who thought it justified, are all sorting through what happened. More important, we are united in our support for our men and women in uniform who fought that heroic effort regardless of our feelings about the war's justification or history's verdict.

We have an obligation to all those who served to smooth their reentry and to minimize the price they paid for that war.

But there is another group who put themselves at risk for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am speaking of the Iraqi and Afghan nationals who worked with the American soldiers—thousands who were shoulder to shoulder with our troops, often in the most difficult of circumstances. They provided services as guides and interpreters that literally made the difference as to whether our soldiers lived or died.

I've talked to returning servicepeople who made clear how important it was that they had that help and how grateful they were to the Iraqis and Afghans who played those vital roles. I've worked with some of those soldiers to try and bring to America—to safety—some of those people who worked with them.

There is another group who knows about their contributions—the hostile elements still on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan. These are people with long memories, who have vowed to take retribution for what they felt was an act of betrayal. Countless foreign nationals who worked with us have paid the price. They, along with members of their families, have been attacked, kidnapped, and killed.

We have an obligation to get them out of harm's way.

That is why I worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Capitol in 2007 to create a special immigration visa program to enable them to come safely to the United States. It's a program not just for Iraqis; but starting in 2008, it was extended to Afghans as well—anyone who faced an ongoing and serious threat as a result of their employment for and on behalf of the United States Government. These two programs have enabled us to save the lives of these brave Iraqis and Afghans who often were in the heaviest fighting and whose contributions were most critical.

But we're facing two serious problems:

One, the programs are set to expire—for Iraq, September 30; for Afghanistan, 1 year later. Even more critically, we need to make sure that the special immigration visas, the SIVs, that have already been authorized are utilized. The processing has been incredibly slow.

Recently, joined by 18 of my colleagues of both parties, including six of our colleagues who were veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, we urged the administration to work with us to extend and reform the visa program. Let's cut through the extensive paperwork, the numerous agencies and timelines involved with all the background checks,

provide the transparency to applicants so they know where they're at, and address the adverse decisions by a chief of missions so people have a chance to correct the record.

Make no mistake—this is urgent.

Just yesterday, on the front page of The New York Times, there was the story about an Afghan interpreter named Sulaiman, who has been working with us in Afghanistan for over a decade in over 300 missions in highly dangerous Special Operations assignment. Over the course of the last few years, the Taliban has attempted to kill Sulaiman three times; but despite his exemplary service and the extreme threat to his life, that visa we created is not functioning for him. After 2 years, he remains in limbo, with no visa and the program set to expire. Only 22 percent of the Iraqi visas and 12 percent of the Afghan visas have been issued. These are ready to go.

Last fall, The Post reported that over 5,000 documentarily-complete Afghan applications remained in a backlog. No doubt, the past performance is abysmal, but we have an obligation to extend and reform the programs and to make sure we give the resources necessary to deal with the understandable paperwork involved.

This bipartisan issue offers Members of Congress and the administration the chance to work together to save lives and ensure the safety of our troops currently serving in harm's way and future missions abroad. Otherwise, no one in their right mind is ever going to cooperate with U.S. forces under these circumstances.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S FY14 BUDGET PROPOSAL ON NUCLEAR WASTE

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Department of Energy's budget proposal on nuclear waste. It's a joke—but as a representative of nuclear electricity consumers and taxpayers, I don't find it funny.

DOE Assistant Secretary Peter Lyons says we should ''cut our losses and move on'' from Yucca Mountain. We've spent $15 billion on Yucca Mountain, but this administration says we should just give up and go try somewhere else, hoping some other State will be a willing host. The DOE budget proposes spending $5.6 billion over the next 10 years to start over and maybe, just maybe, have a permanent repository by 2048.

The details provided for this new plan are scant to say the least—14 pages. DOE proposes to abandon $15 billion and 30 years of work, start over, create a new government entity to be responsible, and find willing States to host two interim storage facilities and a repository—all within 14 pages. I consider it brainstorming, not a plan. It's certainly not something that justifies $5.6 billion. In addition, DOE has repeatedly stated the need for Congress to pass legislation, but has yet to propose any. That shows the administration is not trying to solve this problem, just avoid it by pointing the finger at Congress.

Nuclear electricity consumers pay for a permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel. What would they get after spending another 10 years and $5.6 billion? A pilot interim storage facility with limited capacity.

□ 1020

A pilot facility? Dry cask storage, the same technology that will be used at the interim storage facility, is currently used at 65 locations. As for transportation, the U.S. nuclear industry has completed 3,000 shipments of used nuclear fuel over 1.7 million miles of roads and railroads. What's the purpose of having a pilot facility?

The only other pilot facility is the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico. I've been there, and it's an impressive facility. But that pilot project became a permanent facility with a 10,000-year environmental standard. Given that backdrop, does DOE really think some unsuspecting State will actually fall for the idea that a pilot interim storage facility will truly be temporary?

But $5.6 billion doesn't begin to address the real costs hidden in this proposal. Instead of merely paying for a repository, nuclear electricity consumers will now have to write off the cost of abandoning the Yucca Mountain site where we've spent $15 billion. DOE's previous estimates for transportation were $19 billion; so if DOE is now going to have to transport it twice, once to an interim storage and then later to a repository, ratepayers will be on the hook for an extra $19 billion. All this, plus the $5.6 billion in the budget, equals $39.6 billion.

And that's just the bill for nuclear electricity consumers. Taxpayers will continue to pay for the liability costs of DOE's failure to provide disposal. That cost is $2.6 billion so far and projected to be $20 billion by 2020. The Government Accountability Office tells us that it's faster to finish Yucca Mountain than to start over with interim storage. Yet this administration prefers to start over, disregarding the cost to the taxpayer.

Electricity consumers and taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for President Obama's campaign promise to HARRY REID, certainly not $39.6 billion worth. Mr. Speaker, DOE's proposal is a boondoggle at a time when our citizens can least afford it. I, for one, am not laughing.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember the tragic events of yesterday, we are reminded that there is sin and evil in the world. We pray for Boston, our country, and the world, but the business of the Republic must go on.

PROTECTING AMERICA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reflect again on yesterday's tragic and obviously painful events. I think it's important for our colleagues, and certainly for those we represent across America, to recognize that our attention on those issues are equal to the pain and the devastation that they represent. It is important to again offer sympathy to those who lost their loved ones, to those who still are under the care of the medical team in Boston, to the city of Boston, the State of Massachusetts, the mayor and Governor, my colleagues from the State of Massachusetts, and certainly the people there. You have our prayers and, again, our commitment to never cease until the perpetrator or perpetrators are brought to justice.

In saying that, I believe it is important that we proceed in a discussion that will also move this country forward, and that is to finally get to a point of passing a budget that eliminates, takes away, never to be seen again, this horrific sequester that the American people do not deserve.

Let me congratulate the President on having a humane budget, a budget that considers the needs of Americans. It is outstanding that he has offered a universal pre-K, having seen the tears of grown men when the sequester came through and their child was eliminated from Head Start, grown men, parents crying at the Head Start center. And everywhere I go in my district, people who are in charge of Head Start literally in pain about those that they have to eliminate from those positions because those families don't have the resources for private child care.

So I congratulate the President on his astuteness in recognizing the importance of that and recognizing to not stray away from the necessities of job creation and putting in place major transportation jobs and infrastructure jobs: passenger rail, which I am so passionate about; surface transportation; and a most important one, rebuilding your neighborhoods and communities and cities where jobs are in short demand and where the infrastructure and the city is crumbling.

I want to congratulate the President for his saving of Medicaid and ensuring that seniors who are in nursing homes will be protected. But, more importantly, that those without health insurance will have the ability under the Affordable Care Act to ensure that they will have that.

But I serve as well on the Homeland Security Committee, and I think it is important to say and be honest that the sequester is devastating to America's homeland security. It is good to have a budget that respects those needs, but it is important to tell the truth. We are desperate when it comes to recognizing the needs of our Border Patrol agents and the numbers, even at

21,000, that we may need to increase, that there are Border Patrol agents being removed from the front lines in order to process those individuals who have come across the border. When they do that, they remove the coverage from the front lines on the border dealing with those who are in those detention centers.

We have to recognize that transportation security, as much as one might say how many officers they have, in the sequester, we will be standing in long lines, and it is about to come. That is the front lines of securing this Nation, along with the Coast Guard and many, many other facets of the Department of Homeland Security.

We are asked a question about the securing of the homeland. We are feeling the pain along with our colleagues of the tragedies that have occurred, the attempted Times Square bombing, the successful bombing in Boston. We cannot take this anymore, and I believe it is time, with the President's budget, the Senate's budget, the House budget, that the Speaker of the House needs to immediately appoint budget conferees to move us forward to conference and to get rid of the sequester, which is not the fault of the American people.

Our deficit is going down. We need to determine what revenue we can increase in order to pay our bills and provide for the basic necessities of this Nation. Not only is the tragedy in Boston one of human life, but it is a disaster that requires Federal Emergency Management aid, just as our continued friends in the Southeast and Northeast are still suffering from Hurricane Sandy and the atrocity of this House not providing them with resources for 65 days.

So I believe it is time for the American people to know that we do care. In order to care, you need to have budget conferees go through the budget process and begin to pass elements of the President's budget that speaks to the heart and mind of the needs of the American people.

I conclude by offering my deepest sympathy and my promise to those who suffer that America and its Congress must stand up to respond to your needs. I'm ready to do so, as my colleagues are, and we should do it now.

NATIONAL OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE WEEK

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

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to announce that this week, April 14 through April 20, is National Osteopathic Medicine Week. This week celebrates the contributions of more than 100,000 osteopathic physicians and medical students in the United States to the health of our communities.

There are many doctors in the House of Representatives, but as the lone osteopathic physician in Congress, I feel it incumbent upon me to mark this week by raising awareness of the importance of osteopathic medicine.

The practice of osteopathic medicine was founded by Dr. Andrew Taylor Still in 1874, and over the past 139 years, osteopathic physicians have made significant contributions to the United States health care system. Osteopathic doctors have treated Presidents and Olympic athletes, contributed to the fight against AIDS, and continue to be involved on the front lines of our health care systems today. In fact, Dr. Martin Levine, immediate past president of the American Osteopathic Association, was part of the medical team at the Boston Marathon and was pressed into service, providing immediate care in the wake of yesterday's tragedy.

As osteopathic physicians, we take a holistic approach to medicine that focuses on the health of the whole person, and we are committed to improving the health of the communities we serve through education and awareness, as well as delivering quality health care services.

In light of the contributions made by osteopathic physicians to the health of our Nation, and this being their national week of recognition, I have introduced House Resolution 159, which calls on the House to support the designation of National Osteopathic Medicine Week.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the field of osteopathic medicine and supporting the designation of National Osteopathic Medicine Week.

□ 1030

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S ''LETTER FROM A BIRMINGHAM JAIL''

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join so many Americans across this Nation and this world in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's ''Letter from a Birmingham Jail.''

After being arrested on April 12, 1963, Dr. King came across an article in The Birmingham News entitled ''White Clergymen Urge Local Negroes to Withdraw From Demonstrations.''

The eight White clergymen who authored that article were very critical of Dr. King and the others who demonstrated. They called the demonstrations ''untimely and unwise.''

These criticisms inspired Dr. King to pen a letter that was published upon his release on April 16, 1963. The letter became one of the most preeminent documents of the civil rights era. So today I join the voices around the world as I read in part from this beautifully written, masterful document, ''Letter from a Birmingham Jail'' by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

16 APRIL, 1963.

My Dear Fellow Clergymen:

While confined here in the Birmingham city jail, I came across your recent statement calling my present activities ''unwise and untimely.'' Seldom do I pause to answer criticisms of my work and ideas. If I sought to answer all the criticisms that cross my desk, my secretaries would have little time for anything else . . . But since I feel that you are men of genuine goodwill, and that your criticisms are sincere and heartfelt, I want to try to answer your statement in what I hope will be a patient and reasonable term.

I think I should indicate why I am here in Birmingham, since you have been influenced by the view that I am somehow an outsider coming in. I am in Birmingham because injustice is here.

Moreover, I am cognizant of the interdependency of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what's happening in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial ''outside agitator'' idea. Anyone who lives in the United States of America can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds.

We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct-action campaign that was not ''well timed'' in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now, I have heard the word ''Wait!'' It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This ''Wait'' has almost always meant ''Never.'' We must come to see with one another what one jurist said, that ''justice too long delayed is justice denied.''

Oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The yearning for freedom eventually manifests itself, and that is what has happened to the American Negro.

The Negro has had many pent up frustrations and resentments and must release them. So let him march; let him make a prayerful pilgrimage to the city hall; let him go on freedom rides and try to understand why he must do so; let him release his frustration in a nonviolent way . . .

But though I was initially disappointed at being criticized as an extremist by you, as I continued to think about the matter I gradually gained a measure of satisfaction from the label. Was not Jesus an extremist for love?

Was not Amos an extremist for justice? ''Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.''

Was not Paul an extremist for the Christian gospel? ''I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.''

So the question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate or for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice or for the extension of justice?

Perhaps the South, the Nation, and the world are in dire need of creative extremists.

I hope this letter finds you in strong faith. Let us all hope that the dark cloud of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will lift from our fear-drenched communities, and in some time not so distant, that the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great Nation in all of their succulent beauty.

Yours for the cause of peace and brotherhood.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

So Mr. Speaker, on this 50th anniversary of this beautifully written letter, I hope my colleagues will join me in reflecting on its powerful words. ''Letter from a Birmingham Jail'' stands as a reminder of how far we've come in our Nation and living up to the ideals of justice and equality for all.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, Ranking Member WAXMAN and I have sent 24 letters to Chairman UPTON of the Energy and Commerce Committee and Chairman WHITFIELD of the Energy and Power Committee since May 2011 requesting hearings on the science of climate change.

Mr. Speaker, since Mr. WAXMAN and I are not able to get the majority on the Energy and Commerce Committee to act, I take it upon myself to come to the House floor to speak directly to the American people on why this issue is so important to them. Power to the people.

Mr. Speaker, last year, 2012, marked the hottest year ever recorded in U.S. history. Fully two-thirds of our Nation experienced drought. Half of the Nation's grazing pastures and up to 30 percent of the Nation's corn crop was in poor condition, or in very poor condition, which impacted the price that the American people pay for their food, for ethanol, and for consumer goods for all of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, just because some of my colleagues might not like what the science is telling us, it does not mean that they can continue to put their collective heads in the sand and simply ignore these facts or wish these facts away.

Last year's record temperatures, serious droughts, pervasive wildfires, and widespread flooding prove that there is climate change occurring all around us on a regular basis continually.

And Mr. Speaker, the majority ignores climate change, not at some of our peril, not at a portion of our peril, not at a minority of our peril, but all of our perils are being impacted because of the majority's refusal to simply have the scientists come before the committee of jurisdiction and tell this Congress, in no uncertain terms, what is really happening to the world's climate.

□ 1040

Mr. Speaker, these very same scientists, these experts, these people who have spent and dedicated their lives to understanding climate and climate control and what is happening, these climatologists are waiting, they're willing, and they're eager to come before this Congress to share their information and their expertise with the Members of this Congress. The scientists are sounding the alarm and informing us that we are reaching a critical tipping point as it relates to this very important issue of climate control.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are for the people of Boston, my prayers are for the people in Boston, and my prayers are for the American people. All power to the people.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

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

As the people's House gathers today, our Nation's heart is heavy as once again our domestic tranquility has been shattered by the selfish and violent actions witnessed yesterday near the finish line of the Boston Marathon.

We ask Your blessing, Lord, on those who died and those who mourn them, on those who were physically injured, and on those who have been emotionally traumatized. We give You thanks for those many who responded to the injured and to those who kept the order and keep it still.

And send Your Spirit upon whomever perpetrated this bombing and others who might contemplate emulating it. Calm their troubled souls, stay their violent hands. May those tasked with investigating this tragedy find success in their work, so that justice might be served and peace returned to our Nation's communities.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. O'ROURKE 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.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEES ON THE JUDICIARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignations as a member of the Committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2013.

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

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In light of my recent appointment to the House Committee on Financial Services, I hereby resign my position on both the House Committee on the Judiciary and the House Committee on Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

KEITH ROTHFUS,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 162

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Rothfus.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HONORING SAIGE HALSETH

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Saige Halseth, a fifth-grade student at Shawnee Heights Elementary School in Topeka, Kansas, who has brought together her community by helping her classmate, Alex White.

Alex suffers from a progressive neurological condition that affects his balance and mobility, and relied on a special companion, a service dog named

Hope, until March, when Hope was tragically killed by a motorist. For Alex, Hope was a blessing, a best friend and, to quote Alex directly, quite the ''chick magnet.''

Saige knows how much Alex depended on Hope, and she started a fundraising campaign to help him afford a new service dog. She wrote letters sharing his story and sold wristbands that read, ''Always Have Hope.''

I want to thank Saige, a caring young leader and inspiration to her community, for her selfless commitment to helping her friend, Alex.

It's because of young people like Alex and Saige that even after yesterday's tragedy in Boston, we can always have hope.

THERE IS STILL MUCH MORE TO LEARN ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, I will participate in a symposium on dementia being sponsored by the western New York chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. This event is a reminder that, while progress has been made in understanding Alzheimer's, there is still a great deal that we must learn about how to treat this terrible illness.

Alzheimer's is a disease whose origins are unknown, but whose end is absolutely certain. It's a disease that's touched the families of many in this Chamber, including my own.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, as many as 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, with its prevalence expected to increase over the next several decades.

With so many in Washington mindlessly devoted to the agenda of austerity, we must remember that our budget is not only an accounting statement, but also a statement of our values. I urge the rejection of austerity and an increase in the funding we need for medical research to find a cure for diseases like Alzheimer's that devastate so many American families.

DOUBLE DIP: SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as part of my ongoing effort to protect precious, hard-earned taxpayer dollars by going after waste, fraud, and abuse, I have introduced a commonsense bill, H.R. 1502—listen up—the Social Security Disability Insurance and Unemployment Benefits Double Dip Elimination Act of 2013.

This bill would stop people from receiving disability at the same time they are receiving unemployment. Under current law, a person can receive both disability and unemployment at the same time. This isn't right. It just doesn't make sense. I don't know how someone can be able and available to work and also be unable to work because of a disability.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill in order to help make sure the disability program is there for those who truly cannot work.

President Obama also included a similar proposal in his budget, and I look forward to working with the administration to get this bill signed into law.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of immigration reform. I wanted to take a moment to read an excerpt from a letter I received from Father Sean Carroll, a Jesuit priest who's with the Kino Border Initiative in Arizona.

He writes:

> I have been working with deported migrant men, women, and children along the U.S. border with Mexico. These past 4 years I have witnessed their brokenness in body and spirit.
>
> I have held the hand of a mother separated from her children in Chicago and listened to a father deported away from his children in North Dakota. I have been present with the son seeking to be reunited with his mother in Central California.
>
> I know God calls us not to oppress the widow, the orphan, and the stranger—Exodus 22 and Deuteronomy 27—and yet I have witnessed how we make widows out of women migrants when we deport them away from their husbands. And I'm aware of how we turn U.S. children into orphans by repatriating their parents to Mexico and placing them in foster care.
>
> I see the ways we reject the stranger, the person seeking a better life for their families, the one who, in the Gospel of Matthew, reflects the presence of Jesus Himself.
>
> What would happen if we accepted God's invitation to remember the moments that we were in exile, in Exodus, the times when we felt like strangers, and to recall how God had led us through those experiences to new life?

□ 1210

TRAGEDY IN BOSTON

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we saw yet another sickening act of terror yesterday in Boston. It was a grim reminder that there is evil in the world. There are those with dark hearts and twisted ideologies bent on killing Americans because of who we are and the values we hold dear.

Early reports indicate the bombs were packed with metal ball bearings to inflict maximum carnage on the innocent. One of the innocent was an 8-year-old boy found dead among the smoke, confusion, and blood. Eight years old.

As we track down the killer or killers, let us pray for the victims and their families, and let us resolve to never take the freedoms we enjoy as Americans for granted, never take the service of those who protect our freedoms for granted, never forget those who've made the ultimate sacrifice, and never underestimate the lengths to which America's enemies will go to do us harm.

But, Mr. Speaker, our enemies should never, ever underestimate America's resolve to hold accountable those responsible for this deadly attack.

REMEMBERING NAVAL FLIGHT OFFICER WILLIAM BROWN McILVAINE, III

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember William Brown McIlvaine, III, a naval flight officer from El Paso, Texas, who led an exemplary life. Lieutenant Junior Grade McIlvaine died last month during a training flight when his Prowler airplane crashed.

In his 24 years, William accomplished remarkable things and touched many lives with his friendship and his kindness. He was commissioned from the U.S. Naval Academy with Merit in May 2010 with a degree in chemistry. His lifelong dream was to fly, and he earned his wings in May 2012 at the Pensacola Naval Air Station. William was also a gifted musician. He sang in a cappella groups and played the bagpipes. During his time at Annapolis, he led the Pipes and Drums, which toured the U.S. and played in parades, including the St. Patrick's Day parade in Boston.

We remember William as someone who lived his dreams and died serving his Nation. On behalf of the El Paso community, I am proud to honor William's extraordinary life and his service.

HONORING THE DOOLITTLE RAIDERS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the Doolittle Raiders. Seventy-one years ago this Thursday, 16 Army bombers took off from the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, the USS Hornet. The Hornet was spotted by the Japanese hundreds of miles before their intended launch point. Led by Colonel Doolittle, all 16 bombers were launched, knowing that they would not have the fuel for safe shelter and they would crash land in enemy territory. A short 4 months after Pearl Harbor, these heroes bombed Tokyo and sent a message to the world that America

would win World War II. Eighty pilots took off that day. Four of them are still alive. They had their last reunion this week.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 1209, which will give a Congressional Gold Medal to the Doolittle Raiders and give them one final honor before their final flight home.

TRAGEDY IN BOSTON

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Yesterday was a tragic day. In our thoughts and prayers are those who lost their lives or were injured during the Boston Marathon, as well as the families and friends of those affected. The character of our country was reflected in the Boston police and firefighters, the first responders, the nurses and the medical providers, the people donating blood, the residents offering shelter and care, the thousands praying for healing, and everyone opening their doors in Boston to care for those in need.

Today, we are all Bostonians. There are no words to console those who have lost loved ones, but Congress will assist those in Boston and Massachusetts in any way possible. As we await answers, we will continue to make emergency preparedness, responsiveness, and caring for those in need a priority.

TRAGEDY IN BOSTON

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

Mr. MESSER. I rise on behalf of Indiana's Sixth Congressional District to express our condolences to the victims of yesterday's bombing in Boston. The thoughts and prayers of every American are with those who were killed and maimed by this unspeakable horror. We don't yet know who turned what should have been a day of triumph into a day of tragedy. But those whose lives have been forever changed by this terror should know that their government will not rest until the responsible are brought to justice.

May God bless the victims, comfort their families, and continue to watch over the United States of America.

CHARLES YOUNG BUFFALO SOLDIERS NATIONAL MONUMENT

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

Mrs. BEATTY. I would like to join with my fellow Ohioans to thank President Obama and Secretary Salazar for the designation of the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Wilberforce, the great State of Ohio. This monument recognizes the legacy of Charles Young and the proud traditions of African Americans in our military over the last nearly 150 years.

I join my good friend Marsha Bayless, mayor of Xenia, Ohio, who is in D.C. today, because we believe that it is a great honor for our community that the home of this outstanding American, the first African American to reach the rank of colonel, be recognized and honored. I urge the House to wholeheartedly support the President's efforts to preserve the American heritage through the Antiquities Act.

KING-THOMPSON PROPOSAL THREATENS SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern and opposition to legislation introduced today in the House of Representatives by Representatives PETER KING and MIKE THOMPSON. This bill, which mirrors a recent Senate proposal to expand background checks, holds threats to our Second Amendment rights while doing little to address the underlying problems behind violent crimes. As thousands of Montanans have shared with me, expanding Washington bureaucracy and restricting the rights of law-abiding citizens is the wrong approach. This is the number one issue I hear about from my great State.

As a fifth-generation Montanan and lifelong sportsman, I am deeply committed to protecting the rights that thousands of Montanans lawfully exercise every day. We recognize that the Second Amendment is not about hunting. It is about freedom. That's why I joined my colleague, Representative STEVE STOCKMAN, in the calling of the House to block any proposal to undermine the Second Amendment; and I will continue to fight against any proposals, whether in the House or the Senate, that threaten Montanans' Second Amendment rights.

STANDING WITH BOSTON

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

Ms. KUSTER. In the wake of yesterday's tragedy in Boston, I come to the floor with a very heavy heart. In the days and weeks to come, we'll remember those we lost and those who were injured. We'll remember where we were when we first heard the news, and we'll remember how a cowardly act of violence shattered a beautiful Boston day.

But we'll also remember the extraordinary heroism that we saw in Boston yesterday. In the immediate aftermath of the explosion, when every human instinct tells you to seek safety and to run away, our fearless first responders ran toward danger, selflessly putting themselves in harm's way to save others.

In the worst of that moment, we saw the best of America. In times of crisis, we stick together. We take care of one another. We put the needs of others before our own. And no one exemplifies this more than those brave Americans who rushed to aid the victims of this horrific crime.

As law enforcement works to identify those responsible for these cowardly acts, I join all Granite Staters in sending my thoughts and prayers to the victims, their families, and the entire city of Boston.

□ 1220

TERRORISM IN BOSTON

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Oregon's Second District to offer my deepest sympathies to the families and the victims of this senseless act of terrorism in Boston.

Scripture tells us: blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Our prayers go to those who lost loved ones and to the injured as they recover so that they may be comforted.

Our thanks go to the first responders and Good Samaritans who selflessly assisted the victims yesterday. That's what Americans do; they help their fellow men and women in time of need. That's a common bond that unites us.

Boston is the birthplace of the American Revolution, the cradle of liberty for our Nation. That spirit of freedom and brotherhood lives on in us as Americans and brings us closer together in our grief. As Americans, we will care for the victims and their families; we will ensure that justice is done for those behind these cowardly attacks; and we will emerge as a Nation, stronger than ever before.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the much-anticipated discussion on immigration reform, we have tended to overlook a critical aspect of it, and that is called family reunification.

What's the problem? Family reunification has arbitrary caps and major backlogs. The caps are about 114,000 per country, and most countries have an average of 10 years of backlog. They're working on 2003 applications. But there is one country that has had a greater rate, and that is the Philippines. This is the saddest example.

The Filipino World War II veterans were promised full rights for fighting with us against the Japanese in World War II. After the war, there was the Rescission Act of 1946 which took away that promise. In 1990, we finally made good on that promise, but we're processing 1989 applications to reunify these families. Many can't travel anymore. Many can't wait. Families are critical to the success of this country.

Small businesses are built with families, values of unity, caring for elders.

We must keep our promise.

BOSTON MARATHON ATTACK

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

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, on a day meant to celebrate patriots' freedom and personal strength, we witnessed terror and tragedy. My prayers remain with the victims and everyone in Boston. I'm grateful for the first responders, the medical professionals, and fellow citizens who responded so heroically.

We don't know yet who is responsible for this terrorist attack. The United States Government must—and will—use all tools at its disposal to track down the perpetrators and hold them accountable.

This vicious act of terror cannot stand, and we must remain committed to the task of combating the scourge of terrorism no matter where it raises its ugly head.

The Boston Marathon is a symbol of so much of what is great about America. It honors personal fortitude and perseverance. Let it continue to be a symbol of fortitude and perseverance for Boston and for our entire Nation.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGISLATION

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I have been on this floor yesterday and today, earlier this morning, to offer my sympathy to those who lost their lives and suffer in Boston and say that we are united with them. But this Congress now is proceeding on some important business, and I offer to my colleagues that we cannot wait to pass legislation on gun safety and gun violence prevention.

Homicide is the second leading cause of death for young people ages 15 to 24. Homicide is the leading cause of death for many minorities in this country. 82.8 percent of young people who are killed are killed with a firearm. Every 30 minutes, a child or teenager in America is injured by a gun. Every 3 hours and 15 minutes, a child or a teenager loses their life to a firearm. And in 2010, 82 children under 5 years of age lost their lives due to guns.

We must respond.

I have introduced H.R. 65, which indicates prevention, or a system to prevent children from having access to guns. Children have accidentally shot themselves, shot their parents because guns have been accessible because we as adults have not been responsible.

As we work across the Houses, it is important to pass gun violence prevention legislation and do it now. It does not violate the Second Amendment.

SENATE IMMIGRATION BILL STRIKES OUT

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is three strikes and you're out for the Senate's immigration proposal.

First, it legalizes almost everyone in the country illegally before the border is secured. This of course will encourage even more illegal immigration.

Second, it puts the interests of foreign workers ahead of the interests of American workers. The immigration plan allows millions of illegal immigrants to compete with American workers, driving down their wages.

And third, it treats illegal immigrants better than those who have played by the rules and waited their turn in line to come into the United States. Illegal immigrants get legal status immediately. The law abiding, well, they just have to continue waiting.

I don't think the American people are going to give the Senate another turn at bat.

WHAT HAPPENED IN CYPRUS CAN HAPPEN IN U.S.

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, the indebtedness of the United States is reaching $17 trillion. Just a few weeks ago, Europe, the entire world, and Americans shuddered when they saw, in Cyprus, what took place.

Imagine going to the bank and having the door closed. Imagine putting your ATM card in and not being able to get funds. Imagine being restricted to taking $300 a day.

What happened in Cyprus can happen in the United States.

Remember, also, accounts for people who worked hard, had invested and put their accounts and money away. They came in; and if you had $100,000, the government skimmed off the top.

Look at President Obama's proposal in his budget. Look at his restrictions, and also taxing and taking from those who have retired.

The same thing can happen in America that's happened in other countries.

POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AND RECOVERY SUPPORT ACT

(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, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1520, the POW/MIA Accounting and Recovery Support Act of 2013.

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC, is a task force within the Department of Defense with a mission to account for prisoners of war or those missing in action from all past conflicts. It's part of a commitment we have made to these American heroes, along with their families and loved ones seeking closure.

As most are aware, the Pentagon recently announced plans to furlough as many as 800,000 Federal civilian workers in order to achieve spending reductions under the Budget Control Act. These workers will be required to take 14 unpaid days off between now and October. As a result, JPAC employees will have to take at least 1 furlough day a week, with no exceptions. This will significantly impact JPAC's accounting and recovery teams, which are actually deployed on operations that last between 35 and 45 days.

The POW/MIA Accounting and Recovery Support Act will allow JPAC civilian employees to continue these critical missions without unnecessary disruption or delay. I encourage my colleagues to join me and Representative STEPHEN LYNCH in cosponsoring H.R. 1520.

HEROES AMONG US

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, over 100 Kansans traveled across the country to take part in the world's most recognized marathon yesterday in Boston.

We've all seen the images of the destruction caused by the cowardly acts of violence. But, Mr. Speaker, what was not cowardly was the instinct and immediate reaction of so many first responders and countless spectators who were watching their loved ones partake in the Patriots' Day tradition.

Cowardly doesn't describe runners who passed the finish line after running 26 miles and immediately, without hesitation, turning around, running back to help.

Those heroes include Dr. Chris Rupe from Salina, Kansas. Chris finished the race and was only 10 yards away from the first explosion. Dr. Rupe turned and ran to help the injured, the way Kansans do, the way so many Americans did.

Mr. Speaker, there is still much to determine in regards to the details from yesterday, and we will get those answers I'm sure of it. What is known for certain is the bravery and courage of the American people and Kansans like Dr. Rupe in emergencies and times of tragedy like yesterday in Boston.

□ 1230

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to

suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

FEDERAL INFORMATION SECURITY AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2013

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1163) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to revise requirements relating to Federal information security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1163

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF FEDERAL INFORMATION POLICY.

Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking subchapters II and III and inserting the following:

''SUBCHAPTER II—INFORMATION SECURITY

''§ 3551. Purposes

''The purposes of this subchapter are to—

''(1) provide a comprehensive framework for ensuring the effectiveness of information security controls over information resources that support Federal operations and assets;

''(2) recognize the highly networked nature of the current Federal computing environment and provide effective Governmentwide management and oversight of the related information security risks, including coordination of information security efforts throughout the civilian, national security, and law enforcement communities assets;

''(3) provide for development and maintenance of minimum controls required to protect Federal information and information systems;

''(4) provide a mechanism for improved oversight of Federal agency information security programs and systems through a focus on automated and continuous monitoring of agency information systems and regular threat assessments;

''(5) acknowledge that commercially developed information security products offer advanced, dynamic, robust, and effective information security solutions, reflecting market solutions for the protection of critical information systems important to the national defense and economic security of the Nation that are designed, built, and operated by the private sector; and

''(6) recognize that the selection of specific technical hardware and software information security solutions should be left to individual agencies from among commercially developed products.

''§ 3552. Definitions

''(a) SECTION 3502 DEFINITIONS.—Except as provided under subsection (b), the definitions under section 3502 shall apply to this subchapter.

''(b) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—In this subchapter:

''(1) ADEQUATE SECURITY.—The term 'adequate security' means security commensurate with the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from the unauthorized access to or loss, misuse, destruction, or modification of information.

''(2) AUTOMATED AND CONTINUOUS MONITORING.—The term 'automated and continuous monitoring' means monitoring, with minimal human involvement, through an uninterrupted, ongoing real time, or near real-time process used to determine if the complete set of planned, required, and deployed security controls within an information system continue to be effective over time with rapidly changing information technology and threat development.

''(3) INCIDENT.—The term 'incident' means an occurrence that actually or potentially jeopardizes the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of an information system, or the information the system processes, stores, or transmits or that constitutes a violation or imminent threat of violation of security policies, security procedures, or acceptable use policies.

''(4) INFORMATION SECURITY.—The term 'information security' means protecting information and information systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction in order to provide—

''(A) integrity, which means guarding against improper information modification or destruction, and includes ensuring information nonrepudiation and authenticity;

''(B) confidentiality, which means preserving authorized restrictions on access and disclosure, including means for protecting personal privacy and proprietary information; and

''(C) availability, which means ensuring timely and reliable access to and use of information.

''(5) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The term 'information system' means a discrete set of information resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination, or disposition of information and includes—

''(A) computers and computer networks;

''(B) ancillary equipment;

''(C) software, firmware, and related procedures;

''(D) services, including support services; and

''(E) related resources.

''(6) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'information technology' has the meaning given that term in section 11101 of title 40.

''(7) NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM.—

''(A) DEFINITION.—The term 'national security system' means any information system (including any telecommunications system) used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency, or other organization on behalf of an agency—

''(i) the function, operation, or use of which—

''(I) involves intelligence activities;

''(II) involves cryptologic activities related to national security;

''(III) involves command and control of military forces;

''(IV) involves equipment that is an integral part of a weapon or weapons system; or

''(V) subject to subparagraph (B), is critical to the direct fulfillment of military or intelligence missions; or

''(ii) is protected at all times by procedures established for information that have been specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order or an Act of Congress to be kept classified in the interest of national defense or foreign policy.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A)(i)(V) does not include a system that is to be used for routine administrative and business applications (including payroll, finance, logistics, and personnel management applications).

''(8) THREAT ASSESSMENT.—The term 'threat assessment' means the formal description and evaluation of threat to an information system.

''§ 3553. Authority and functions of the Director

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall oversee agency information security policies and practices, including—

''(1) developing and overseeing the implementation of policies, principles, standards, and guidelines on information security, including through ensuring timely agency adoption of and compliance with standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

''(2) requiring agencies, consistent with the standards promulgated under such section 11331 and the requirements of this subchapter, to identify and provide information security protections commensurate with the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of—

''(A) information collected or maintained by or on behalf of an agency; or

''(B) information systems used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an agency;

''(3) coordinating the development of standards and guidelines under section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3) with agencies and offices operating or exercising control of national security systems (including the National Security Agency) to assure, to the maximum extent feasible, that such standards and guidelines are complementary with standards and guidelines developed for national security systems;

''(4) overseeing agency compliance with the requirements of this subchapter, including through any authorized action under section 11303 of title 40, to enforce accountability for compliance with such requirements;

''(5) reviewing at least annually, and approving or disapproving, agency information security programs required under section 3554(b);

''(6) coordinating information security policies and procedures with related information resources management policies and procedures;

''(7) overseeing the operation of the Federal information security incident center required under section 3555; and

''(8) reporting to Congress no later than March 1 of each year on agency compliance with the requirements of this subchapter, including—

''(A) an assessment of the development, promulgation, and adoption of, and compliance with, standards developed under section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3) and promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

''(B) significant deficiencies in agency information security practices;

''(C) planned remedial action to address such deficiencies; and

''(D) a summary of, and the views of the Director on, the report prepared by the National Institute of Standards and Technology under section 20(d)(10) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3).

''(b) NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS.—Except for the authorities described in paragraphs (4) and (8) of subsection (a), the authorities of the Director under this section shall not apply to national security systems.

''(c) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SYSTEMS.—(1) The authorities of the Director described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) shall be delegated to the Secretary of Defense in the

case of systems described in paragraph (2) and to the Director of Central Intelligence in the case of systems described in paragraph (3).

''(2) The systems described in this paragraph are systems that are operated by the Department of Defense, a contractor of the Department of Defense, or another entity on behalf of the Department of Defense that processes any information the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of which would have a debilitating impact on the mission of the Department of Defense.

''(3) The systems described in this paragraph are systems that are operated by the Central Intelligence Agency, a contractor of the Central Intelligence Agency, or another entity on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency that processes any information the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of which would have a debilitating impact on the mission of the Central Intelligence Agency.

''§ 3554. Agency responsibilities

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency shall—

''(1) be responsible for—

''(A) providing information security protections commensurate with the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of—

''(i) information collected or maintained by or on behalf of the agency; and

''(ii) information systems used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an agency;

''(B) complying with the requirements of this subchapter and related policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines, including—

''(i) information security standards and guidelines promulgated under section 11331 of title 40 and section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3);

''(ii) information security standards and guidelines for national security systems issued in accordance with law and as directed by the President; and

''(iii) ensuring the standards implemented for information systems and national security systems of the agency are complementary and uniform, to the extent practicable;

''(C) ensuring that information security management processes are integrated with agency strategic and operational planning and budget processes, including policies, procedures, and practices described in subsection (c)(2);

''(D) as appropriate, maintaining secure facilities that have the capability of accessing, sending, receiving, and storing classified information;

''(E) maintaining a sufficient number of personnel with security clearances, at the appropriate levels, to access, send, receive and analyze classified information to carry out the responsibilities of this subchapter; and

''(F) ensuring that information security performance indicators and measures are included in the annual performance evaluations of all managers, senior managers, senior executive service personnel, and political appointees;

''(2) ensure that senior agency officials provide information security for the information and information systems that support the operations and assets under their control, including through—

''(A) assessing the risk and magnitude of the harm that could result from the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of such information or information system;

''(B) determining the levels of information security appropriate to protect such information and information systems in accordance with policies, principles, standards, and guidelines promulgated under section 11331 of title 40 and section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3) for information security classifications and related requirements;

''(C) implementing policies and procedures to cost effectively reduce risks to an acceptable level;

''(D) with a frequency sufficient to support risk-based security decisions, testing and evaluating information security controls and techniques to ensure that such controls and techniques are effectively implemented and operated; and

''(E) with a frequency sufficient to support risk-based security decisions, conducting threat assessments by monitoring information systems, identifying potential system vulnerabilities, and reporting security incidents in accordance with paragraph (3)(A)(v);

''(3) delegate to the Chief Information Officer or equivalent (or a senior agency official who reports to the Chief Information Officer or equivalent), who is designated as the 'Chief Information Security Officer', the authority and primary responsibility to develop, implement, and oversee an agencywide information security program to ensure and enforce compliance with the requirements imposed on the agency under this subchapter, including—

''(A) overseeing the establishment and maintenance of a security operations capability that through automated and continuous monitoring, when possible, can—

''(i) detect, report, respond to, contain, and mitigate incidents that impair information security and agency information systems, in accordance with policy provided by the Director;

''(ii) commensurate with the risk to information security, monitor and mitigate the vulnerabilities of every information system within the agency;

''(iii) continually evaluate risks posed to information collected or maintained by or on behalf of the agency and information systems and hold senior agency officials accountable for ensuring information security;

''(iv) collaborate with the Director and appropriate public and private sector security operations centers to detect, report, respond to, contain, and mitigate incidents that impact the security of information and information systems that extend beyond the control of the agency; and

''(v) report any incident described under clauses (i) and (ii) to the Federal information security incident center, to other appropriate security operations centers, and to the Inspector General of the agency, to the extent practicable, within 24 hours after discovery of the incident, but no later than 48 hours after such discovery;

''(B) developing, maintaining, and overseeing an agencywide information security program as required by subsection (b);

''(C) developing, maintaining, and overseeing information security policies, procedures, and control techniques to address all applicable requirements, including those issued under section 11331 of title 40;

''(D) training and overseeing personnel with significant responsibilities for information security with respect to such responsibilities; and

''(E) assisting senior agency officials concerning their responsibilities under paragraph (2);

''(4) ensure that the agency has a sufficient number of trained and cleared personnel to assist the agency in complying with the requirements of this subchapter, other applicable laws, and related policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines;

''(5) ensure that the Chief Information Security Officer, in consultation with other senior agency officials, reports periodically, but not less than annually, to the agency head on—

''(A) the effectiveness of the agency information security program;

''(B) information derived from automated and continuous monitoring, when possible, and threat assessments; and

''(C) the progress of remedial actions;

''(6) ensure that the Chief Information Security Officer possesses the necessary qualifications, including education, training, experience, and the security clearance required to administer the functions described under this subchapter; and has information security duties as the primary duty of that official; and

''(7) ensure that components of that agency establish and maintain an automated reporting mechanism that allows the Chief Information Security Officer with responsibility for the entire agency, and all components thereof, to implement, monitor, and hold senior agency officers accountable for the implementation of appropriate security policies, procedures, and controls of agency components.

''(b) AGENCY PROGRAM.—Each agency shall develop, document, and implement an agencywide information security program, approved by the Director and consistent with components across and within agencies, to provide information security for the information and information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency, including those provided or managed by another agency, contractor, or other source, that includes—

''(1) automated and continuous monitoring, when possible, of the risk and magnitude of the harm that could result from the disruption or unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification, or destruction of information and information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency;

''(2) consistent with guidance developed under section 11331 of title 40, vulnerability assessments and penetration tests commensurate with the risk posed to agency information systems;

''(3) policies and procedures that—

''(A) cost effectively reduce information security risks to an acceptable level;

''(B) ensure compliance with—

''(i) the requirements of this subchapter;

''(ii) policies and procedures as may be prescribed by the Director, and information security standards promulgated pursuant to section 11331 of title 40;

''(iii) minimally acceptable system configuration requirements, as determined by the Director; and

''(iv) any other applicable requirements, including—

''(I) standards and guidelines for national security systems issued in accordance with law and as directed by the President; and

''(II) the National Institute of Standards and Technology standards and guidance;

''(C) develop, maintain, and oversee information security policies, procedures, and control techniques to address all applicable requirements, including those promulgated pursuant section 11331 of title 40; and

''(D) ensure the oversight and training of personnel with significant responsibilities for information security with respect to such responsibilities;

''(4) with a frequency sufficient to support risk-based security decisions, automated and continuous monitoring, when possible, for testing and evaluation of the effectiveness and compliance of information security policies, procedures, and practices, including—

''(A) controls of every information system identified in the inventory required under section 3505(c); and

''(B) controls relied on for an evaluation under this section;

''(5) a process for planning, implementing, evaluating, and documenting remedial action to address any deficiencies in the information security policies, procedures, and practices of the agency;

''(6) with a frequency sufficient to support risk-based security decisions, automated and continuous monitoring, when possible, for detecting, reporting, and responding to security incidents, consistent with standards and guidelines issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, including—

''(A) mitigating risks associated with such incidents before substantial damage is done;

''(B) notifying and consulting with the Federal information security incident center and other appropriate security operations response centers; and

''(C) notifying and consulting with, as appropriate—

''(i) law enforcement agencies and relevant Offices of Inspectors General; and

''(ii) any other agency, office, or entity, in accordance with law or as directed by the President; and

''(7) plans and procedures to ensure continuity of operations for information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency.

''(c) AGENCY REPORTING.—Each agency shall—

''(1) submit an annual report on the adequacy and effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices, and compliance with the requirements of this subchapter, including compliance with each requirement of subsection (b) to—

''(A) the Director;

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

''(C) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives;

''(D) other appropriate authorization and appropriations committees of Congress; and

''(E) the Comptroller General;

''(2) address the adequacy and effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices in plans and reports relating to—

''(A) annual agency budgets;

''(B) information resources management of this subchapter;

''(C) information technology management under this chapter;

''(D) program performance under sections 1105 and 1115 through 1119 of title 31, and sections 2801 and 2805 of title 39;

''(E) financial management under chapter 9 of title 31, and the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 (31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 101–576);

''(F) financial management systems under the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 3512 note); and

''(G) internal accounting and administrative controls under section 3512 of title 31; and

''(3) report any significant deficiency in a policy, procedure, or practice identified under paragraph (1) or (2)—

''(A) as a material weakness in reporting under section 3512 of title 31; and

''(B) if relating to financial management systems, as an instance of a lack of substantial compliance under the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 3512 note).

''§ 3555. Federal information security incident center

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall ensure the operation of a central Federal information security incident center to—

''(1) provide timely technical assistance to operators of agency information systems regarding security incidents, including guidance on detecting and handling information security incidents;

''(2) compile and analyze information about incidents that threaten information security;

''(3) inform operators of agency information systems about current and potential information security threats, and vulnerabilities; and

''(4) consult with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, agencies or offices operating or exercising control of national security systems (including the National Security Agency), and such other agencies or offices in accordance with law and as directed by the President regarding information security incidents and related matters.

''(b) NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS.—Each agency operating or exercising control of a national security system shall share information about information security incidents, threats, and vulnerabilities with the Federal information security incident center to the extent consistent with standards and guidelines for national security systems, issued in accordance with law and as directed by the President.

''(c) REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—The Director shall review and approve the policies, procedures, and guidance established in this subchapter to ensure that the incident center has the capability to effectively and efficiently detect, correlate, respond to, contain, mitigate, and remediate incidents that impair the adequate security of the information systems of more than one agency. To the extent practicable, the capability shall be continuous and technically automated.

''§ 3556. National security systems

''The head of each agency operating or exercising control of a national security system shall be responsible for ensuring that the agency—

''(1) provides information security protections commensurate with the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of the information contained in such system;

''(2) implements information security policies and practices as required by standards and guidelines for national security systems, issued in accordance with law and as directed by the President; and

''(3) complies with the requirements of this subchapter.''.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) TABLE OF SECTIONS IN TITLE 44.—The table of sections for chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking the matter relating to subchapters II and III and inserting the following:

''SUBCHAPTER II—INFORMATION SECURITY

''Sec.
''3551. Purposes.
''3552. Definitions.
''3553. Authority and functions of the Director.
''3554. Agency responsibilities.
''3555. Federal information security incident center.
''3556. National security systems.''.

(b) OTHER REFERENCES.—

(1) Section 1001(c)(1)(A) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 511(c)(1)(A)) is amended by striking ''section 3532(3)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)''.

(2) Section 2222(j)(5) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 3542(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)''.

(3) Section 2223(c)(3) of title 10, United States Code, is amended, by striking ''section 3542(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)''.

(4) Section 2315 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 3542(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)''.

(5) Section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3) is amended—

(A) in subsections (a)(2) and (e)(5), by striking ''section 3532(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)''; and

(B) in subsection (e)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking ''section 3532(1)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)''; and

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking ''section 3532(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)''.

(6) Section 8(d)(1) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7406(d)(1)) is amended by striking ''section 3534(b)'' and inserting ''section 3554(b)''.

SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of section 3554 of title 44, United States Code, as amended by section 2 of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized or appropriated.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act (including the amendments made by this Act) shall take effect 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) 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.

Cybersecurity threats represent one of the most serious national security and economic challenges we face in our Nation. Whether it's criminal hackers, organized crime, terrorist networks, or nation-states, our Nation is under siege from dangerous cybersecurity threats that grow daily in frequency and sophistication.

It is critical that the Federal Government address cybersecurity threats in a manner that keeps pace with our Nation's growing dependence on technology, but current Federal law does not adequately address the nature of today's cybersecurity threats.

Since the enactment in 2002 of the Federal Information Security Management Act, or FISMA, it has become a ''check the box'' compliance activity that all too often has little to do with minimizing cyber threats. And yet the Government Accountability Office recently found that security incidents among 24 key agencies increased by 650 percent, or more than six-fold, in the last 5 years.

To address the rising challenge posed by cyber threats, Ranking Member CUMMINGS and I introduced last Congress a bill to reauthorize FISMA. That

bill was adopted by the House unanimously.

Recently, Mr. CUMMINGS and I reintroduced that legislation as H.R. 1163, the Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2013. The bill was voted out of our committee by unanimous vote on March 20. This bill aims to harness the last decade of technological innovation in securing Federal information systems.

To enhance the current framework of securing Federal information technology systems, our bill calls for automated and continuous monitoring of government information systems—and I'm going to repeat—automated and continuous monitoring of government information systems. And it ensures that continuous monitoring finally incorporates regular threat assessments, not just ''check the box.''

The bill also reaffirms the role of the Office of Management and Budget with respect to FISMA, recognizing that the budgetary leverage of the Executive Office of the President is necessary to ensure agencies are focused on effective security IT systems. Mr. Speaker, that's particularly significant because IT is the backbone of every single large and small agency of the government; and only with the power of the President through the Office of Management and Budget can you, in fact, ensure that the President has transparency and his authority is respected throughout all these agencies.

We can no longer afford the ''check the box'' that came out of the first piece of legislation. It wasn't its intent, and the six-fold increase in the last 5 years says it has failed us.

While our bill does not include new requirements, restrictions, or mandates on private, non-Federal computer systems, H.R. 1163 does highlight the need for stronger public-private partnership. Again, as we interface over the public Internet, it is critical that the weakest link be prevented. To that extent, this bill has received strong support from cybersecurity experts and industry, including TechAmerica, the Information Technology Industry Council, and the Business Software Alliance.

I'd like to personally thank Ranking Member CUMMINGS for partnering, both personally and through his staff, to create a bill that is necessary, timely, and accurate to meet the growing threat of cybersecurity.

I encourage all Members to support this timely legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to begin by thanking Chairman ISSA for sponsoring this legislation and for making this a truly bipartisan effort. I am pleased to join the chairman in sponsoring this bill again this Congress.

Also, I thank the other cosponsors of the bill, including the chairman and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, Representatives JOHN MICA and GERRY CONNOLLY, and the chairman and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on National Security, Representatives JASON CHAFFETZ and JOHN TIERNEY.

Last month, the Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, placed cyber attacks at the top of his list of national security threats. This bill is an important step in Congress' response to the cyber threat. This legislation would ensure that Federal agencies use a risk-based approach to defend against cyber attacks and protect government information from being compromised by our adversaries.

It is important that the Federal Government set the example by ensuring that its own information is protected. The Department of Energy was hacked in January, and personal data for hundreds of employees was compromised. We are better than that, Mr. Speaker, and we can do better.

Personal data for more than 100,000 accounts in the Thrift Savings Plan was compromised last year when a contractor's computer was hacked. This bill would shift the Federal Government to a system of continuous monitoring of information systems. And just this morning, the chairman said in a hearing that we have to do more with less and we have to figure out ways to use technology so that we can efficiently and effectively do the things that we need to do.

This bill goes right in that direction, which is so important. It would also streamline reporting requirements and ensure that agencies take a smart, risk-based approach to securing networks.

This bill would continue to authorize the Office of Management and Budget to set Federal policy for information security. This is important because we need to hold all the agencies accountable for developing appropriate standards and living up to those very standards. OMB is the appropriate entity to be responsible for ensuring that that happens.

However, nothing in this bill will prevent the Department of Homeland Security from continuing the great work it is doing to protect our Nation against potential cyber attacks. The Department has expanded its cybersecurity workforce and is working with agencies to establish continuous monitoring. This bill supports that work by making clear that agencies must take action to protect their networks, rather than just doing routine ''check the box'' reports, as Chairman ISSA just talked about.

□ 1240

Today, we have a bipartisan effort. It is truly a bipartisan effort to address a problem that affects every single American and business, every entity of our Nation. That's why it's so good that we had all of our subcommittee rankings and chairmen working together and Mr. ISSA making sure that this legislation got out. As it is so very important, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1½ minutes.

I want to associate myself with the ranking member's statements.

Mr. CUMMINGS does make the great point that Homeland Security is, in fact, doing a great deal. And if there is an active activity through NSA and other agencies, we applaud that.

A great deal of what this bill reauthorization is intended to do, in working with the subcommittee ranking member Mr. CONNOLLY, is to recognize that there needs to be a public-private partnership. We need our private entities to be as strong as they can be so they don't become conduits for espionage and for attacks. But also that, in fact, it's the smallest entity of government, the one that you don't think much of, the one that may not be high priority that, in fact, also has to be protected: commerce at our public parks; commerce occurring throughout the Federal Government; and, in fact, just the records that are so often collected and maintained in places like the Veterans Administration and so on.

Although they may not represent an immediate threat to national security, as a veteran, I must tell you the fact that those records sit there tells all of us, millions of veterans, that we want to have a robust maintenance of cybersecurity, something that under the current statute we believe the box is being checked, but not all that needs to be done is being done.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. It gives me great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to yield 3 minutes to a gentleman who has worked very hard on this issue night and day, and it's been at the forefront of his efforts, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member, my friend from Maryland, and I also thank the distinguished chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

I proudly join them in cosponsoring this legislation and rising in strong support of H.R. 1136, the Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2013. The chairman and ranking member of the full committee have worked in a bipartisan fashion to advance this bill to the floor today, and they deserve great credit.

H.R. 1163 is desperately needed to address a looming and critical threat to our Nation's economic and national security. As the Government Accountability Office testified before our committee in its 2013 High Risk Report, the number of cyber incidents has grown exponentially among Federal agencies and, for that matter, in the private sector.

Specifically, in the year 2006, they reported 5,503 cyber incidents to the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team.

Six years later, that same number was 48,562, which is an astounding 782 percent increase in just 6 years.

According to the Government Accountability Office, cyber attacks involving Federal systems and critical infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, could be devastating to the country. Yet, its audits have consistently revealed information security deficiencies in public and private, financial and nonfinancial systems.

More troubling, despite producing hundreds of recommendations over the past 2 fiscal years that would address security-control deficiencies, the majority of GAO's recommendations have, in fact, not been fully implemented. Unfortunately, vital Federal assets and missions will remain at high risk for fraud, misuse, and disruption unless agencies fully implement the literally hundreds of recommendations made by the GAO and various offices of the inspectors general aimed at strengthening the security of critical information systems.

The sophisticated and rapidly involving cybersecurity threat has outpaced the security framework established by the former Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002. FISMA's static, compliance-based framework, as noted by both the ranking member and the distinguished chairman of the committee, must be enhanced. It can't be used as a substitute for developing strategies to counter this threat.

I believe this bipartisan legislation will accomplish that goal by enhancing FISMA to promote a more dynamic, risk-based approach that leverages current technology to implement continuous monitoring of networks and systems.

Specifically, the Federal Information Security Amendments Act will direct agencies to test and evaluate information security controls and techniques and conduct threat assessments by monitoring information systems and identifying potential system vulnerabilities.

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield the gentleman an additional 1½ minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY. It will conduct vulnerability assessments and penetration tests commensurate with the risk posed to agency information systems and collaborate with OMB and appropriate public- and private-sector security operations centers on security incidents that extend beyond the control of the agency to require that security incidents be reported through an automated and continuous monitoring capability to the Federal Information Security Incident Center, appropriate security operations centers, and respective agency Offices of Inspector General.

Mr. Speaker, I join the distinguished chairman and ranking member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee in urging all Members to support this critical bipartisan cybersecurity legislation that is urgently needed to provide Federal agencies with the necessary tools to effectively secure our Federal information systems.

With that, I thank them both for their leadership on this critical matter.

Mr. ISSA. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we have no other speakers, Mr. Speaker, I just want to make it clear that I think yesterday's incident in Boston should remind us of how fragile our society is and that there are so many people who want to do us harm.

A lot of times we concentrate on those kinds of attacks and don't spend the kind of time we really need to on the cyber attacks, which can be just as harmful, just as damaging. These cyber attacks can literally bring our country and our economy to a halt. That's why we are urging all Members to vote in favor of this.

And it is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that as we are addressing this issue today, that it will send the word out to the Nation that once again our committee and this Congress is putting a microscope on this issue and doing everything in our power to make sure that our efforts are effective and efficient because the threats are there, and they are real.

It is up to us. It is our watch. It is our watch, just like a watchman watching over a fort or watching over a city. We are the watchmen right now, and it's our watch, and we have to make sure we do everything in our power to make sure that we protect against this very clear threat.

With that, I urge all Members to vote in favor of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time and.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1163 has many authors: Mr. CUMMINGS and myself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. TIERNEY. It also has every committee chairman and every ranking member here in the House. And I would like to take a moment to thank all the committee chairmen of Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, and House Administration, because staffs from all of those committees, particularly with the acquiescence of the chairmen and ranking members, have contributed to our fact-finding to try to produce a good bill here today.

I think often our committee is viewed as, what is your authority and so on. This is an odd situation in which, in order for us to bring the bill here today, we really needed all the agencies and all the personnel here to be brought to bear so that we could try to fashion a piece of legislation that would allow the Federal Government to work better, that would allow the executive branch to execute better on behalf of the American people.

□ 1250

Lastly, I would like to thank the outside groups, many of which I mentioned in my opening statement, but even more who responded when this bill was posted for comment. They responded with constructive suggestions.

I know there is a lot of trepidation any time the government is, in fact, looking at data passing through the system, but this and other legislation is a balancing act. We cannot have the economy that we enjoy today if these systems are shut down by attacks. At the same time, I know I join with the ranking member and all of the authors of this legislation in that we are committed to making sure we maintain the personal freedom and the privacy that goes with what we are entrusted to here in the government.

So, in closing, Mr. Speaker, this is an update. It is not the last time we will have to update cybersecurity. It is not the last time we will be here concerned about America's economy so dependent on the Internet, but it is a good bill. It is ready.

I urge its approval, and I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 11, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL E. ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA: On March 20, 2013, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered H.R. 1163, the ''Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2013'', reported favorably to the House with certain provisions in the legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security. Specifically, this legislation would require the Department of Homeland Security to share cyber threat information with an information security center, delegate the authority and primary responsibility of information security to a Chief Information Security Officer responsible for overseeing a Department-wide information security program, and recognize the existence of a Federal information security incident center, which in practice, is currently the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center at the Department of Homeland Security.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued Memorandum M–10–28 on July 6, 2010, transferring many of OMB's Federal information security and responsibilities to the Department of Homeland Security. Since Memorandum M–10–28 was issued, the Department of Homeland Security has conducted the operational aspects of Federal information security through the functions of the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center and the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team. This legislation, through its accompanied report, preserves the operational capabilities of DHS pertaining to Federal information security while reaffirming OMB's supervisory role with respect to FISMA.

I understand the importance of advancing this legislation to the House floor in an expeditious manner. Therefore, the Committee on Homeland Security will not seek a sequential referral over provisions within our jurisdiction. This action is conditional on our mutual understanding and agreement that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security over the subject matter included in this or similar legislation. In addition, I would like to thank you for working

with me on modifying the report that accompanies H.R. 1163 to ensure the operational role the Department of Homeland Security plays in the protection of the Nation's Federal information systems is in no way diminished. I request that you urge the Speaker to appoint Members of this Committee to any conference committee for consideration of any provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security in the House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation.

I also request that this letter and your response be included in the committee report on H.R. 1163 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 12, 2013.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on Homeland Security's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 1163, the ''Federal Information Security Amendments.''

I agree that the Committee on Homeland Security has a valid jurisdictional interest in federal cybersecurity, and that the Committee's jurisdiction will not be adversely affected by your decision to forego consideration of H.R. 1163. As you have requested, I will support your request for an appropriate appointment of outside conferees from your Committee in the event of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation, should such a conference be convened.

Finally, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 12, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in H.R. 1163. the Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2013.

I recognize and appreciate the desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, I will waive further consideration of this bill in Committee, notwithstanding any provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. This waiver, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that agreeing to waive consideration of this bill should not be construed as waiving, reducing, or affecting the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Additionally, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology expressly reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provision within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this, or any similar legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee for conferees on H.R. 1163, as well as any similar or related legislation.

I ask that a copy of this letter be placed in the Committee Report on H.R. 1163 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on the legislation as you work towards enactment of H.R. 1163.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2013.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 1163, the ''Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2013,'' and your willingness to forego consideration of H.R. 1163 by your committee.

I agree that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology has a valid jurisdictional interest in certain provisions of H.R. 1163 and that the Committee's jurisdiction will not be adversely affected by your decision to forego consideration of H.R. 1163. As you have requested, I will support your request for an appropriate appointment of outside conferees from your Committee in the event of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation should such a conference be convened.

Finally, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman.

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, H.R. 1163.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CYBERSECURITY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2013

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 756) to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical standards, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 756

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 ''Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2013''.

TITLE I—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE.—The term National Coordination Office means the National Coordination Office for the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development program.

(2) PROGRAM.—The term Program means the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development program which has been established under section 101 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511).

SEC. 102. FINDINGS.

Section 2 of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7401) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) Advancements in information and communications technology have resulted in a globally interconnected network of government, commercial, scientific, and education infrastructures, including critical infrastructures for electric power, natural gas and petroleum production and distribution, telecommunications, transportation, water supply, banking and finance, and emergency and government services.'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Exponential increases in interconnectivity have facilitated enhanced communications, economic growth,'' and inserting ''These advancements have significantly contributed to the growth of the United States economy,'';

(3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3) The Cyberspace Policy Review published by the President in May, 2009, concluded that our information technology and communications infrastructure is vulnerable and has 'suffered intrusions that have allowed criminals to steal hundreds of millions of dollars and nation-states and other entities to steal intellectual property and sensitive military information'.''; and

(4) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:

''(6) While African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans constitute 33 percent of the college-age population, members of these minorities comprise less than 20 percent of bachelor degree recipients in the field of computer sciences.''.

SEC. 103. CYBERSECURITY STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the agencies identified in subsection 101(a)(3)(B)(i) through (x) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(3)(B)(i) through (x)) or designated under section 101(a)(3)(B)(xi) of such Act, working through the National Science and Technology Council and with the assistance of the National Coordination Office, shall transmit to Congress a strategic plan based on an assessment of cybersecurity risk to guide the overall direction of Federal cybersecurity and information assurance research and development for information technology and networking systems. Once every 3 years after the initial strategic plan is transmitted to Congress under this section, such agencies shall prepare and transmit to Congress an update of such plan.

(b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The strategic plan required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) specify and prioritize near-term, mid-term and long-term research objectives, including objectives associated with the research areas identified in section 4(a)(1) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(1)) and how the near-term objectives complement research and development areas in which the private sector is actively engaged;

(2) describe how the Program will focus on innovative, transformational technologies with

the potential to enhance the security, reliability, resilience, and trustworthiness of the digital infrastructure, and to protect consumer privacy;

(3) describe how the Program will foster the rapid transfer of research and development results into new cybersecurity technologies and applications for the timely benefit of society and the national interest, including through the dissemination of best practices and other outreach activities;

(4) describe how the Program will establish and maintain a national research infrastructure for creating, testing, and evaluating the next generation of secure networking and information technology systems;

(5) describe how the Program will facilitate access by academic researchers to the infrastructure described in paragraph (4), as well as to relevant data, including event data;

(6) describe how the Program will engage females and individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b) to foster a more diverse workforce in this area; and

(7) describe how the Program will help to recruit and prepare veterans for the Federal cybersecurity workforce.

(c) DEVELOPMENT OF ROADMAP.—The agencies described in subsection (a) shall develop and annually update an implementation roadmap for the strategic plan required in this section. Such roadmap shall—

(1) specify the role of each Federal agency in carrying out or sponsoring research and development to meet the research objectives of the strategic plan, including a description of how progress toward the research objectives will be evaluated;

(2) specify the funding allocated to each major research objective of the strategic plan and the source of funding by agency for the current fiscal year; and

(3) estimate the funding required for each major research objective of the strategic plan for the following 3 fiscal years.

(d) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In developing and updating the strategic plan under subsection (a), the agencies involved shall solicit recommendations and advice from—

(1) the advisory committee established under section 101(b)(1) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511(b)(1)); and

(2) a wide range of stakeholders, including industry, academia, including representatives of minority serving institutions and community colleges, National Laboratories, and other relevant organizations and institutions.

(e) APPENDING TO REPORT.—The implementation roadmap required under subsection (c), and its annual updates, shall be appended to the report required under section 101(a)(2)(D) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(2)(D)).

(f) CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH DATABASE.—The agencies involved in developing and updating the strategic plan under subsection (a) shall establish, in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, a mechanism to track ongoing and completed Federal cybersecurity research and development projects and associated funding, and shall make such information publically available.

SEC. 104. SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH IN CYBERSECURITY.

Section 4(a)(1) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''and usability'' after ''to the structure'';

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

(3) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(J) social and behavioral factors, including human-computer interactions, usability, and user motivations.''.

SEC. 105. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) COMPUTER AND NETWORK SECURITY RESEARCH AREAS.—Section 4(a)(1) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) by inserting ''identity management,'' after ''cryptography,''; and

(2) in subparagraph (I), by inserting '', crimes against children, and organized crime'' after ''intellectual property''.

(b) COMPUTER AND NETWORK SECURITY RESEARCH GRANTS.—Section 4(a)(3) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(3)) is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) through (E) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

''(A) $119,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;

''(B) $119,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

''(C) $119,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.''.

(c) COMPUTER AND NETWORK SECURITY RESEARCH CENTERS.—Section 4(b) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

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

''(E) how the center will partner with government laboratories, for-profit entities, other institutions of higher education, or nonprofit research institutions.''; and

(2) in paragraph (7) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (E) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

''(A) $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;

''(B) $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

''(C) $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.''.

(d) COMPUTER AND NETWORK SECURITY CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS.—Section 5(a)(6) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 7404(a)(6)) is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) through (E) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

''(A) $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;

''(B) $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

''(C) $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.''.

(e) SCIENTIFIC AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ACT GRANTS.—Section 5(b)(2) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 7404(b)(2)) is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) through (E) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

''(A) $4,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;

''(B) $4,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

''(C) $4,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.''.

(f) GRADUATE TRAINEESHIPS IN COMPUTER AND NETWORK SECURITY.—Section 5(c)(7) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 7404(c)(7)) is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) through (E) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

''(A) $32,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;

''(B) $32,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

''(C) $32,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.''.

(g) CYBER SECURITY FACULTY DEVELOPMENT TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM.—Section 5(e) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 7404(e)) is repealed.

SEC. 106. FEDERAL CYBER SCHOLARSHIP FOR SERVICE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall continue a Scholarship for Service program under section 5(a) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7404(a)) to recruit and train the next generation of Federal cybersecurity professionals and to increase the capacity of the higher education system to produce an information technology workforce with the skills necessary to enhance the security of the Nation's communications and information infrastructure.

(b) CHARACTERISTICS OF PROGRAM.—The program under this section shall—

(1) provide, through qualified institutions of higher education, including community colleges, scholarships that provide tuition, fees, and a competitive stipend for up to 2 years to students pursing a bachelor's or master's degree and up to 3 years to students pursuing a doctoral degree in a cybersecurity field;

(2) provide the scholarship recipients with summer internship opportunities or other meaningful temporary appointments in the Federal information technology workforce; and

(3) increase the capacity of institutions of higher education throughout all regions of the United States to produce highly qualified cybersecurity professionals, through the award of competitive, merit-reviewed grants that support such activities as—

(A) faculty professional development, including technical, hands-on experiences in the private sector or government, workshops, seminars, conferences, and other professional development opportunities that will result in improved instructional capabilities;

(B) institutional partnerships, including minority serving institutions and community colleges;

(C) development and evaluation of cybersecurity-related courses and curricula; and

(D) public-private partnerships that will integrate research experiences and hands-on learning into cybersecurity degree programs.

(c) SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) ELIGIBILITY.—Scholarships under this section shall be available only to students who—

(A) are citizens or permanent residents of the United States;

(B) are full-time students in an eligible degree program, as determined by the Director, that is focused on computer security or information assurance at an awardee institution; and

(C) accept the terms of a scholarship pursuant to this section.

(2) SELECTION.—Individuals shall be selected to receive scholarships primarily on the basis of academic merit, with consideration given to financial need, to the goal of promoting the participation of females and individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b), and to veterans. For purposes of this paragraph, the term ''veteran'' means a person who—

(A) served on active duty (other than active duty for training) in the Armed Forces of the United States for a period of more than 180 consecutive days, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable; or

(B) served on active duty (other than active duty for training) in the Armed Forces of the United States and was discharged or released from such service for a service-connected disability before serving 180 consecutive days.

For purposes of subparagraph (B), the term ''service-connected'' has the meaning given such term under section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(3) SERVICE OBLIGATION.—If an individual receives a scholarship under this section, as a condition of receiving such scholarship, the individual upon completion of their degree must serve as a cybersecurity professional within the Federal workforce for a period of time as provided in paragraph (5). If a scholarship recipient is not offered employment by a Federal agency or a federally funded research and development center, the service requirement can be satisfied at the Director's discretion by—

(A) serving as a cybersecurity professional in a State, local, or tribal government agency; or

(B) teaching cybersecurity courses at an institution of higher education.

(4) CONDITIONS OF SUPPORT.—As a condition of acceptance of a scholarship under this section, a recipient shall agree to provide the awardee institution with annual verifiable documentation of employment and up-to-date contact information.

(5) LENGTH OF SERVICE.—The length of service required in exchange for a scholarship under this subsection shall be 1 year more than the number of years for which the scholarship was received.

(d) FAILURE TO COMPLETE SERVICE OBLIGATION.—

(1) GENERAL RULE.—If an individual who has received a scholarship under this section—

(A) fails to maintain an acceptable level of academic standing in the educational institution in which the individual is enrolled, as determined by the Director;

(B) is dismissed from such educational institution for disciplinary reasons;

(C) withdraws from the program for which the award was made before the completion of such program;

(D) declares that the individual does not intend to fulfill the service obligation under this section; or

(E) fails to fulfill the service obligation of the individual under this section,

such individual shall be liable to the United States as provided in paragraph (3).

(2) MONITORING COMPLIANCE.—As a condition of participating in the program, a qualified institution of higher education receiving a grant under this section shall—

(A) enter into an agreement with the Director of the National Science Foundation to monitor the compliance of scholarship recipients with respect to their service obligation; and

(B) provide to the Director, on an annual basis, post-award employment information required under subsection (c)(4) for scholarship recipients through the completion of their service obligation.

(3) AMOUNT OF REPAYMENT.—

(A) LESS THAN ONE YEAR OF SERVICE.—If a circumstance described in paragraph (1) occurs before the completion of 1 year of a service obligation under this section, the total amount of awards received by the individual under this section shall be repaid or such amount shall be treated as a loan to be repaid in accordance with subparagraph (C).

(B) MORE THAN ONE YEAR OF SERVICE.—If a circumstance described in subparagraph (D) or (E) of paragraph (1) occurs after the completion of 1 year of a service obligation under this section, the total amount of scholarship awards received by the individual under this section, reduced by the ratio of the number of years of service completed divided by the number of years of service required, shall be repaid or such amount shall be treated as a loan to be repaid in accordance with subparagraph (C).

(C) REPAYMENTS.—A loan described in subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be treated as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a and following), and shall be subject to repayment, together with interest thereon accruing from the date of the scholarship award, in accordance with terms and conditions specified by the Director (in consultation with the Secretary of Education) in regulations promulgated to carry out this paragraph.

(4) COLLECTION OF REPAYMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the event that a scholarship recipient is required to repay the scholarship under this subsection, the institution providing the scholarship shall—

(i) be responsible for determining the repayment amounts and for notifying the recipient and the Director of the amount owed; and

(ii) collect such repayment amount within a period of time as determined under the agreement described in paragraph (2), or the repayment amount shall be treated as a loan in accordance with paragraph (3)(C).

(B) RETURNED TO TREASURY.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this paragraph, any such repayment shall be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

(C) RETAIN PERCENTAGE.—An institution of higher education may retain a percentage of any repayment the institution collects under this paragraph to defray administrative costs associated with the collection. The Director shall establish a single, fixed percentage that will apply to all eligible entities.

(5) EXCEPTIONS.—The Director may provide for the partial or total waiver or suspension of any service or payment obligation by an individual under this section whenever compliance by the individual with the obligation is impossible or would involve extreme hardship to the individual, or if enforcement of such obligation with respect to the individual would be unconscionable.

(e) HIRING AUTHORITY.—

(1) APPOINTMENT IN EXCEPTED SERVICE.—Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, an agency shall appoint in the excepted service an individual who has completed the academic program for which a scholarship was awarded.

(2) NONCOMPETITIVE CONVERSION.—Except as provided in paragraph (4), upon fulfillment of the service term, an employee appointed under paragraph (1) may be converted noncompetitively to term, career-conditional or career appointment.

(3) TIMING OF CONVERSION.—An agency may noncompetitively convert a term employee appointed under paragraph (2) to a career-conditional or career appointment before the term appointment expires.

(4) AUTHORITY TO DECLINE CONVERSION.—An agency may decline to make the noncompetitive conversion or appointment under paragraph (2) for cause.

SEC. 107. CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act the President shall transmit to the Congress a report addressing the cybersecurity workforce needs of the Federal Government. The report shall include—

(1) an examination of the current state of and the projected needs of the Federal cybersecurity workforce, including a comparison of the different agencies and departments, and an analysis of the capacity of such agencies and departments to meet those needs;

(2) an analysis of the sources and availability of cybersecurity talent, a comparison of the skills and expertise sought by the Federal Government and the private sector, an examination of the current and future capacity of United States institutions of higher education, including community colleges, to provide current and future cybersecurity professionals, through education and training activities, with those skills sought by the Federal Government, State and local entities, and the private sector, and a description of how successful programs are engaging the talents of females and individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b);

(3) an examination of the effectiveness of the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education, the Centers of Academic Excellence in Research, and the Federal Cyber Scholarship for Service programs in promoting higher education and research in cybersecurity and information assurance and in producing a growing number of professionals with the necessary cybersecurity and information assurance expertise, including individuals from States or regions in which the unemployment rate exceeds the national average;

(4) an analysis of any barriers to the Federal Government recruiting and hiring cybersecurity talent, including barriers relating to compensation, the hiring process, job classification, and hiring flexibilities; and

(5) recommendations for Federal policies to ensure an adequate, well-trained Federal cybersecurity workforce.

SEC. 108. CYBERSECURITY UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY TASK FORCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY TASK FORCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall convene a task force to explore mechanisms for carrying out collaborative research, development, education, and training activities for cybersecurity through a consortium or other appropriate entity with participants from institutions of higher education and industry.

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The task force shall—

(1) develop options for a collaborative model and an organizational structure for such entity under which the joint research and development activities could be planned, managed, and conducted effectively, including mechanisms for the allocation of resources among the participants in such entity for support of such activities;

(2) identify and prioritize at least three cybersecurity grand challenges, focused on nationally significant problems requiring collaborative and interdisciplinary solutions;

(3) propose a process for developing a research and development agenda for such entity to address the grand challenges identified under paragraph (2);

(4) define the roles and responsibilities for the participants from institutions of higher education and industry in such entity;

(5) propose guidelines for assigning intellectual property rights and for the transfer of research and development results to the private sector; and

(6) make recommendations for how such entity could be funded from Federal, State, and nongovernmental sources.

(c) COMPOSITION.—In establishing the task force under subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall appoint an equal number of individuals from institutions of higher education, including minority-serving institutions and community colleges, and from industry with knowledge and expertise in cybersecurity.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall transmit to the Congress a report describing the findings and recommendations of the task force.

(e) TERMINATION.—The task force shall terminate upon transmittal of the report required under subsection (d).

(f) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—Members of the task force shall serve without compensation.

SEC. 109. CYBERSECURITY AUTOMATION AND CHECKLISTS FOR GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS.

Section 8(c) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7406(c)) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) SECURITY AUTOMATION AND CHECKLISTS FOR GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall develop, and revise as necessary, security automation standards, associated reference materials (including protocols), and checklists providing settings and option selections that minimize the security risks associated with each information technology hardware or software system and security tool that is, or is likely to become, widely used within the Federal Government in order to enable standardized and interoperable technologies, architectures, and frameworks for continuous monitoring of information security within the Federal Government.

''(2) PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall establish priorities for the development of standards, reference materials, and checklists under this subsection on the basis of—

''(A) the security risks associated with the use of the system;

''(B) the number of agencies that use a particular system or security tool;

''(C) the usefulness of the standards, reference materials, or checklists to Federal agencies that are users or potential users of the system;

''(D) the effectiveness of the associated standard, reference material, or checklist in creating

or enabling continuous monitoring of information security; or

''(E) such other factors as the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology determines to be appropriate.

''(3) EXCLUDED SYSTEMS.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology may exclude from the application of paragraph (1) any information technology hardware or software system or security tool for which such Director determines that the development of a standard, reference material, or checklist is inappropriate because of the infrequency of use of the system, the obsolescence of the system, or the inutility or impracticability of developing a standard, reference material, or checklist for the system.

''(4) DISSEMINATION OF STANDARDS AND RELATED MATERIALS.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall ensure that Federal agencies are informed of the availability of any standard, reference material, checklist, or other item developed under this subsection.

''(5) AGENCY USE REQUIREMENTS.—The development of standards, reference materials, and checklists under paragraph (1) for an information technology hardware or software system or tool does not—

''(A) require any Federal agency to select the specific settings or options recommended by the standard, reference material, or checklist for the system;

''(B) establish conditions or prerequisites for Federal agency procurement or deployment of any such system;

''(C) imply an endorsement of any such system by the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology; or

''(D) preclude any Federal agency from procuring or deploying other information technology hardware or software systems for which no such standard, reference material, or checklist has been developed or identified under paragraph (1).''.

SEC. 110. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3) is amended by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f), and by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) INTRAMURAL SECURITY RESEARCH.—As part of the research activities conducted in accordance with subsection (d)(3), the Institute shall—

''(1) conduct a research program to develop a unifying and standardized identity, privilege, and access control management framework for the execution of a wide variety of resource protection policies and that is amenable to implementation within a wide variety of existing and emerging computing environments;

''(2) carry out research associated with improving the security of information systems and networks;

''(3) carry out research associated with improving the testing, measurement, usability, and assurance of information systems and networks;

''(4) carry out research associated with improving security of industrial control systems; and

''(5) carry out research associated with improving the security and integrity of the information technology supply chain.''.

SEC. 111. RESEARCH ON THE SCIENCE OF CYBERSECURITY.

The Director of the National Science Foundation and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall, through existing programs and activities, support research that will lead to the development of a scientific foundation for the field of cybersecurity, including research that increases understanding of the underlying principles of securing complex networked systems, enables repeatable experimentation, and creates quantifiable security metrics.

TITLE II—ADVANCEMENT OF CYBERSECURITY TECHNICAL STANDARDS

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(2) INSTITUTE.—The term ''Institute'' means the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

SEC. 202. INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY TECHNICAL STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in coordination with appropriate Federal authorities, shall—

(1) as appropriate, ensure coordination of Federal agencies engaged in the development of international technical standards related to information system security; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, develop and transmit to the Congress a plan for ensuring such Federal agency coordination.

(b) CONSULTATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—In carrying out the activities specified in subsection (a)(1), the Director shall ensure consultation with appropriate private sector stakeholders.

SEC. 203. CLOUD COMPUTING STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in collaboration with the Federal CIO Council, and in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies and stakeholders from the private sector, shall continue to develop and encourage the implementation of a comprehensive strategy for the use and adoption of cloud computing services by the Federal Government.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the strategy developed under subsection (a), the Director shall give consideration to activities that—

(1) accelerate the development, in collaboration with the private sector, of standards that address interoperability and portability of cloud computing services;

(2) advance the development of conformance testing performed by the private sector in support of cloud computing standardization; and

(3) support, in consultation with the private sector, the development of appropriate security frameworks and reference materials, and the identification of best practices, for use by Federal agencies to address security and privacy requirements to enable the use and adoption of cloud computing services, including activities—

(A) to ensure the physical security of cloud computing data centers and the data stored in such centers;

(B) to ensure secure access to the data stored in cloud computing data centers;

(C) to develop security standards as required under section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3); and

(D) to support the development of the automation of continuous monitoring systems.

SEC. 204. PROMOTING CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS AND EDUCATION.

(a) PROGRAM.—The Director, in collaboration with relevant Federal agencies, industry, educational institutions, National Laboratories, the National Coordination Office of the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development program, and other organizations, shall continue to coordinate a cybersecurity awareness and education program to increase knowledge, skills, and awareness of cybersecurity risks, consequences, and best practices through—

(1) the widespread dissemination of cybersecurity technical standards and best practices identified by the Institute;

(2) efforts to make cybersecurity best practices usable by individuals, small to medium-sized businesses, State, local, and tribal governments, and educational institutions;

(3) improving the state of cybersecurity education at all educational levels;

(4) efforts to attract, recruit, and retain qualified professionals to the Federal cybersecurity workforce; and

(5) improving the skills, training, and professional development of the Federal cybersecurity workforce.

(b) STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Director shall, in cooperation with relevant Federal agencies and other stakeholders, develop and implement a strategic plan to guide Federal programs and activities in support of a comprehensive cybersecurity awareness and education program as described under subsection (a).

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and every 5 years thereafter, the Director shall transmit the strategic plan required under subsection (b) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 205. IDENTITY MANAGEMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

The Director shall continue a program to support the development of technical standards, metrology, testbeds, and conformance criteria, taking into account appropriate user concerns, to—

(1) improve interoperability among identity management technologies;

(2) strengthen authentication methods of identity management systems;

(3) improve privacy protection in identity management systems, including health information technology systems, through authentication and security protocols; and

(4) improve the usability of identity management systems.

SEC. 206. AUTHORIZATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out this Act, and the amendments made by this Act. This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized or appropriated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 756, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank Representative MCCAUL and Representative LIPINSKI for introducing this commonsense, bipartisan legislation. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 756, the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2013.

As our reliance on information technology expands, so do our vulnerabilities. Cyber attacks against U.S. Government and private sector networks are on the rise. Protecting America's cyber systems is critical to our economic and national security. Keeping our cyber infrastructure secure is a responsibility shared by different Federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The Cybersecurity Enhancement Act coordinates research and development activities to better address evolving cyber threats. The legislation promotes much-needed research and development to help create new technologies and standards that better protect America's information technology systems. To improve America's cybersecurity abilities, this bill strengthens activities in four areas:

One, strategic planning for cybersecurity research and development needs across the Federal Government;

Two, basic research at the National Science Foundation, which we know is important to increasing security over the long term;

Three, National Science Foundation scholarships to improve the quality of the cybersecurity workforce;

Four, improved research, development, and public outreach organized by NIST related to cybersecurity.

These are modest but important changes that will help us better protect our cyber networks.

Cyber attacks threaten our national and economic security. To solve this problem, America needs a solution that involves the cooperation of many public and private sector entities. We must develop a rigorous scientific foundation for cybersecurity. This legislation helps foster such an effort, which will make our computer systems more secure.

The bill was recently approved by the Science, Space, and Technology Committee with strong bipartisan support. I again thank my Science Committee colleagues, Representatives MCCAUL and LIPINSKI, for their initiative on this issue, and look forward to this bill becoming law.

Mr. Speaker, the following groups have written letters of support for H.R. 756, the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act: TechAmerica, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, USTelecom, the Information Technology Industry Council, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Financial Services Roundtable, the Computing Research Association, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, and the U.S. Public Policy Council of the Association for Computing Machinery.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 756, the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2013.

This is a good, bipartisan bill, and it is nearly identical to the legislation that passed the House by an overwhelming majority last Congress. I would like to thank my colleagues, Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. MCCAUL, for their leadership and dedication to improving our Nation's cybersecurity.

Almost every one of us uses a computer, a cell phone, and the Internet every single day. These technologies have greatly increased our productivity and connectivity, and they have become a key component of our economy. Unfortunately, if you pick up the newspaper, you're likely to see another story about a hacker bringing down a Web site, stealing credit card numbers, or gaining access to a company's intellectual property. We need to do what we can to help ensure that these sorts of cyber intrusions are minimized, and I am pleased that H.R. 756 addresses a number of critical issues:

It strengthens public-private partnerships, guarantees a proactive and comprehensive research and development portfolio, ensures the development of robust cybersecurity standards, and trains the next generation of cybersecurity professionals.

Both of the agencies covered in H.R. 756, the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, play important and unique roles in the Federal Government's effort to secure cyberspace. I strongly believe that these agencies and the activities they support are vital to our Nation's future prosperity. We not only need to protect the security of our current information systems, but we need to build the next generation of systems—systems that are more secure from the first time they're turned on.

President Obama previously stated that cyber threats are ''one of the most serious economic and national security challenges we face as a Nation'' and that cutting-edge research and development and a commitment to science and math education are central to securing America's information and communication networks. I couldn't agree more.

Cybersecurity is a critical issue, and it becomes more important day by day. Addressing this issue will not be easy, but it is absolutely necessary. H.R. 756 will help build up our cybersecurity capabilities through research and education. This is a good, bipartisan bill that should be included in any comprehensive effort to keep our Nation, our businesses, and our citizens safe from malicious cybersecurity attacks.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank my staff and the majority's staff for their hard work on this bill. In particular, I would like to thank Marcy Gallo for her efforts on this bill in this Congress and in past Congresses as well. I look forward to working with my colleagues to make sure this bill makes it to the President's desk.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 756, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1300

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, and the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my fellow Texan and friend, Chairman SMITH, for his support, Ranking Member JOHNSON, and DAN LIPINSKI, my cohort on this bill. We passed this in two prior Congresses, and this is our third attempt. Let's hope the third time will be a charm.

For most of us around the country, it is hard to think of anything else other than the terrorist attack in Boston yesterday. It is a solemn reminder of the threats that we face. While the attention of the American people is focused on the physical attack that occurred during the Boston Marathon, I think it is important that we as leader in this Chamber be frank with the American people about the virtual threat of a cyber attack against our national and economic security interests. We must be vigilant against both.

The United States faces several daunting challenges at this moment in history, including emerging threats that we must as a Nation be prepared to face head on. Congress is often blamed for not rising to the occasion by being too reactive to events or failing to act at all. I'm determined, as my colleagues are, that this Congress tackle head on the problem of our vulnerable cyber defenses and bolster our security in cyberspace.

Last month our country's top intelligence officials told Congress that the U.S. is vulnerable to cyber espionage, cyber crime, and outright destruction of computer networks, both from sophisticated government-sponsored assaults from countries like China and Iran, as well as criminal hacker groups and cyber terrorists. We know that foreign nations are conducting reconnaissance on our critical infrastructures and utilities, including our gas lines and water systems and energy grids. If the ability to send a silent attack through our digital networks falls into our enemies' hands, this country could be the victim of a devastating attack. Last December, Iran attacked the state-owned Saudi Aramco with the goal of stopping Saudi Arabia's oil production. Additionally, this year Iran conducted multiple denial of service attacks on major U.S. banks. And just last year, an al Qaeda operative issued a call for electronic jihad against the United States, comparing our technological vulnerabilities to that of our security before 9/11.

Yet while these threats are imminent, no major cybersecurity legislation that would help protect us has been enacted since 2002. Quite simply, we are not prepared to meet the threats of the 21st century.

This act improves coordination in government, providing for a strategic plan to assess the cybersecurity risk and guide the overall direction of Federal cyber R&D. It updates the National Institutes of Standards and Technology's responsibilities to develop security standards for Federal computer systems to ensure computer hygiene and processes for agencies to follow.

Our bill also establishes a Federal-university-private-sector task force to

coordinate research and development, improves training of cyber professionals, and continues the much-needed cybersecurity research and development programs at the National Science Foundation and NIST.

This bill has been endorsed, as the chairman stated, by leading industry groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Tech America. Most importantly, this bill is fiscally responsible. It is not being paid for with any new money since it is intended to work within the boundaries of funds authorized and appropriated to NSF and NIST. I'm confident that this legislation will advance the work these agencies are doing to bolster our domestic cybersecurity, as much as I'm confident that this Congress will finally address in a meaningful way the urgent need to pass this bipartisan cybersecurity legislation at that time. So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I want to start by thanking the gentlelady for yielding and for her support on this bill, and thank Chairman SMITH for his support and for moving the bill early in this Congress. I also want to thank Mr. MCCAUL for working with me on this bill for the third straight Congress and for his broader leadership in Congress on cybersecurity issues.

Two Congresses ago when Democrats were in the majority, I was the lead sponsor of this bill. Last Congress, Mr. MCCAUL became the lead sponsor. Both times the bill passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, which is a testament to the importance of this bill and to the quality of the work that has gone into it. Hopefully in this Congress, as Mr. MCCAUL said, the House and the Senate will finally pass this vital piece of the puzzle in protecting America's cybersecurity.

When I began working on this bill in 2010, it was clear that our use of the Internet and other communication networks would continue to grow and evolve, and that threats from individual hackers, criminal syndicates, and even other governments would grow and evolve, too. This has turned out to be all too true.

Just last month, the Director of National Intelligence testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee that the danger of cyber attacks and cyber espionage on crucial infrastructure tops the list of global threats to our Nation. I believe that we face the possibility of a cyber ''Pearl Harbor'' that could destroy America's military or economic security. We have already seen the loss of countless jobs through cyber espionage, and we face—and thankfully, so far, we have repelled—much worse attacks every day. It is now more important than ever that we get this legislation onto the President's desk.

H.R. 756 will increase the security of our networks and information systems by building strong public-private partnerships, improving the transfer of cybersecurity technologies to the marketplace, training a cybersecurity workforce for both the public and private sectors, and coordinating and prioritizing Federal cybersecurity R&D efforts.

In addition to requiring a strategic plan for Federal cybersecurity R&D among all of the relevant Federal agencies, this bill explicitly authorizes programs and activities at the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Both of these agencies play an important and unique role in the Federal Government's efforts to secure cyberspace.

This bill also builds on recommendations of the administration's cyberspace policy review. The first step is education, including educating individuals, companies, and especially the next generation of IT professionals. This legislation works towards these goals by building on existing partnerships, such as the NSF-sponsored Center for System Security and Information Assurance at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, Illinois. This college has trained hundreds of teachers and college faculty in cybersecurity-related areas since 2003, individuals who are now teaching at colleges and technical training programs nationwide.

H.R. 756 utilizes these existing programs across the country by providing scholarships to students pursuing cybersecurity degrees in exchange for their service in the Federal IT workforce. This approach not only provides for the immediate workforce needs of the Federal Government but also builds a pipeline for private industry.

Of course, research, standards, and education are only part of the cybersecurity solution, but they are critical pieces of the puzzle that Congress must complete to secure our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank again Mr. MCCAUL for his work on this legislation. I urge Members to support it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) who is the vice chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank LAMAR SMITH and Congressmen MCCAUL and LIPINSKI for the leadership that they've provided on this very significant issue.

First of all, I would like to say that I am completely supportive of this bill. This legislation will continue America's path toward greater capabilities on cybersecurity. This is critical to our national security and our future.

And while we are increasing the authorization levels in this legislation for these critical activities, we are aware that every new dollar that we spend is a dollar that we borrowed, probably from China.

□ 1310

The Communist Chinese regime, of course, is the greatest human rights abuser in the world and potential adversary of the United States.

Furthermore, there has been unequivocal evidence that the Chinese Government is a source of significant cyber attacks on targets within the United States, which leads me to the main point, being, we must take note that there are many students from China and students from other known cyber attack countries attending our universities, participating in our programs, and learning exactly how we are setting up our system and defenses.

We need to apply a little common sense here, which is so often missing from our government, of course; and we need to make certain that we are not funding, enabling, and training our potential enemies.

Section 106 of this legislation clearly limits the Scholarships for Service program to citizens or permanent residents of the United States. But that limitation is not extended to the Graduate Traineeships Program, which is also authorized; nor does it extend that limitation to the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship program, which has previously been expanded to include computer and network security specializations.

Other cybersecurity programs give funding to and rely upon universities that are now training both sides in a future cyber war.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. So here we might end up, if we're not careful on how we approach this battle that we're having for the security of our country, we could end up financing both sides of a potential cyber conflict. We don't need to do that.

The Chinese graduate students that head home, after being trained by the American taxpayers, and they're supposed to head home, by the way, after they go through education here, if they go home, they could end up becoming soldiers in China's cyber war against us.

We need to consider the fundamental questions of how we got ourselves into this predicament, and that was through our policies of technology transfer, trade, and investment that benefited and actually were structured in a way to transfer wealth to China.

We need solutions to get ourselves out of this problem and not be in jeopardy from this Communist Chinese dictatorship that still exists in Beijing. Well, turning off the funding spigot to those who threaten us and potentially could do us harm is the first step.

So I would hope that as this legislation works its way through the Senate and elsewhere, that we make sure that there are limitations placed on it so that no students from countries that

are possible enemies of the United States, but are currently engaged in cyber attacks, should be able to be funded by this program.

But with that said, the purpose of the program is terrific. We need to do it, and we need to do it right. And I congratulate my friends and my colleagues for the good job they've done.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Before I begin, let me just say that my heart goes out to all those who lost their lives and were injured in the terrorist attack at the Boston Marathon yesterday. My thoughts and prayers are with them and their families, and we pray for a quick recovery for all of those who were hurt. And our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in Boston at this difficult time.

I also would like to take a minute just to comment on and to lend my support to the previous bill that was just debated, H.R. 1163, the FISMA reform bill that was before the House, vitally important for updating our reporting of cybersecurity incidents and other issues relating to enhancing our cybersecurity. And I commend Chairman ISSA for his leadership on that, as well as others on the committee who are supporting that bill.

But, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise as a supporter and cosponsor of the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act, offered by my good friend and colleague, the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, as well as the cochair, along with me, on the Cybersecurity Caucus, Chairman MCCAUL.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that every week we read about a new cyber attack taking place. Last month, the Mandiant Report detailed a campaign of espionage against hundreds of corporations around the world. The New York Times and other media companies have also been victims of recent attacks; and we saw in South Korea last month the financial and communications sectors can clearly be vulnerable to these pernicious attacks as well.

Mr. Speaker, the cyber threat is real. Protecting our networks is a complex task that we, in Congress, need to focus more on and address. Chairman MCCAUL and I served together on the CSIS Commission on Cybersecurity for the 44th Presidency, and I am happy to report that the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act builds on the important work that we did there.

As we are constantly reminded, today's threat may not be tomorrow's, due to the prodigious rate of technological innovation. This bill before us today encourages coordination between Federal agencies tasked with cyber research and development and requires them to develop a strategic plan for R&D activities.

Success in this area demands a skilled cyber workforce, something that we currently lack. This bill takes an important first step in correcting our course by reauthorizing NSF graduate fellowships in cybersecurity and requiring the President to issue a report addressing our critical cyber workforce shortage.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that, let me again thank the gentleman from Texas for his outstanding leadership on this issue. He's been a visionary on working to protect our Nation's cybersecurity, and I greatly appreciate his efforts and that of many others. I look forward to continuing to work with him, and I'm pleased to support this bipartisan piece of legislation.

I also recognize Mr. LIPINSKI and his leadership on this issue as well.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have no more requests for time on this side, so we'll be prepared to yield back at the right time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership on the Science Committee, and thank the proponents of this legislation, my chairman on the Homeland Security Committee, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. LIPINSKI, for their bipartisanship on something that is enormously crucial; and it is certainly crucial for those of us who serve on both Judiciary and Homeland Security and probably a number of others.

What I want to applaud most of all is the R&D and expanded training. We will need to have a cadre, an army of civilians, who understand the protection of America's cyber landscape, if you will. And it is a domestic issue, as well as a security issue, because America's energy and utilities and medical care all are tied into the cybersphere.

Whether or not it is a youngster who wants to hack, or whether or not it is an aggressive foreign country, it is valuable and important for us to be trained. I'd like to offer the importance of Historically Black Colleges and Hispanic-serving Colleges as well, being part of this very important effort and, as well, to educate the private sector, which has 85 to 80 to 90 percent, in essence, of the private sector dealing with cybersecurity.

Let me complete, Mr. Speaker, by saying as we move forward, I think it is important for Homeland Security to be a lead on some of these issues, particularly the bill coming forward. But I applaud this legislation. I congratulate the proponents and sponsors and ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to please heed the gavel.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I'd like to just urge that we support the bill, and I thank the chairman.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1320

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 756, the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2013—legislation that I'm proud to cosponsor, which will both enhance our national security and help boost our economy.

Cybersecurity is increasingly essential to our national defense and to our economic security in the 21st century.

As the Internet and other communication networks have grown and become more sophisticated, so have the threats from individual hackers, criminal syndicates, and even other governments.

It's critical that we take steps today to encourage and better coordinate the research and development of cybersecurity technology on a national scale.

The Cybersecurity Enhancement Act will help ensure that our country is prepared to face the security threats of the 21st century, that our businesses have the IT protections they need to compete on a global scale. I am proud that we're making critical investments in science and IT education for our young people and our educational institutions.

By authorizing grants and prioritizing research areas with the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, this legislation will help boost workforce development. In Connecticut, home to high-tech manufacturing and top-quality universities and technical schools, these workforce investments are essential to our economic future.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of our nation's security, for the sake of our businesses, for the sake of our economy, I urge a yes vote on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 756, as amended.

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. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ADVANCING AMERICA'S NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2013

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 967) to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 967

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 ''Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. PROGRAM PLANNING AND COORDINATION.

(a) PERIODIC REVIEWS.—Section 101 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) PERIODIC REVIEWS.—The agencies identified in subsection (a)(3)(B) shall—

''(1) periodically assess the contents and funding levels of the Program Component Areas and restructure the Program when warranted, taking into consideration any relevant recommendations of the advisory committee established under subsection (b); and

''(2) ensure that the Program includes large-scale, long-term, interdisciplinary research and development activities, including activities described in section 104.''.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—Section 101 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended further by adding after subsection (d), as added by subsection (a) of this Act, the following new subsection:

''(e) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The agencies identified in subsection (a)(3)(B), working through the National Science and Technology Council and with the assistance of the National Coordination Office described under section 102, shall develop, within 12 months after the date of enactment of the Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2013, and update every 3 years thereafter, a 5-year strategic plan to guide the activities described under subsection (a)(1).

''(2) CONTENTS.—The strategic plan shall specify near-term and long-term objectives for the Program, the anticipated time frame for achieving the near-term objectives, the metrics to be used for assessing progress toward the objectives, and how the Program will—

''(A) foster the transfer of research and development results into new technologies and applications for the benefit of society, including through cooperation and collaborations with networking and information technology research, development, and technology transition initiatives supported by the States;

''(B) encourage and support mechanisms for interdisciplinary research and development in networking and information technology, including through collaborations across agencies, across Program Component Areas, with industry, with Federal laboratories (as defined in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703)), and with international organizations;

''(C) address long-term challenges of national importance for which solutions require large-scale, long-term, interdisciplinary research and development;

''(D) place emphasis on innovative and high-risk projects having the potential for substantial societal returns on the research investment;

''(E) strengthen all levels of networking and information technology education and training programs to ensure an adequate, well-trained workforce; and

''(F) attract more women and underrepresented minorities to pursue postsecondary degrees in networking and information technology.

''(3) NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE.—The strategic plan developed in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be accompanied by milestones and roadmaps for establishing and maintaining the national research infrastructure required to support the Program, including the roadmap required by subsection (a)(2)(E).

''(4) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The entities involved in developing the strategic plan under paragraph (1) shall take into consideration the recommendations—

''(A) of the advisory committee established under subsection (b); and

''(B) of the stakeholders whose input was solicited by the National Coordination Office, as required under section 102(b)(3).

''(5) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the National Coordination Office shall transmit the strategic plan required under paragraph (1) to the advisory committee, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.''.

(c) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTOR.—Section 101(a)(2) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) by inserting ''education,'' before ''and other activities'';

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

''(E) encourage and monitor the efforts of the agencies participating in the Program to allocate the level of resources and management attention necessary to ensure that the strategic plan under subsection (e) is developed and executed effectively and that the objectives of the Program are met;''.

(d) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Section 101(b)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) after the first sentence, by inserting the following: ''The co-chairs of the advisory committee shall meet the qualifications of committee membership and may be members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.''; and

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''high-performance'' and inserting ''high-end''.

(e) REPORT.—Section 101(a)(3) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by redesignating clauses (vii) through (xi) as clauses (viii) through (xii), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

''(vii) the Department of Homeland Security;'';

(2) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by striking ''is submitted,'' and inserting ''is submitted, the levels for the previous fiscal year,''; and

(B) by striking ''each Program Component Area;'' and inserting ''each Program Component Area and research area supported in accordance with section 104;'';

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking ''each Program Component Area,'' and inserting ''each Program Component Area and research area supported in accordance with section 104,'';

(B) by striking ''is submitted,'' and inserting ''is submitted, the levels for the previous fiscal year,''; and

(C) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(4) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (G); and

(5) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraphs:

''(E) include a description of how the objectives for each Program Component Area, and the objectives for activities that involve multiple Program Component Areas, relate to the objectives of the Program identified in the strategic plan required under subsection (e);

''(F) include—

''(i) a description of the funding required by the National Coordination Office to perform the functions specified under section 102(b) for the next fiscal year by category of activity;

''(ii) a description of the funding required by such Office to perform the functions specified under section 102(b) for the current fiscal year by category of activity; and

''(iii) the amount of funding provided for such Office for the current fiscal year by each agency participating in the Program; and''.

(f) DEFINITION.—Section 4 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5503) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following new paragraph:

''(1) 'cyber-physical systems' means physical or engineered systems whose networking and information technology functions and physical elements are deeply integrated and are actively connected to the physical world through sensors, actuators, or other means to perform monitoring and control functions;'';

(3) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology'';

(4) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(B) by striking ''supercomputer'' and inserting ''high-end computing'';

(5) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by striking ''network referred to as'' and all that follows through the semicolon and inserting ''network, including advanced computer networks of Federal agencies and departments;''; and

(6) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated, by striking ''National High-Performance Computing Program'' and inserting ''networking and information technology research and development program''.

SEC. 3. LARGE-SCALE RESEARCH IN AREAS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

Title I of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 104. LARGE-SCALE RESEARCH IN AREAS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall encourage agencies identified in section 101(a)(3)(B) to support large-scale, long-term, interdisciplinary research and development activities in networking and information technology directed toward application areas that have the potential for significant contributions to national economic competitiveness and for other significant societal benefits. Such activities, ranging from basic research to the demonstration of technical solutions, shall be designed to advance the development of research discoveries. The advisory committee established under section 101(b) shall make recommendations to the Program for candidate research and development areas for support under this section.

''(b) CHARACTERISTICS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Research and development activities under this section shall—

''(A) include projects selected on the basis of applications for support through a competitive, merit-based process;

''(B) involve collaborations among researchers in institutions of higher education and industry, and may involve nonprofit research institutions and Federal laboratories, as appropriate;

''(C) when possible, leverage Federal investments through collaboration with related State initiatives; and

''(D) include a plan for fostering the transfer of research discoveries and the results of technology demonstration activities, including from institutions of higher education and Federal laboratories, to industry for commercial development.

''(2) COST-SHARING.—In selecting applications for support, the agencies shall give special consideration to projects that include cost sharing from non-Federal sources.

''(3) AGENCY COLLABORATION.—If 2 or more agencies identified in section 101(a)(3)(B), or other appropriate agencies, are working on large-scale research and development activities in the same area of national importance, then

such agencies shall strive to collaborate through joint solicitation and selection of applications for support and subsequent funding of projects.

''(4) INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CENTERS.—Research and development activities under this section may be supported through interdisciplinary research centers that are organized to investigate basic research questions and carry out technology demonstration activities in areas described in subsection (a). Research may be carried out through existing interdisciplinary centers, including those authorized under section 7024(b)(2) of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110–69; 42 U.S.C. 1862o–10).''.

SEC. 4. CYBER-PHYSICAL SYSTEMS.

(a) ADDITIONAL PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS.—Section 101(a)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (I)—

(A) by striking ''improving the security'' and inserting ''improving the security, reliability, and resilience''; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

''(J) provide for increased understanding of the scientific principles of cyber-physical systems and improve the methods available for the design, development, and operation of cyber-physical systems that are characterized by high reliability, safety, and security; and

''(K) provide for research and development on human-computer interactions, visualization, and big data.''.

(b) WORKSHOP.—Title I of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended further by adding after section 104, as added by section 3 of this Act, the following new section:

''SEC. 105. UNIVERSITY/INDUSTRY WORKSHOP.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2013, the Director of the National Coordination Office shall convene a workshop, with participants from institutions of higher education, Federal laboratories, and industry, to explore mechanisms for carrying out collaborative research and development activities for cyber-physical systems, including the related technologies required to enable these systems, and to develop grand challenges in cyber-physical systems research and development.

''(b) FUNCTIONS.—The workshop participants shall—

''(1) develop options for models for research and development partnerships among institutions of higher education, Federal laboratories, and industry, including mechanisms for the support of research and development carried out under these partnerships;

''(2) develop options for grand challenges in cyber-physical systems research and development that would be addressed through such partnerships;

''(3) propose guidelines for assigning intellectual property rights and for the transfer of research results to the private sector; and

''(4) make recommendations for how Federal agencies participating in the Program can help support research and development partnerships in cyber-physical systems, including through existing or new grant programs.

''(c) PARTICIPANTS.—The Director of the National Coordination Office shall ensure that participants in the workshop are individuals with knowledge and expertise in cyber-physical systems and that participants represent a broad mix of relevant stakeholders, including academic and industry researchers, cyber-physical systems and technologies manufacturers, cyber-physical systems and technologies users, and, as appropriate, Federal government regulators.

''(d) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2013, the Director of the National Coordination Office shall transmit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report describing the findings and recommendations resulting from the workshop required under this section.''.

SEC. 5. CLOUD COMPUTING SERVICES FOR RESEARCH.

Title I of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended further by adding after section 105, as added by section 4(b) of this Act, the following new section:

''SEC. 106. CLOUD COMPUTING SERVICES FOR RESEARCH.

''(a) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2013, the Director of the National Coordination Office, working through the National Science and Technology Council, shall convene an interagency working group to examine—

''(1) the research and development needed—

''(A) to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of cloud computing environments;

''(B) to increase the trustworthiness of cloud applications and infrastructure; and

''(C) to enhance the foundations of cloud architectures, programming models, and interoperability; and

''(2) how Federal science agencies can facilitate the use of cloud computing for federally funded science and engineering research, including—

''(A) making recommendations on changes in funding mechanisms, budget models, and policies needed to remove barriers to the adoption of cloud computing services for research and for data preservation and sharing; and

''(B) providing guidance to organizations and researchers on opportunities and guidelines for using cloud computing services for federally supported research and related activities.

''(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the tasks in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a), the working group shall consult with academia, industry, Federal laboratories, and other relevant organizations and institutions, as appropriate.

''(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2013, the Director of the National Coordination Office shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing the findings and any recommendations of the working group.

''(d) TERMINATION.—The interagency working group shall terminate upon transmittal of the report required under subsection (c).''.

SEC. 6. NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE.

Section 102 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5512) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 102. NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE.

''(a) OFFICE.—The Director shall continue a National Coordination Office with a Director and full-time staff.

''(b) FUNCTIONS.—The National Coordination Office shall—

''(1) provide technical and administrative support to—

''(A) the agencies participating in planning and implementing the Program, including such support as needed in the development of the strategic plan under section 101(e); and

''(B) the advisory committee established under section 101(b);

''(2) serve as the primary point of contact on Federal networking and information technology activities for government organizations, academia, industry, professional societies, State computing and networking technology programs, interested citizen groups, and others to exchange technical and programmatic information;

''(3) solicit input and recommendations from a wide range of stakeholders during the development of each strategic plan required under section 101(e) through the convening of at least 1 workshop with invitees from academia, industry, Federal laboratories, and other relevant organizations and institutions;

''(4) conduct public outreach, including the dissemination of findings and recommendations of the advisory committee, as appropriate; and

''(5) promote access to and early application of the technologies, innovations, and expertise derived from Program activities to agency missions and systems across the Federal Government and to United States industry.

''(c) SOURCE OF FUNDING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The operation of the National Coordination Office shall be supported by funds from each agency participating in the Program.

''(2) SPECIFICATIONS.—The portion of the total budget of such Office that is provided by each agency for each fiscal year shall be in the same proportion as each such agency's share of the total budget for the Program for the previous fiscal year, as specified in the report required under section 101(a)(3).''.

SEC. 7. IMPROVING NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION.

Section 201(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5521(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

''(2) the National Science Foundation shall use its existing programs, in collaboration with other agencies, as appropriate, to improve the teaching and learning of networking and information technology at all levels of education and to increase participation in networking and information technology fields, including by women and underrepresented minorities;''.

SEC. 8. CONFORMING AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) SECTION 3.—Section 3 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5502) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING'' and inserting ''NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY'';

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology'';

(B) in subparagraphs (A), (F), and (G), by striking ''high-performance computing'' each place it appears and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(C) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''high-performance'' and inserting ''high-end''; and

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''high-performance computing and'' and inserting ''networking and information technology and''; and

(B) by striking ''high-performance computing network'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

*(b) TITLE I.—The heading of title I of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended by striking ''**HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING**'' and inserting ''**NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**''.*

(c) SECTION 101.—Section 101 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended—

*(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING**'' and inserting ''**NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**'';*

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING'' and inserting ''NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT'';

(B) in paragraph (1) of such subsection—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''National High-Performance Computing Program'' and inserting ''networking and information technology research and development program'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''high-performance computing, including networking'' and inserting ''networking and information technology'';

(iii) in subparagraphs (B) and (G), by striking ''high-performance'' each place it appears and inserting ''high-end''; and

(iv) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''high-performance computing and networking'' and inserting ''high-end computing, distributed, and networking''; and

(C) in paragraph (2) of such subsection—

(i) in subparagraphs (A) and (C)—

(I) by striking ''high-performance computing'' each place it appears and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(II) by striking ''development, networking,'' each place it appears and inserting ''development,''; and

(ii) in subparagraphs (F) and (G), as redesignated by section 2(c)(1) of this Act, by striking ''high-performance'' each place it appears and inserting ''high-end'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''high-performance computing'' both places it appears and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), in the second sentence, by striking ''2'' and inserting ''3''; and

(4) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

(d) SECTION 201.—Section 201(a)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5521(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''high-performance computing'' and all that follows through ''networking;'' and inserting ''networking and information research and development;''.

(e) SECTION 202.—Section 202(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5522(a)) is amended by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

(f) SECTION 203.—Section 203(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5523(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''high-performance computing and networking'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''high-performance'' and inserting ''high-end''.

(g) SECTION 204.—Section 204 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5524) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''high-performance computing systems and networks'' and inserting ''networking and information technology systems and capabilities'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''interoperability of high-performance computing systems in networks and for common user interfaces to systems'' and inserting ''interoperability and usability of networking and information technology systems''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING AND NETWORK'' and inserting ''NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY''; and

(B) by striking ''sensitive''.

(h) SECTION 205.—Section 205(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5525(a)) is amended by striking ''computational'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

(i) SECTION 206.—Section 206(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5526(a)) is amended by striking ''computational research'' and inserting ''networking and information technology research''.

(j) SECTION 207.—Section 207(b) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5527(b)) is amended by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

(k) SECTION 208.—Section 208 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5528) is amended—

*(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING**'' and inserting ''**NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**''; and*

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''High-performance computing and associated'' and inserting ''Networking and information'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technologies'';

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''high-performance'' and inserting ''high-end'';

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking ''high-performance computers and associated'' and inserting ''networking and information''; and

(E) in paragraph (5), by striking ''high-performance computing and associated'' and inserting ''networking and information''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 967, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS) for her work on this bill. And I'm pleased to join the Science Committee's ranking member, Ms. JOHNSON, as a cosponsor of H.R. 967, the Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2013. This bill had broad bipartisan support in the last Congress, and I hope it will receive that same level of support today.

In the digital age, protecting our Nation's computer networking systems is more important than ever. This bill provides the coordinated research and development efforts necessary to improve cyber and data security nationwide. And better network security promotes U.S. competitiveness, enhances national security, and creates high-tech jobs.

The NITRD program is an extension of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991. It represents the Federal Government's main R&D investment portfolio for unclassified networking, computing, software, cybersecurity, and related information technologies. Currently, 15 Federal agencies are contributing members of NITRD, with an additional 20 or so participating in the program.

This bill serves as the mechanism for interagency coordination of R&D to ensure no duplication of research efforts among Federal agencies or the private sector. It rebalances R&D portfolios to focus less on short-term goals and more on large-scale, long-term interdisciplinary research.

While this bill does not authorize specific funding amounts, NITRD spending totals over $3.7 billion annually. Over $1.1 billion of this is from the National Science Foundation and over $550 million is from the Department of Energy. The bill updates the underlying High-Performance Computing statute and codifies work undertaken by the National Coordination Office, housed within NSF, to oversee the 15 different agencies.

The NITRD program has eight strategic priorities for its research: cybersecurity; autonomous, robotic systems; high-end computing and applications; exascale computing; human-computer interaction; large-scale networking, workforce development; and software design and productivity.

Technologies that come from these research priorities are applied by the commercial sector and the government to protect and enhance emergency communications, the power grid, air traffic control networks, and national defense systems. Networking and information technology support and boost American competitiveness, enhance national security, and help strengthen the economy.

American job creators also recognize the importance of networking and information technology research and development. Many industry partners and stakeholders have written letters in support of this bill. They include the National Association of Manufacturers, TechAmerica, Computing Research Association, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers-USA, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, and the U.S. Public Policy Council of the Association for Computing Machinery.

Cybersecurity provisions in the bill include research necessary to detect, prevent, and recover from actions that can compromise or threaten computer-based systems.

I again thank my Science Committee colleague, Representative LUMMIS, the chairwoman of the Energy Subcommittee, for her initiative on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 967, the Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2013. H.R. 967 is a good, bipartisan bill which I was pleased to join Mrs. LUMMIS from Wyoming and Mr. HALL from Texas in introducing.

H.R. 967 is largely based on a 2009 House-passed bill that was introduced by then-Chairman Gordon and Ranking Member HALL. But the current bill also includes some updates from the 2009 bill that reflect changes to the network and information technology landscape as well as policy and management recommendations made by an outside panel of experts charged with evaluating the NITRD program.

The NITRD program, as it is known, involves a collaboration of 15 Federal research and development agencies, each contributing its own unique expertise and effort to ensure that we make most effective use of our Federal R&D resources and remain a leader in these fields. H.R. 967 requires that all 15 agencies come together to develop and periodically update a strategic plan for Federal investments in NIT R&D.

H.R. 967 calls for increased support for large-scale, long-term interdisciplinary research in NIT that will help us tackle national challenges such as improving the effectiveness and efficiency of our health care and energy delivery service systems. The bill also promotes partnerships between the Federal Government, academia, and industry to foster technology transfer.

In particular, I'd like to highlight H.R. 967's role in ensuring that the education of the future NIT workforce remains an important component of the NITRD program. I am hearing every day from small and large companies alike that the demand for skilled IT professionals is much higher than the supply. We hear this same message from university faculty, who tell us their computer science graduates are snatched up the moment they graduate, regardless of the health of the overall job market. This gap between supply and demand exists despite the fact that these jobs are among the highest-paying and the most stable jobs in our economy today.

It is imperative that we encourage more young Americans to pursue studies in the NIT fields. In particular, because of the stark gender and racial gaps we see in computer science programs, it is imperative that we encourage more young women and students of color to enter these fields. We simply won't be able to remain a global leader in these important fields without more than 50 percent of our Nation's brainpower sitting on the sidelines.

H.R. 967 doesn't go quite as far as I'd like it to go in addressing these education challenges, but it still sends an important message about the need to educate more of our students in our NIT fields and provides the necessary authority for the agencies to play an important and appropriate role here.

Finally, I would be remiss not to mention that the NITRD program serves as a coordinating and planning umbrella for all unclassified Federal cybersecurity R&D. Our committee addressed specific needs in cybersecurity R&D separately in H.R. 756; but in doing so, we made sure that both the intellectual and financial resources for cybersecurity R&D are appropriately integrated with the rest of the Federal NIT portfolio. Information security R&D should not take place in its own silo. IT bears on all networking and information technologies.

□ 1330

In closing, NIT technologies cut across every sector of our economy and our national defense infrastructure. Our relatively modest 20-year investment in the NITRD program has contributed immeasurably to our economic and national security by enabling innovation and job creation in NIT and providing American students with the skills to fill these jobs. Let's reauthorize this program today and ensure that it remains strong.

I want to thank my friend Ms. Lummis for reintroducing our bipartisan bill once again in this Congress. I'd also like to thank my staff—and in particular Dahlia Sokolov—for their hard work on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 967, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. Lummis), who is the sponsor of this legislation and who also chairs the Energy Subcommittee, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to start out by thanking Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member JOHNSON for their support in bringing this bipartisan legislation to the floor.

I have found, since being on the Science Committee, that it is an acronym-rich environment. Mr. Speaker, I'm an acronym-challenged individual, so I'll be talking about the Network and Information Technology Research and Development program. In the future, I'm just going to call it ''the program.'' It's the Federal Government's main research and development effort in unclassified network, computing, software, cybersecurity, and related information technologies.

Research conducted under this program has led to scientific growth and innovation in several areas, including visualization technologies in science, engineering, and medicine; computer-based education and training; and near-real-time weather forecasts, which is really important in my State of Wyoming.

Currently, 15 Federal agencies are contributing members to the program, and even more participate.

H.R. 967, the bill in front of us, does two things: it updates the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991, and it reauthorizes the program to advance our Nation's networking and information technology research and development.

It's the digital age, Mr. Speaker. Advances in networking and information technology continue to transform our quality of life, our economy, U.S. competitiveness, and our national security. This bill provides the coordination necessary for the United States to respond to rapid changes in these areas, it encourages innovation, and it protects our economy.

My home State of Wyoming is best known for its stunning mountains and open spaces. But not long ago, Wyoming also became home to a supercomputing center. It houses one of the world's most powerful supercomputers. Mr. Speaker, it makes a mind-boggling number of computations every second. It's sponsored by the University Coalition on Atmospheric Research, which sponsors the National Center on Atmospheric Research, and so it's partially funded by the National Science Foundation, which is the taxpayers. So they help fund it. These computations enable world-leading research projects in areas including atmospheric and geosciences. So this bill facilities work in these fields, ranging from research being conducted at the supercomputing center to big data—and I mean big data—and cybersecurity as well.

H.R. 967 implements several recommendations from the 2007 and 2010 President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology assessments to improve government coordination and planning with input from policy and technical experts. It adjusts research and development portfolios so we're focusing less on short-term goals and more on really long-term goals.

Now, specific to cybersecurity, the program includes research and development to detect, prevent, and recover from actions that compromise or threaten computer and network-based systems. Now, you heard from Congressman MCCAUL just moments ago some of the specific examples of the real threats that are directed at computer networks. So reauthorizing this program is an important step.

I thank the chairman, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding and for her work on this legislation. I'd also like to thank Chairman SMITH and Chairwoman LUMMIS for all their work on this bill.

It's been nearly 4 years since we last reauthorized and updated the NITRD program, and it's time we get this job done. The House, again, on this bill has passed legislation since that time, but we need to get this done today here and get this through the Senate and to the President's desk.

The NITRD program evolved from the High Performance Computing Act of 1991, which funded the development of Mosaic—the first commercial Web browser which made the Internet user friendly and led to its explosion in the 1990s. This innovation was created by a team of programmers at the National

Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois.

As a brief aside, I was just at the NCSA in Urbana-Champaign at the University of Illinois for the launch of the Blue Waters supercomputer, one of the most powerful supercomputers in the world, which is also there at the University of Illinois. But Marc Andreessen, one of the lead programmers on the original project that created Mosaic and the founder of Netscape, summed up the importance of Federal investment in this research by saying:

> If it had been left to private industry, it wouldn't have happened, at least, not until years later.

Innovative breakthroughs like the Mosaic Web browser changed our everyday lives and established the United States as the world leader in networking and information technologies, and the Federal Government played an important role in that. But today we find ourselves in a world in which we can no longer take U.S. supremacy for granted. As we heard during committee consideration of the bill, China, Japan, Germany, and several other countries are increasing their investments in NIT R&D as well as their capacity to convert R&D into new commercial technologies. We must prioritize cutting-edge, large-scale R&D and effective technology transfer policies, focused on the most advanced areas of network and information technology, in order to preserve our lead in these sectors.

H.R. 967, the Advancing America's Network and Information Technology Research and Development Act, achieves these ends through the development of a coordinated Federal R&D investment strategy. This bill requires Federal agencies involved in the R&D program to develop 5-year plans specifying near- and long-term objectives and to assess and evaluate progress periodically to ensure we maintain U.S. leadership in these fields.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will focus our scientific community towards the innovative, large-scale, and collaborative R&D we need to remain a leader in networking and information technologies. This is a good, bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very supportive of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 967, as amended.

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. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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:

H.R. 1163, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 756, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 967, 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.

FEDERAL INFORMATION SECURITY AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1163) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to revise requirements relating to Federal information security, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 106]

YEAS—416

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)

Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—16

Bachmann
Blackburn
Clay
Conyers
Culberson
Fincher
Holding
Kennedy
Lynch
Markey
McKeon
Meng
Miller, Gary
Payne
Roskam
Westmoreland

□ 1405

Messrs. SENSENBRENNER and TURNER changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CYBERSECURITY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 756) to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical standards, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 16, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 107]

YEAS—402

Aderholt
Alexander
Amodei
Andrews
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—16

Amash
Bentivolio
Bridenstine
Broun (GA)
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Gosar
Graves (GA)
Griffith (VA)
Huelskamp
Jones
Labrador
Massie
Sensenbrenner
Stockman
Yoho

NOT VOTING—14

Bachmann
Blackburn
Clay
Culberson
Fincher
Holding
Kennedy
Lynch
Markey
Meng
Miller, Gary
Payne
Roskam
Westmoreland

□ 1413

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADVANCING AMERICA'S NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 967) to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 11, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 108]

YEAS—406

Aderholt
Alexander
Amodei
Andrews
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah

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

NAYS—11

Amash
Bridenstine
Broun (GA)
Collins (GA)
Duncan (SC)
Gohmert
Huelskamp
Labrador
Massie
McClintock
Stutzman

NOT VOTING—15

Bachmann
Blackburn
Clay
Culberson
Diaz-Balart
Fincher
Graves (GA)
Holding
Kennedy
Lynch
Markey
Meng
Miller, Gary
Roskam
Westmoreland

□ 1420

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, today I was unable to cast my vote for H.R. 1163, H.R. 756 and H.R. 967 due to my duties as part of a delegation of Members of the U.S. House of Representatives attending the funeral services of Baroness Margaret Thatcher in London. Had I been present to cast my vote, I would have voted "yes" on all three bills.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 163

Resolved, That the following named Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Ms. Kelly of Illinois (to rank immediately after Ms. Duckworth).

(2) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY.—Ms. Kelly of Illinois.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1287

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 1287.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE WILSON

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in remembrance and to honor our dear friend and former colleague, Congressman Charlie Wilson of Ohio.

On Sunday, we learned that Congressman Charlie Wilson passed away from complications from an operation following a serious stroke he endured in February, living each moment thereafter with great courage. Today, the Ohio delegation honors his life and his achievements for the State of Ohio, his Sixth District that he represented with such dignity, and his impact on our Nation.

Surely, his work on jobs, health care, veterans benefits were truly a benefit to not just his district, but to the Nation. He was such a relentless advocate.

Charlie Wilson embodied the ethic of public service. His political demeanor, his civility, his gracious manner characterized his exemplary service. Throughout his 16 years in public service, 12 in the Ohio House and 4 here in the United States House of Representatives, he served as a true advocate for his constituents in the hard-scrabble economy of eastern and southeastern Ohio.

He embodied the aspirations of our middle class. He dedicated his life to public service with unwavering energy, selfless dedication, and a kindness that should be emulated by all Members. I never heard him raise his voice in anger.

How proud he was of his family, his son, Jason, who succeeded him in the Ohio Legislature, all of his children, his family. And may Angela and his family be comforted during these difficult times.

Congressman Wilson had an uncanny ability to make people laugh and make everyone around him feel at ease. He genuinely cared about improving the lives, not only of his constituents, but of all people around him.

His last political race in 2012 showed the measure of the man, as millions and millions of dollars poured in from out of State against him, and he kept going, no matter what.

Our delegation's thoughts and prayers are with Charlie, with his entire family, his four children, his nine grandchildren and, of course, his beloved Angela.

We are all saddened by his death but encouraged by his legacy, his achievements, and the memories that he leaves with all of us.

I know that each Member of the Ohio delegation shares in my desire to honor Congressman Charlie Wilson's memory.

NABEEL RAJAB—DEFENDING FREEDOMS PROJECT

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, the international sports spotlight will focus on the Bahrain Grand

Prix. But will that spotlight shine into Bahrain's prisons as well?

Nabeel Rajab, a Bahraini human rights activist sentenced to 2 years in jail simply for engaging in nonviolent political protest, is one prisoner who deserves public attention. Nabeel is a focus of the Defending Freedoms Project, a collaborative initiative spearheaded by the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission that invites Members of Congress to stand up for individual prisoners of conscience around the world. Today, I invite my colleagues to take part in this important, nonpartisan opportunity.

Nabeel is not alone. The Bahraini Government has also imprisoned 13 prominent activists, and Amnesty International reports that it may soon jail anyone found guilty of insulting the King.

It is time for the leadership of Formula One Racing to end their silence on Bahrain's crackdown. It is time for them to take a stand in favor of human rights, and it is time for each of us to speak out for the nonviolent human rights defenders like Nabeel Rajab.

10 YEARS SINCE THE DECLARATION OF GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me first send also my well wishes, prayers, and my sympathy to the city of Boston, the families and friends, and all of those touched by yesterday's horrific tragedy.

Ten years ago this month, the international community joined together to bring the world's attention to the brutal attacks by the Government of Sudan against the people of Darfur.

The Congressional Black Caucus, Leader PELOSI, and others stood united and, led by our beloved, the great gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman DON PAYNE, introduced H. Con. Res. 467, declaring that genocide was occurring in Darfur. Many of us also traveled to the region several times and later passed the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.

Yet even after then—Secretary of State Powell finally declared genocide in 2004—the international community failed to act decisively to stop it. If we had acted then, we could have saved many innocent lives. If we do the right thing now, we could end the suffering, violence, and insecurity that tragically continues to plague the region to this day.

Now is the time for the United States to provide high-level leadership and press for full humanitarian assistance in memory and in honor of our beloved DON PAYNE, our great warrior. He did so much for the people of Darfur. Let us do the right thing in his memory so that the next time we say, ''Not on our watch,'' we will mean it.

PAUSING FOR A MOMENT OF REFLECTION

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, last night I received a phone call from our former colleague and my good friend, Jean Schmidt of Ohio. As you know, Jean is an avid runner, and she has participated in many, many marathons.

She was at the Boston Marathon yesterday; and 13 minutes after she crossed the finish line, she heard the bombs go off and saw debris and people running and things were falling all over the place, and called me to tell me that she was okay. She was waiting for her sister to finish when this happened.

You know, when tragedy like this happens, you think, there, but for the grace of God, go I; and that was clearly the case with Jean and so many others.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to pause for a moment and reflect on what happened in Boston yesterday, and pour my heart out to the injured and to those that were killed and their families, including an 8-year-old boy we heard about today.

Whoever would do such a horrible thing to take innocent lives and cause terror amongst the population has to just be horrible people and people who care nothing about their fellow human beings.

I want to take this opportunity to let the people who are injured and families of those who are injured and the families of those who perished know that we, in the Congress, are thinking about them, that we care about them, that we will reflect on what they went through. And we won't stop until those who committed the crimes will be brought to justice.

□ 1430

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE WILSON

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I also join with my colleagues from Ohio to honor the memory of Congressman Charlie Wilson. He was just a fun guy for so many of us who spent a lot of time in Washington, D.C. We shared a district in southeastern Ohio, and Charlie was one of the most popular politicians in the history of southeastern Ohio. He loved bonding with Members. He could very easily work across the aisle with Democrats and Republicans. He always had a funny story or something to tell.

I always appreciate when someone talks about their parents. He would always talk about growing up in southeastern Ohio and his dad and the furniture store and the funeral home and picking Democrats up in funeral cars to take them to the polls to make sure that they can vote. He loved telling those stories. But he loved his kids and grandkids. He would beam when he would talk about being with them for the holidays.

And so we honor him and send our heartfelt wishes to Angela, who was just a lot of fun to be with, too. I know her and Charlie had a lot of good times and a lot of good years together. And I want to say, Charlie, thanks for being a great friend to us and a great Member of the United States Congress. Southeast Ohio is a better place because of your service and your life.

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE WILSON

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

Mrs. BEATTY. I come to join my colleagues with a heavy heart to honor the memory of Charlie Wilson. I had the opportunity of having my House of Representatives office across from him in the early years of my career. Charlie is a great mentor and someone who always took the time to help others.

I also had the opportunity to hear those stories about the funeral home. It was Charlie's family's funeral home that would actually take African American families when other funeral homes wouldn't. So I always respected that he looked at all people the same.

Like many others, I had the opportunity to spend time with him on Lake Erie in the summers because we were both boaters, and had the opportunity for him to join my husband and Angela as we took trips together.

So to his four sons and to Angela, know that you are in our hearts and our prayers. And I say to you, celebrate his life, because he had a life that was full of honor and celebration.

FAIR TAX ACT OF 2013

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

Mr. WOODALL. Yesterday was tax day, and I've got taxes on my mind, Mr. Speaker. You know, as most folks in this Chamber do, that H.R. 25, the Fair Tax Act of 2013, is the most widely cosponsored, most widely supported fundamental tax reform legislation in the House and in the Senate. In fact, both the House and the Senate. Sixty-four of our colleagues in the House, Mr. Speaker, have put their name on H.R. 25, the Fair Tax Act. Eight of our Senate colleagues have put their name on H.R. 25, the Fair Tax Act.

The FairTax is a revolutionary proposal, Mr. Speaker, in that it takes all of the power of the Tax Code out of Washington, D.C., and returns it to men and women back home. You know that we can manipulate the behavior of absolutely anyone in America through the Tax Code. If I want folks to wear

more pink ties and fewer blue ties, I'll subsidize pink ties to the tune of 50 percent and I'll tax blue ties to the tune of 50 percent and we'll change behavior overnight.

Do you remember, Mr. Speaker, when we had the Electric Vehicle Tax Credit back in 2010? It was a $7,500 tax credit. And we said we're going to give $7,500 to every American who goes out and buys an electric car. Now the plan was folks were going to go out and buy these $100,000 electric cars and we were going to defray a little of that price. But it turns out the lawyers got involved and figured out that golf carts were electric cars. And if only we put seatbelts and rearview mirrors and brake lights on these golf carts, every American could get a free golf cart.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to ask if you got one of those free golf carts, and I'm not going to ask my colleagues who are back in their offices watching on TV to send me a note if they got a free golf cart. It was the law of the land. And if you got a free golf cart, I guess you deserved it.

But so abused was that tax provision, Mr. Speaker, that at the end of 2010 the IRS released tax guidance that said, We wanted you to have to take delivery of these golf carts before the end of 2010 to get the tax credit, but the demand has been so great, the manufacturers cannot fill it fast enough. Actually, you just need a VIN number and you can take delivery into 2011. Well, that's not the way the American Tax Code ought to be used, Mr. Speaker, and it's not the way American tax dollars ought to be used.

There are so many challenges we have in the American economy and so many reasons that American-made products cost more than the products that our competitors produce overseas—and so many of those reasons we do not want to change. The fact that American wages are higher than Chinese wages, I want to celebrate that. I don't want to bemoan that. The fact that environmental regulations in America are stricter and protect us in ways environmental regulations in India do not, I don't want to bemoan that. I want to celebrate that. But the fact that the American Tax Code places the highest burden on businesses and employers in America than any other place in the world, that's a problem.

We live in a very fluid economy, Mr. Speaker. Folks can locate their business anywhere on the planet they want to. They don't have to come to America. Why is it that America's not the magnet for capital around the globe? Why do we have the absolute worst Tax Code in terms of rates instead of the absolute best? And that's what I want to talk about. Because it's one of those areas of agreement, Mr. Speaker.

This is a quote from President Barack Obama in his 2011 State of the Union address. He said:

> To put us on solid ground, we should also find a bipartisan solution to strengthen Social Security for future generations.

I mention Social Security, Mr. Speaker, because the Fair Tax Act, that bill, H.R. 25, the most widely cosponsored bill in the U.S. House of Representatives for fundamental tax reform, replaces income taxes and the payroll taxes—payroll tax is that 15.3 percent that comes out of every Americans' paycheck in order to fund Social Security and Medicare. It replaces both of those with this 23 percent sales tax. It replaces all your income taxes, all your payroll taxes with a sales tax.

And so for the first time, Mr. Speaker, we would begin to link the size of the Social Security trust fund not with wages in this country but with the size of the economy in this country. So when we double the size of the economy, we double the contributions to the Social Security trust fund, we protect Social Security for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, in a poll, I think it's been 3 years ago now, they asked young people, college-aged students, Do you believe in UFOs? Folks said yes, folks said no. They said, Do you believe you're ever going to see a Social Security check? Folks said yes and folks said no. Do you know that more of those young people believed in UFOs than thought they'd ever see a Social Security check, Mr. Speaker? That's outrageous. Because Social Security, by the very nature of its name, is to provide security. And if you don't believe it's going to be there, it provides no security whatsoever.

We can guarantee Social Security not just for the current generation but for future generations by reforming the way that we pay for it, by reforming our Tax Code, by moving to a pro-growth system like the FairTax.

□ 1440

The President knows we need to, and yet in his budget this year we did nothing to extend the life of the Social Security trust fund. In fact, the Social Security disability trust fund, Mr. Speaker, that trust fund that so many Americans depend on, that runs out of money before this President even leaves office. It runs out of money within 4 years, Mr. Speaker, and yet the budget proposal this year provided absolutely no certainty that changes would be made in order to protect that for future generations. That's wrong, and it's an opportunity for us to come together and do things that we all agree on.

Here's another quote, this time from President Obama's 2013 State of the Union Address:

> Broad-based economic growth requires a balanced approach to deficit reduction, with spending cuts and revenue, and with everyone doing their fair share.

Who disagrees with that, Mr. Speaker? We talk so much about fair share here; I can't find anyone who disagrees with fair share.

I think about Dr. Carson at the annual Prayer Breakfast. Did you see that, Mr. Speaker? Dr. Carson was speaking at the Prayer Breakfast right down the street this year, and he was telling a tale of billionaires and someone who might have made $10 billion but they were taxed to the tune of $1 billion. They chipped in $1 billion to help fund America and folks were complaining that they hadn't done enough. I have not chipped in $1 billion, Mr. Speaker, far from it.

What does it mean to do your fair share? For me, it means having skin in the game. One of my great regrets, Mr. Speaker, is that during the Bush administration, for the first time in American history, we cut taxes and went to war at the same time. I think that's wrong, Mr. Speaker. I think about all the young people who had skin in that game.

In my part of the world down in Georgia, Mr. Speaker, a lot of folks are in the military, a lot of sons and daughters in uniform. Those families have skin in the game of foreign policy. But if you don't have a son or daughter in uniform, if you don't have a husband or wife in uniform, where is your skin in that game when you're not paying for those decisions? And when we make decisions that we don't have to pay for, we make bad decisions.

I agree with the President: folks need to pay their fair share. I think we all need to have some skin in the game. Folks who make more ought to pay more; folks who make less ought to pay less. But we are all members of the board of directors of the United States of America, Mr. Speaker. All 320 million of us sit on the board of directors of the United States of America, and, yes, you ought to have skin in the game when you're making decisions about how this organization runs. How do we create revenue? How do we reduce deficits? How do we make sure that folks are paying their fair share?

Well, the good news is, Mr. Speaker, the President is aware of the FairTax. I'm not willing to call him a FairTax President yet—again, the Fair Tax Act, that's H.R. 25, Mr. Speaker. I don't think the President is quite on board. We're not going to wait on the President to get on board though. We're going to go ahead and drive forward here in the House.

The chairman of the Ways and Means Committee here in the House, Mr. Speaker, that committee that has jurisdiction over all tax legislation, they are serious about fundamental tax reform in this Congress like I have never seen in my lifetime. I dare say that folks with a lot more gray hair than I have, Mr. Speaker, who've been here since 1986—the last time we did fundamental tax reform—looked at the kind of work that Chairman DAVE CAMP and his entire committee, majority and minority alike, have put into fundamental tax reform. And I have more hope that we are going to see fundamental tax reform—not just in this Congress, Mr. Speaker, but in this calendar year—than I have ever had before. The FairTax is going to be a part of that discussion.

The White House, to its great credit, Mr. Speaker, the White House is just leaps and bounds ahead of other White Houses in terms of how it deals with the public. They have this online petition process, Mr. Speaker, where anybody can go out there, and if you have enough folks sign your petition, you can ask the White House to do whatever you want to do. Well, here in FairTax world—which is where I come from down in Georgia, Mr. Speaker, where folks believe in the FairTax, believe in its power to reenergize the economy, believe in its power to return freedom to families and individuals and take it away from the Federal Government—we started a petition to say, Mr. President, please meet with Neal Boortz. He's one of the leaders of the FairTax movement. He has a radio program and has spent a lot of time investing in the kinds of freedom and opportunity the FairTax would bring us. It said, I want you to meet with Neal Boortz to talk about the FairTax. I want you to give Neal Boortz 1 hour.

Well, we got all the signatures that were required on that petition, and the White House's response was this:

> The FairTax would apply to virtually all expenditures on goods and services, including tuition, medical care, and new homes, all typical family purchases.

Well, he's partly right. I highlighted tuition here, Mr. Speaker, because the FairTax doesn't tax tuition; it taxes all consumption. Tuition is more of an investment in your future, so it's not taxed. But the question isn't: Why does the FairTax tax everything? The question is: Why are some things exempted in the current Tax Code, Mr. Speaker? Why do Americans get free golf carts? Why is that? Is that a real national priority that we make that happen? Why is it we subsidize some loans and we don't subsidize other loans? Why is it folks are able to deduct some interest but not other interest? Why is it that we're willing to help people get some businesses started but not other businesses started? That doesn't speak to fair share to me, Mr. Speaker.

Running for Congress, you get this voting card and you slide it in the little slot here on the House floor, Mr. Speaker, and you get to make some decisions. For me, it's on behalf of about 640,000 people back home in Georgia. But even more power than that voting card, Mr. Speaker, is the way people use their wallet. Those 640,000 people back in Georgia, Mr. Speaker, use their wallet every day to make millions of decisions: Am I going to buy this or that product? Am I going to support this service or that service? Am I going to be involved in this activity or that activity? We run this country, Mr. Speaker, not just through our votes in November, but through the power of our wallet every single day.

In order to find the broadest tax base of all—because economists tell us, Mr. Speaker, if you have a lower tax rate and a broader tax base, you get more economic growth in your economy. The Joint Tax Committee did a symposium on that, Mr. Speaker, in the late 1990s—because we didn't have a computer model at that time that would model a consumption tax system—and they asked eight macroeconomic modeling groups: What would happen if we switched from the income tax America has today and moved to a consumption tax? Well, these economic modeling groups from the left and from the right, Mr. Speaker, some in the center—you know, economists, for Pete's sake, they don't agree on much. In fact, the results of these modeling groups were all across the charts, across all of the metrics that they were working on, except for one.

When the question was would the economy grow faster under a consumption tax than under the current income tax system, every single group said yes. Now, some of those said it would grow a little bit faster, some of those said it would grow a lot faster, but every single macroeconomic modeling group said the economy would grow faster, that Americans would generate more wealth, that employment would be more available if we moved to a consumption tax system.

The question isn't, Mr. Speaker, why we tax some things. The question is, today, in the current system, why don't we tax everything, tax everything once, but only once, because when we don't, we pick winners and losers.

Again, through the power of my voting card here in the House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker, I can manipulate the lives of every single American back home by taxing this good and subsidizing that good. That's wrong. That's wrong. Because as all members of the board of directors of the United States of America, Mr. Speaker, the entire United States of America, all of our citizens, we have the power to make those decisions with our wallet; we don't need the law to tell us.

Now, what price, Mr. Speaker, today do we pay for that law? Thirteen hours is the time the average taxpayer spends paying their taxes.

Mr. Speaker, #taxreform will bring folks to all the information that has been coming out of the House this week during tax week—hour after hour, 13 hours of productivity for the average tax filer. Now, of course, some people's taxes are simple and some people's taxes are complicated, Mr. Speaker, and we're sucking that time out of their day.

What does it turn into in dollars, Mr. Speaker? $168 billion American taxpayers spend each year to comply with tax rules. $168 billion produces nothing. It doesn't help us with our trade deficit with China. It doesn't help us export more grain to Russia. $168 billion we ask American taxpayers to dig into their pocket and pay for the pleasure of paying their income taxes.

More and more Americans every year, Mr. Speaker, find they cannot do their own taxes, that they have to go to a professional tax preparer. Doggone it, Mr. Speaker, I don't mind paying my taxes. In fact, I think America is a great country and I think I'm getting my money's worth, but to have to pay somebody to help me pay the taxes makes me angry. And it's wrong. It's wrong.

I look at what's happened in those former Soviet Bloc countries, Mr. Speaker. Do you know those former Soviet Bloc countries have all moved to flat taxes? What they found is, when they had really high tax rates and they were very difficult to comply with, folks just didn't pay their taxes at all; but when they lowered that rate, made it flat and applied it across a very broad base, folks began to voluntarily remit their taxes. That's not rocket science.

□ 1450

Well, that's not rocket science. That's exactly what we've seen in example after example after example around the world; $168 billion, Mr. Speaker, Americans waste simply trying to pay their taxes each year.

Now, why is tax reform so complicated? I have another quote from the President here, Mr. Speaker. This is from his weekly address back in December. He was talking about the fiscal cliff, to be fair, to put this into context. He said:

> We've got to do what it takes to protect the middle class.

Now, there's great disagreement about who the middle class is, Mr. Speaker. When I go back home to townhall meetings, absolutely everyone I meet believes they're in the middle class. Whether they're at the low end of the income spectrum or at the high end of the income spectrum, that's who we are in America. We believe in that middle class dream, that upward mobility to move from that space on the bottom rung of the economic ladder up to that middle class rung.

Folks worry about the middle class, as well we should. FairTax takes that into account. The big knock, Mr. Speaker, on consumption taxes, is that rich people have to spend less of their income buying things than lower income people do. Now, that's absolutely true. At my first job out of school, Mr. Speaker, I was making under $20,000 a year. I was trying to pay rent and pay back student loans and pay insurance on my automobile. It was tough to sort all those things out in a high-rent district, high cost of living. I had to spend every penny of that $20,000 just to make ends meet.

Now, if I had been making $100,000 at that time, Mr. Speaker, I would have had a lot left over. So, yes, if you make more, as a percentage of that income, you consume less.

Well, we take that into account with the FairTax, Mr. Speaker. This is what we say. The poverty level—the poverty level in America—is calculated on

what it takes for the average individual, the average family to pay for their basic necessities. We all have rent, we all have clothes, Mr. Speaker, we all have to eat, we all have health care expenses. What is it that is kind of that basic level of subsistence? We call that the poverty level.

Now, what the FairTax does is through a tax rebate check—it's actually a prebate check because it goes out the beginning of the month instead of the end of the month—it indemnifies every American, every American family from the tax consequences of spending up to the poverty level. So that, in effect, if you're a miser, Mr. Speaker, you save every penny you have, and you're only spending up to the poverty level, you would pay no taxes. I don't care if you're Warren Buffett, I don't care if you're Bill Gates, I don't care if you're that young person just graduating from high school and getting your first job. No one taxed up to poverty level spending; everyone taxed on every penny of spending beyond that.

Here's the thing. When you open up The Wall Street Journal, Mr. Speaker, and it bemoans consumption declining in America, it hurts me. Because when consumption is declining, that means savings are rising. We need more savings in this country, Mr. Speaker. Oversaving is not a problem in America. I wish that problem upon us all. And we have a unique—a unique—window in the world economy right now, Mr. Speaker.

For years, it's been America that has been consuming everything that the world has been producing. We used to be the manufacturer for the world; now we're the consumer for the world. But as literally millions and millions and millions of new middle class consumers are coming online in China and in India, millions and millions and millions that are going to continue to grow, we have a window of opportunity right now to quit being the consumer for the world, as we have been for the past few decades, and return to our status as manufacturer for the world.

We're having this natural gas boom right now, Mr. Speaker, that's driven the cost of manufacturing down in America, the likes of which we haven't seen in decades; that's made us competitive, even with our higher wages, even with our more aggressive environmental protection regulations, made us more price competitive with goods from all across the world. We can be the producer for the world, Mr. Speaker. We don't need to be the consumer.

That's why the FairTax taxes consumption. We shouldn't tax people based on what they earn. If you're earning a lot and you're saving a lot, we should applaud you for that, not punish you for that. Mr. Speaker, when you're in the low-income class today and you're trying to move into the middle class, you begin to lose benefits—you lose your health care, you lose your education subsidy, you lose some food subsidies.

The marginal tax rate, Mr. Speaker, when you're trying to get from the lower rung of the ladder to the next rung of the ladder, can be upwards of 60 percent—60 percent on folks who are trying to make it. The FairTax says, no, no, we shouldn't tax anyone up to poverty level spending, and we should applaud anyone who finds a penny to save, because savings is what drives an economy, not consumption.

So here we have a chart, Mr. Speaker, of what happens to the FairTax rate for a two-adult, two-child household. And what you see is if you're down at a lower income bracket, Mr. Speaker, earning under $20,000 a year, you're not going to pay a penny in taxes, not a penny in taxes. In fact, you're actually going to get some money back through the FairTax rebate. If you get up to $30,000 a year, you're still not going to pay a penny in taxes; you're going to break even paying zero. If you're doing better, if you're making $45,000 or $60,000 or $121,000, you're going to see your rate continue to climb. Not the marginal rate, Mr. Speaker, but the effective rate. That's what's so lost in this body.

So often when we have our tax debates, I can have a single flat rate for everyone, a single rate; but based on what the standard deduction is at the bottom of that rate, I make that rate progressive such that folks at the bottom end of the income spectrum are getting a check back so that folks in the middle aren't paying a penny at all and so the folks at the top are paying more and more and more, depending on how much they spend. Progressive tax with the FairTax, Mr. Speaker.

You can't see this chart, Mr. Speaker, but it's the most dangerous chart that anyone is going to have on the House floor today. It shows two diverging lines. It's a chart that goes back to 1979, Mr. Speaker. The last time we had a President from the great State of Georgia was Jimmy Carter. We go back to 1979, and we chart who's paying the taxes in America, going back to the President's vision of having a FairTax system.

This blue line, Mr. Speaker, is the bottom 80 percent of all Americans, bottom 80 percent. Most of us—80 percent. It's tough to call yourself the bottom when you're the majority. But 80 percent of income earners, just distinguishing that part of America from the top 20 percent—80 percent of income earners.

What percentage of the American tax burden, income tax burden, is that 80 percent of America paying? And conversely, because we talk so much about the 1 percent, Mr. Speaker, what percentage of the American tax burden is the 1 percent paying?

And I have something that's just staggering, Mr. Speaker. Folks wouldn't believe it if you didn't see the data. Back in 1979, when Jimmy Carter was leaving office, 80 percent of Americans paid 35 percent of all the tax bills in this country, all the income tax bills; 80 percent of Americans paid a total of 35 percent of the burden. Now, we can argue whether that's too much, too little; but 80 percent were paying 35 percent of the burden.

Today, Mr. Speaker, go all the way out to 2009—it's the last year for which the IRS produced this record, that's why it's the last year that we have information for—come out to 2009, 80 percent of Americans are now paying 6 percent of the bills in this country. Eighty percent of Americans, 80 percent of the voters, are paying 6 percent of the bills. That's staggering. Most of us are in the 80 percent, Mr. Speaker, and we think that we are paying our fair share. In fact, so many of us think we probably ought to cut taxes a little bit more, and yet we're only paying 6 percent of the bills.

I want to tell you that that's dangerous. It's dangerous because that free golf cart I talked about earlier, there is no way I'm paying $7,500 for a golf cart. I would rather walk. I don't need a golf cart, don't have any place to put a golf cart, don't know how much it costs to charge a golf cart, don't really have any place I can go on a golf cart. I'm not paying $7,500 for a golf cart. But if you give me the golf cart for free, I'm going to tell you where to deliver it. I'm going to phone it in today—free golf cart—and tell you right where to send it.

□ 1500

When we don't have skin in the game, we make different decisions. In fact, we make bad economic decisions. They may be good decisions for us, right? It's a good deal if you can get a free golf cart. I recommend it to everyone. But it's a bad deal for the American taxpayer who's giving away those free golf carts.

When we, the 80 percent, Mr. Speaker, are only paying 6 percent of the burden, we begin to make bad voting decisions about what the cost of government is. And here's the other thing: it goes again to that innate sense of fairness that everyone in America believes in. We all believe in fairness. We may not believe in equal outcomes, but we believe in equal opportunity, that everyone should have a fair shot at success.

That top 1 percent that we talk about so much about, Mr. Speaker, I'm not in it, but I aspire to be in it one day. I hope I'm successful. I don't see the pathway from here to there yet, but I'm going to keep working at it. In 1979, when Jimmy Carter was President, that 1 percent paid 18 percent of all the bills in the country. Today, Mr. Speaker, 1 percent of the people pay 38 percent of the bills. The 1 percent are paying more than 80 percent combined. In fact, the 1 percent is paying more than 90 percent combined.

When you live in a land of self-governance, the biggest experiment in self-governance the world has ever known, an experiment about which Alexis de Tocqueville said, when he wrote about

it in the mid 1800s, As soon as the American people can decide they can vote themselves benefits, that will signal the end of the Republic.

They wonder how does America work, how can self-governance work. And de Tocqueville said, It's working today because everybody is pulling the wagon together, but as soon as they figure out that 51 percent of the Americans can tax the other 49 percent of the Americans, that's going to signal the end of self-governance.

We all believe in the fair share, Mr. Speaker. Folks ought to do their fair share of the work; folks ought to get the fair share of the benefit. We all believe in fairness. It's something that every preschool in America is teaching children, every family in America is teaching their children. But in the past four decades in my lifetime, every single year we've shifted the burden so that most of us don't have to shoulder the burden as heavily as we did the year before, such that 80 percent of us in 1979 were carrying 35 percent of the weight, and now we're only carrying 6 percent.

I don't know whose definition of fairness that falls into, Mr. Speaker. It threatens self-governance. I want a seat at the decisionmaking table. I want to be a part of the solutions for everything that happens in this country. I want to pay my fair share, and I want to do my fair share. And I think that is the feeling, the sense, the commitment of every single American today, Mr. Speaker, but we hide those results in a Tax Code that folks can't see: 80 percent of the people paying 6 percent of the bills.

Now, I know what you're saying Mr. Speaker. You've looked at some of those income distribution tables too, and you're thinking, Well, golly, ROB, maybe that 1 percent is just earning that much of the income. No, that's not true. Again, this is the latest year, 2009, for which the IRS has produced records. The top 1 percent, as the share of the pretax income, all the income earned in America, the top 1 percent earned 13 percent of the income and paid 38.7 percent of the taxes.

Now, here's the question, Mr. Speaker: If the top 1 percent—again, I'm not there. I don't know if I'll ever get there. If I stay in public service, I will absolutely never get there. If the top 1 percent are paying 38 percent of the bills while earning 13 percent of the income, in what world are they doing less than their fair share?

Here's the thing: I need to borrow money from time to time, Mr. Speaker. I borrowed money for my house. I borrowed money for my car. I need to borrow money. If folks aren't saving money, I can't borrow the money they put in the bank. I want folks earning money and saving money so that I can borrow money. Every single one of us who borrows money, we're not borrowing the bank's money; we're borrowing another citizen's money who put that money in the bank so the bank could lend it to us. We need those savings in this country, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad folks are successful. I'm glad they're creating businesses. I'm glad they're employing me and my neighbor's and my neighbor's children. I'm glad they're building my community back home.

I don't demonize success. I celebrate success. You know, Bono from U2, Mr. Speaker—I don't know if you're a fan of U2 like I am. Those were some coming-of-age albums they were producing back in my youth. Bono said what he loved about America is that in America you put your arm around your son, you take him and you look up at the big house on the hill, and you say, Son, one day if you work hard, that could be you. Bono then said over in Ireland, they put their arm around their son, they look up at the big house on the hill, and they say, Son, one day we're going to get that guy.

That's not who we are in America. We celebrate success, and we believe—in fact, we're certain of it—that if we work hard, we apply ourselves by the power of our ideas, the sweat of our brow, we can move our fate from yesterday to tomorrow. We can elevate ourselves pursuing whatever it is that we want to pursue from yesterday to tomorrow because we live in America. But something has gone on in this body, Mr. Speaker, not just in the House of Representatives, but across the street in the Senate and down the street at the White House, where folks have begun to demonize success.

Home Depot came out of the great State of Georgia, Mr. Speaker. I love Home Depot. I encourage everybody to get themselves an orange apron, put that on and get some work projects done. They do great activities for the kids on Saturday morning. They get folks started with building activities at an early age, Mr. Speaker. That company was started in the great State of Georgia, and the four men who started Home Depot—and you all know Home Depot as well as I do—they said if they got together today to try to start Home Depot, they would fail.

In America today, we are so demonizing success, we are so punishing success, we are making it so difficult for entrepreneurs to get started, that if the same four people with the same good idea got together today, they would fail. The only way this country works is if entrepreneurs succeed.

The Department of Labor, Mr. Speaker, they keep statistics on these things. They say today in America, these years during the President's administration, we've had the lowest level of entrepreneurial activity since the Department of Labor began keeping records. It's not the lowest level of people succeeding, but the lowest level of people trying. The word is out, Mr. Speaker, that you cannot succeed in America any longer, and it's just not true. If it is true, we have the power to change it. We get to decide the rules of this country, Mr. Speaker. We sit on the board of directors of America, and we get to make these rules.

Success, Mr. Speaker. Opportunity. America. Those are synonyms. They have been synonyms since 1776. They will be synonyms until the day that I die unless you and I trade those things away.

The FairTax says we're not going to be in the business of punishing people any longer; we're going to be in the business of celebrating success. The more you save, the less you'll be taxed; the more you spend, the more you'll be taxed.

Now, you all know, Mr. Speaker, about jealousy just as well as I do. I don't know if you had this same issue, Mr. Speaker. When I got ready to apply for college, I applied for all the Federal grants. I filled out that big FAFSA form trying to get some help from the Federal Government. I got nothing. They said, Sorry, your family has saved too much money.

Now, we come from a single-income family, Mr. Speaker, but my buddy down the street, he came from a two-income family. His mom was an architect and his dad was a lawyer. They had money stacked up in the windows, Mr. Speaker. They had vacation homes. They went skiing in Vail. They had boats. They all drove—I say all. There were four of them in the family, and three of them drove Mercedes and one of them drove a BMW. They all were new. When he applied to get money from the Federal Government, the government said, You know what, we've looked at your savings account for the family and you don't have a penny in it. You need help. Here's some money for you.

Something's wrong in our Tax Code, Mr. Speaker. It celebrates the consumption of goods, and it penalizes savings. We need to be in the opposite camp. The reason we have to go to China and to Germany to borrow money to fund America is because Americans can't fund it any more. Back in the 1970s, Mr. Speaker, we were still borrowing money, we still had a national debt, but Americans lent the Federal Government the money to fund the processes of the Federal Government.

□ 1510

Today, almost 50 percent of the money we spend and 50 percent of the money we borrow comes from foreign nations. We as a people can't even save enough money to fund the United States Government any longer, and our Tax Code encourages that conspicuous consumption at every level.

Mr. Speaker, let me just show you some of the things that are in the Tax Code. Again, these are all complicated questions. You've got to make these decisions for yourself. If they were easy questions, Mr. Speaker, they wouldn't need you and me and these two new freshman classes to sort them out. The easy questions were sorted out long, long ago.

Again, Mr. Speaker, you wouldn't believe this unless you dig deep into the numbers. We spend more in tax credits and tax loopholes and tax giveaways than we do on all other discretionary spending accounts combined.

What do I mean by that?

We have what we call ''mandatory spending'' here. That's Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and interest on the national debt. We call that ''mandatory spending.'' Everything else—roads, bridges, courts, parks, the environment—is what we call ''discretionary spending.'' Everybody knows what the tax rate is. Everybody knows they're paying into the tax system. We give away things in the tax system—promote this idea; promote that idea; give away this pot of money. We give away more through the Tax Code—we spend more through the Tax Code—than we spend on all other aspects of government combined, but the spending is hidden.

I've put up a few of what we'll call ''income tax expenditures'' here. Let's see what that is.

For example: exclusion of interest on public purpose State and local bonds. Right? That seems pretty innocuous, State and local bonds. We want to encourage State and local governments to take responsibility, so we're going to allow those bonds to pay interest tax-free. Well, okay, but it's not free. Somebody else is paying for it. Those folks who have those bonds aren't paying for it, but the rest of America has to pick up the tab.

Here is one: individual retirement accounts. Right? If you put money in your IRA, we want you to save for your retirement. We don't tax you on that money, but it's not free. Somebody else is paying that tax. It's just not those folks who are saving their money in their IRAs.

I'm not saying these things aren't good ideas. I'm saying we have to talk about where this money is coming from. I'm closer to death than I am to birth, Mr. Speaker. This $16.7 trillion that we've borrowed from America's kids, I'm going to be dead before we pay that back, but it is going to be an albatross around their economic neck for another generation or two or three, and we're making those choices today. We're spending money through the Tax Code instead of through the appropriations process.

The FairTax says: no more. The FairTax says: a tax isn't about manipulating behavior. A tax is about collecting revenue to fund the necessities of a government.

We can argue about what those necessities are. Should it include the President's health care bill? Should it not? Should it include wars in Iraq and Afghanistan? Should it not? Should it include environmental protections? Should it not? We can argue about all of those things, but that's what revenue is for. You collect the revenue to fund those priorities that we, the American people, believe in.

But what we use our Tax Code for today is for the Congress of the United States, for the President of the United States and other folks with political power and influence to pick winners and losers through the Tax Code, so much so that we spend more money through the Tax Code than all other aspects of government combined—everything on the discretionary side.

It wasn't this way when we got started. Back in 1913, the passage of the 16th Amendment allowed Americans to have an income tax for the very first time. Do you know what they said, Mr. Speaker? You've probably heard this before. They said, This is only going to be a very small tax on the very wealthiest of Americans.

My calculations, using CPI, Mr. Speaker, tell me that it was a 1 percent tax on folks who made over $9 million a year. On $9 million a year, a 1 percent tax—I'm pretty sure we could get 51 percent of the folks to vote for that—but over time, that income tax grew so that it touches every single American family. Thirteen hours, on average, an American family spends to comply with the Tax Code. And for what? It destroys opportunity. It hides spending. It protects from scrutiny those items that this U.S. House of Representatives has decided are worthy of taxpayer expense.

We have a choice: don't lower wages in America. In fact, study after study says, if we pass the FairTax, we're going to see wages go up. It's going to increase economic activity and make us a magnet for capital from around the world. Why in the world are we borrowing money from China when we could just change our Tax Code, and money that American companies have already earned would flow back into this country in order to create jobs?

The FairTax says: no more. Let's have one tax rate on everything that Americans buy and consume.

I'll close with this, Mr. Speaker. Here is the catch. We are the only OECD country in the world—the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development—that does not have a consumption tax.

Now, what does that mean?

It means, when we build a Ford right here in the United States of America, that Ford has buried in the cost of that Ford that 15.3 percent payroll tax that every employee and employer has to pay, the income tax that every employee and employer has to pay—all of the tax burdens of the United States of America. Again, the highest corporate tax rate in the world is buried in the price of that Ford. When it gets to Germany, they add their Value Added Tax on top of that, and they ask, Who wants to buy a Ford? But the BMW that's leaving Germany, where they have a consumption tax, doesn't have those taxes buried in it, Mr. Speaker. In fact, it's tax free because the tax goes on top of it at the sale. So, when they ship that BMW overseas, it comes over here completely tax free, and then we add on top of it our income taxes, our payroll taxes, our corporate taxes.

That's an unlevel playing field, and the person it disadvantages is not the owner of Ford. The person it disadvantages is the employee at Ford, who needs that job. We used to have a Ford line and a GM line in the city of Atlanta, Mr. Speaker. They're both closed. They are both closed today because they couldn't make it work.

We can bring those jobs back to America. More importantly, we can prevent jobs from leaving America, not because we're making them stay, not because we're going to tax them if they leave, but because we make America the magnet for job creation and economic activity across the planet. Today, we're the worst. Tomorrow, we can bring ourselves back to the middle.

My question to the body today is: Why don't we commit ourselves to making America the very best place to do business on the planet?

We can continue to borrow money from the Chinese if we want to. We can continue to add burden to all the young people in America if we want to—or we can take America back to our roots. There is no more productive worker on the planet than the American worker. If we free the American worker, if we free the American entrepreneur through a Tax Code that the American people can understand, we will bring a new era of prosperity to America, the likes we have not seen in my lifetime.

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

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

It's a bit of a frustration not to be picking up after Mr. WOODALL in support of the FairTax; although, I want to let you know that I had long been a supporter of the FairTax before it had a name, before it had a bill, before it had a concept that was nationally discussed. I just began to discuss it from my own business perspective because of my experience in starting a business in 1975, employing people and seeing what happens when you have a tax system that doesn't tax consumption but punishes productivity in America.

□ 1520

But I came here, Mr. Speaker, to bring up the immigration issue, which has been operating in the media to some degree, but mostly behind the scenes, delivered by the Gang of Eight over in the Senate and a group behind the scenes here in the House of Representatives. They will put out a little

trial balloon of what they want the press to talk about, and maybe have a little press conference to launch their endeavor. We saw that with the Gang of Eight. And yet, the deliberations, the discussions, the input, the ideas that are injected, versus the ideas that are rejected, haven't had the light of day.

Now we understand that perhaps tomorrow there will be a release of a bill, and I have in my hand a preview of what that bill is most likely to be. Of course, there are changes that could be made, and I want to qualify my delivery here, but I want to discuss what I think about the pieces of it that I've read so far, Mr. Speaker.

So the Gang of Eight's proposal, which we think will emerge tomorrow or perhaps the next day, it works out to be this: the case, the goal for border security, Mr. Speaker, is for the achievement of a 90 percent effectiveness rate of border security. Ninety percent. How do you measure that? Well, there are some metrics there, but it is an equation that essentially says that those that we stop, interdict, perhaps deport, divided by the number who attempt to cross. Now, that's a nice little formula, and it would make sense until you think a little more deeply into it. These are human beings that are being counted. They act in ways that are perhaps wiser than the numbers. But in any case, a 90 percent effectiveness rate can't be measured in an objective way.

We know that there was a sector of the border that was surveilled by drone; 150 square miles was reported to be surveilled, and I know that's not linear, it's square. And out of that, there were nearly 4,000 illegal border crossings in that period of time in that section of the border that they surveilled, for roughly not 24–7 but roughly 8 hours a day kind of on average for a period of time from October 1 until January 17 of this year. The border crossings that they interdicted with the help of the drone came to a number in excess, some number approaching 1,700 or so. And those who got by, even though they were observed by the drone, was a number greater. Even with drone assistance, they weren't able to interdict 50 percent of those that they observed cross the border.

We don't have full-time surveillance over the border. And by the way, that is not something that works as effectively in all weather conditions and all light conditions. There are still circumstances where we can't see from the air, certain conditions when we can't fly. But even under the best of conditions when they had surveillance from the air, they still, with all of the forces they could bring to bear or did bring to bear on it, they still couldn't interdict half of the people coming across the border through a 150-square mile section of the border.

So the promise is that we would have 90 percent enforcement effectiveness of the high-risk sectors of the southern border; high-risk sectors of the border to be designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security, who is no doubt presiding over the current situation that we have. They would also appropriate $3 billion to implement the strategy, and another $1.5 billion for infrastructure along the border. That would be southern border fencing strategy established by the Secretary. Now we're up to $4.5 billion additional dollars applied to the southern border. We have applied billions of dollars to the southern border. We've ramped up the number of Border Patrol agents and CBP agents that we have on the southern border. We passed the Secure Fence Act here in this Congress. It passed the House, passed the Senate, and was signed by the President. And still, that was about 854 miles of border altogether, but the linear section, there are a lot of crooks in that border along the way so it is roughly 700 effective miles of the border. We can't build that because of political opposition that took place on the Senate side. A former Senator who was a Republican put an amendment in to block some of the construction of the fence on the border. We can't get access to the border over some of the areas because it's national park or national monument land, and so we let that be under the control of illegal immigrants to a point where a Member of Congress is locked out, blocked out of national park, national monument land, because it's too dangerous from a security standpoint for a Member of Congress to go down into that area.

Now I admit that this bill does address some of that, but I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that the last time I calculated the cost of our investment to secure our southern border, and it has been several years ago, we had gone from $4 million a mile to $6 million a mile in our investment. And we've gone up substantially since then. But think of what that means: $6 million a mile, and we still have a porous southern border. That says lack of will. It doesn't say lack of resources.

Now for those of us that are thinking about how that applies, people, especially rural people, and where I come from, we have a gravel road every mile and a grid system. So where I live on the corner of a gravel road, there is a gravel road that runs a mile in each of four different directions. And if Janet Napolitano came to me and said, STEVE KING, I'm going to offer you $6 million a mile to guard your west road, and I want you to make sure that only 10 percent of the people who want to go across there get across, and I recognize that 60, 70, 80 or more percent of them are crossing now. In fact, we have Border Patrol testimony that shows that they're only interdicting perhaps 25 percent of those that cross the border, and those are the ones that we do see.

When I go down to the border and ask the people who are front line, boots on the ground people, the most consistent number I get from them is 10 percent. But even if it is 25, and even if at the peak of the illegal crossings that we had several years ago, as reflected in that fashion, that 25 percent, that means that we were having 11,000 a night go across our southern border, 4 million illegal crossings a year. Maybe that's down to only 2 million now, but I suspect it's more than that. But in any case, the $6 million a mile, plus what we've added since the last time I calculated it, plus the numbers they have here, this $4.5 billion that they would add, takes us up to at least $8.25 million a mile.

Now if Janet Napolitano says, STEVE KING, I have $8.25 million for you for this year, and I want you to achieve more efficiency and security along your west mile than we've had before, would I then hire myself a whole group of Border Patrol agents to stand there and buy them Humvees and put on uniforms and buy their arms and set up the health care plan and the retirement plan and take that perpetual liability for the balance of their lives for the purpose of guarding that mile? Some of it I would, Mr. Speaker. Some of it I would.

But some of it, I would put an infrastructure in place. I would build a fence, a wall, and a fence across the areas where people are crossing. And I have not advocated that we build 2,000 miles of fence on our southern border, but I have consistently advocated that we build it, keep extending our fence at the most illegally crossed places until such time they stop going around the end. And if it happens that they don't stop going around the end, ultimately we'd end up with 2,000 miles—a fence, wall, and a fence on the southern border.

If you think it's too expensive or too difficult, no, Mr. Speaker, it's not—$8.25 million a mile. And we do our budgeting here for a 10-year budget window, so that's over $80 million that Janet Napolitano would offer me to guard one mile of it, if this were the scenario that I painted. For $80 million and a 10-year contract, do you think we couldn't find a little more efficiency on my west mile than we have today? Of course we could. You could guarantee a very high degree of efficiency, substantially higher than 90 percent.

I would submit that the Israelis, who built a fence on their border to protect them from people that were coming in, have not spent as much money on the border to construct a fence as we're spending every year to watch the desert, and they get a 99-point-something percent efficiency. In fact, I'd suggest it's 99.9 percent. And why? Why do they have that efficiency, because their very lives depend upon it, Mr. Speaker. Because they have people coming into Israel who are willing to walk onto a bus with a bomb strapped on them and blow themselves up for the purpose of killing Israelis.

Now most of the time in this country that's not the circumstance we are faced with today, thankfully, but occasionally it is. And this needs to be part

of our dialogue, too, Mr. Speaker. But the cost on the southern border of adding another $4.5 billion, getting us up to over $8 million in order to try to get the promise of security, and what's the tradeoff that comes? The tradeoff is they want to promise border security. They want to promise workplace enforcement by adding to this legislation mandatory E-Verify. Now without looking at the language, I don't think that language is going to include that mandatory E-Verify will even allow the employer to check his current employees.

What they're going to say is, if you came into the United States and you're unlawfully present in America, they under their bill will instantaneously legalize everyone who's here illegally, with some exceptions.

□ 1530

Some of the exceptions would be if you've been guilty of a felony, or if you're convicted of three misdemeanors, not serious, but three misdemeanors, and then, if you have been in the United States since December 31 of 2011.

Here's the inadmissible. You can't be admitted for criminal, national security, public health or other morality grounds. No definition of ''other morality grounds.''

But if you were previously here before December 31, 2011. Why is that?

Well, I think that probably is the date when they began talking openly about their plan, so they don't want to have the responsibility of being the magnet that has attracted people to come into the United States illegally in order to access the amnesty plan that they're devising in the Senate and they're devising behind closed doors here in the House.

Now, amnesty. Some of them have even tried to define amnesty. I've consistently defined it, Mr. Speaker. To grant amnesty is to pardon immigration lawbreakers and reward them with the objective of their crime. It's a pardon and a reward. That's exactly what is in this document that represents a summary of perhaps 1,500 pages that's about to emerge in a day or so.

And if we are to pardon and reward and instantly legalize everyone that's here in the United States, with exceptions of those who have committed a felony or those who have three misdemeanors, then what are we to expect?

Oh, even with this bill, they would reach out and say to people, if you have been deported, we invite you to come back to America and you can sign up under our plan that is called the RPI plan. It's a little bit bizarre so I didn't get the—it's the Registered Provisional Immigrant status plan.

So this country would offer such a thing to people who have already been adjudicated and already been sent back to their home country, bring them back. This doesn't just grant amnesty. It reaches backwards and gets people that have been sent home, where they can wake up in the country legally.

And by the way, that's the minimum penalty that we can have. If we're going to have any kind of immigration law at all in this country, if we're not willing to put people back in the condition that they were in before they broke the law, we have no enforcement whatsoever. There will be no deterrent whatsoever.

And they would ask us to believe that, after they instantaneously legalized everybody that's here in America, that they would slowly pick out those who were felons and those who have been convicted of three serious misdemeanors and slowly send them back to their home countries.

They would also ask us to believe that there's a longer waiting period and a more difficult process to citizenship, so it's not a path to citizenship.

Well, the first thing is, a green card is a path to citizenship. And a path to a green card is a path to citizenship, just as surely as a green card is a path to citizenship.

And they would have us believe that, in the period of 5 or 10 years, depending, if they haven't reached operational control of the border, that somehow this whole thing falls apart and there wouldn't be this promise of amnesty any longer.

So can anyone imagine, after the decades of not enforcing immigration law, if this Congress instantaneously legalized everyone who is here, with exceptions, that after a period of 5 to 10 years of the failure of enforcement—remember that promise of enforcement that Ronald Reagan couldn't keep?

After 5 to 10 years of the failure of enforcement somehow there will be a change of heart and there will actually be enforcement of immigration law? No.

In fact there'd be a promise, if a bill like that is passed, that there would never be enforcement of immigration law, that this would be the most recent amnesty, and that anyone who could come in the United States and live in the shadows would eventually be the beneficiary of the next amnesty, at the price of the rule of law, Mr. Speaker.

And when I make the point for them, take a deep breath, step back, look at this thing, get it in focus, turn it into focus, they say, well, we recognize that maybe this doesn't do the things electorally on the path of political expediency that we would like, but we have to start the conversation.

Can anyone point to a successful model in history where any culture, any civilization, let alone the unchallenged greatest Nation of the world, sacrifices the rule of law, a pillar of exceptionalism, in order to start a conversation?

That's what's happening coming out of the Senate tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. That's what some would like to see happen here in the House of Representatives very soon. That's what I will resist very vigorously.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1801

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 6 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 624, CYBER INTELLIGENCE SHARING AND PROTECTION ACT

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–41) on the resolution (H. Res. 164) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 624) 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, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 17, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2013 pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL TO BELGIUM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 23 AND FEB. 25, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Mike Turner	2/23	2/25	Belgium		728.00		(3)				728.00
Hon. David Loebsack	2/23	2/25	Belgium		728.00		(3)				728.00
Hon. Rob Bishop	2/23	2/25	Belgium		728.00		(3)				728.00
Hon. Brett Guthrie	2/23	2/25	Belgium		728.00		(3)				728.00
Hon. Thomas Marino	2/23	2/25	Belgium		728.00		(3)				728.00
Janice Robinson	2/23	2/25	Belgium		728.00		(3)				728.00
Tim Morrison	2/23	2/25	Belgium		728.00		(3)				728.00
Committee total					$5,096.00						$5,096.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER, Mar. 22, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DOC HASTINGS, Chairman, Apr. 10, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, Apr. 1, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BILL SHUSTER, Chairman, Apr. 3, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DAVE CAMP, Chairman, Apr. 10, 2013.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

1119. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the Army's additional recruitment incentives; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1120. A letter from the Acting Chief Policy Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits received April 8, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1121. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting annual financial report as required by the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act of 2008 for FY 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1122. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities [Docket No.: RM05-5-020; Order No. 676-G] received April 8, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1123. A letter from the Director, Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for FY 2012 prepared in accordance with Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1124. A letter from the Staff Director, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2012 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.

1125. A letter from the Acting Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for FY 2012 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1126. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's annual report for FY 2012 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1127. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2012 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.

1128. A letter from the Chief Human Resources Officer and Executive Vice President, Postal Service, transmitting the Service's annual report for fiscal year 2012, 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.

1129. A letter from the Associate Commissioner for Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for FY 2012 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.

1130. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Foreign Species, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Technical Correction for African Wild Ass [Docket No.: FWS-R9-ES-2011-0095; MO92210-0-0010 B6] (RIN: 1018-AY31) received April 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1131. A letter from the Acting Chief, Branch of Recovery, State Grants, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reinstatement of Removal of the Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife [Docket No.: FWS-R5-ES-2013-0035; FXES11130900000C6-134-FF09E30000] (RIN: 1018-AZ31) received April 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1132. A letter from the Acting Assistant Regional Director; Acting Chair, Federal Subsistence Board, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska —— 2013-14 and 2014-15 Subsistence Taking of Fish Regulations [Docket No.: FWS-R7-SM-2011-0015] (RIN: 1018-AX64) received April 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1133. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for Allium munzii (Munz's Onion) and Atriplex coronata var. notatior (San Jacinto Valley Crownscale) [Docket No.: FWS-R8-ES-2012-0008] (RIN: 1018-AX42) received April 1, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1134. A letter from the 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; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; 2013 and 2014 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No.: 121018563-3148-02] (RIN: 0648-XC311) received April 8, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1135. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catch Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 111207737-2141-02] (RIN: 0648-XC522) received April 8, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1136. A letter from the 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; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area; Groundfish Retention Standard [Docket No.: 110321210-3057-02] (RIN: 0648-BA93) received April 8, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1137. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 121009528-2729-02] (RIN: 0648-XC499) received April 8, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1138. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Office of Government Contracting and Business Development, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for fiscal year 2011 on Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership Development; to the Committee on Small Business.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 1163. A bill to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to revise requirements relating to Federal information security, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–40). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 164. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 624) 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 (Rept. 113–41). 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. POE of Texas:

H.R. 1576. A bill to stimulate the economy, provide for a sound United States dollar by defining a value for the dollar, to remove the authority of Federal Reserve banks to pay earnings on certain balances maintained at such banks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and 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. POE of Texas:

H.R. 1577. A bill to protect prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officers, and their families; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. TONKO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN):

H.R. 1578. A bill to amend section 1101 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide additional funds to permit additional individuals to enroll under the preexisting condition insurance program and expand eligibility, to be funded through a temporary increase in the cigarette tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CHU, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1579. A bill to impose a tax on certain trading transactions to strengthen our financial security, reduce market volatility, expand opportunity, and stop shrinking the middle class; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HALL, Mr. LANCE, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LONG, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SCALISE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TERRY, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BARTON, and Mr. PITTS):

H.R. 1580. A bill to affirm the policy of the United States regarding Internet governance; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 1581. A bill to provide for the conveyance of unused Federal property administered by the Department of the Navy at the

site of the former Oxnard Air Force Base, Ventura County, California; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 1582. A bill to protect consumers by prohibiting the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from promulgating as final certain energy-related rules that are estimated to cost more than $1 billion and will cause significant adverse effects to the economy; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CLARKE (for herself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 1583. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an appeal and redress process for individuals who are screened against the terrorist watchlist and wrongly delayed or prohibited from boarding a flight, or denied a right, benefit, or privilege, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. CLARKE:

H.R. 1584. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to prevent terrorism, including terrorism associated with homegrown violent extremism and domestic violent extremism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 1585. A bill to require the establishment of a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers to compute cost-of-living increases for Social Security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act and to provide, in the case of elderly beneficiaries under such title, for an annual cost-of-living increase which is not less than 3 percent; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BARTON, and Mr. SCALISE):

H.R. 1586. A bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to acquire and place a historical plaque to be permanently displayed in National Statuary Hall recognizing the seven decades of Christian church services being held in the Capitol from 1800 to 1868, which included attendees James Madison and Thomas Jefferson; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MARINO (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. REED, and Mr. TURNER):

H.R. 1587. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to issue permits for rights-of-way, temporary easements, or other necessary authorizations to facilitate natural gas, oil, and petroleum product pipelines and related facilities on eligible Federal lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. WAXMAN (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. ANDREWS):

H.R. 1588. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require drug manufacturers to provide drug rebates for drugs dispensed to low-income individuals under the Medicare prescription drug benefit program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. GIBSON):

H.R. 1589. A bill to expand the noninsured crop assistance program established by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to provide coverages for eligible crops under the program equivalent to additional coverage available under the Federal Crop Insurance Act; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS:

H. Res. 162. A resolution electing a Member to a standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BECERRA:

H. Res. 163. A resolution electing a Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H. Res. 165. A resolution supporting the goals of Golf Day in America and congratulating the communities of Pittsford and Rochester, New York, which are hosting the Ladies Professional Golf Association and the Professional Golf Association Championships in 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 1576.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 5 & 6

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 1577.

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

Article 1 of the United States Constitution, section 8, clause 18

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 1578.

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

Article 1, section 8

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 1579.

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

Article I, Section 7, Clause 1 and Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 1580.

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 Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 1581.

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

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 1582.

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 Ms. CLARKE:

H.R. 1583.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. CLARKE:

H.R. 1584.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 1585.

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

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under the following provisions of the United States Constitution:

Article I, Section 1.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 1586.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 17, providing Congress with exclusive jurisdiction over the District of Columbia.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, providing Congress with the authority to enact legislation necessary to execute one of its enumerated powers, such as Article I, Section 8, Clause 17.

By Mr. MARINO:

H.R. 1587.

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

Article IV, Section 3: " . . . The Congress shall have Power to dispose of an make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . ."

By Mr. WAXMAN:

H.R. 1588.

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

Article I, section 8, clauses 3 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 1589.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof . . .

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 3: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 75: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 147: Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 182: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 183: Mr. WOODALL.

H.R. 250: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 258: Mr. LUCAS and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 292: Ms. CLARKE.

H.R. 324: Mr. AMODEI and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 346: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 351: Ms. JENKINS.

H.R. 362: Ms. CLARKE.

H.R. 363: Ms. CLARKE.

H.R. 367: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 430: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 481: Mr. STOCKMAN.

H.R. 495: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. CHU, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ROKITA, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 503: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 508: Mr. SIRES and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 519: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 569: Mrs. ROBY, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 570: Mrs. ROBY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 574: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 580: Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 630: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. EDWARDS.
H.R. 661: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 683: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 684: Mr. RUSH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 686: Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 693: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 698: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 713: Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BARROW of Georgia.
H.R. 714: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 717: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 724: Mr. ROKITA, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BARR, and Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 752: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 755: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 806: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 833: Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 845: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.
H.R. 850: Mr. PETRI, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 920: Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 940: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 961: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 992: Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 1000: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1020: Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. GERLACH, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1024: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 1026: Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 1029: Mr. POCAN and Ms. EDWARDS.
H.R. 1079: Mr. FARR and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1081: Mr. FORBES and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 1094: Mr. SARBANES, Ms. CHU, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 1099: Mr. LABRADOR.
H.R. 1125: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 1141: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1145: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1151: Mr. POMPEO, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 1153: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1226: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 1250: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 1276: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 1285: Mr. CAMP, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 1288: Mr. BENTIVOLIO and Mr. RIGELL.
H.R. 1312: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1313: Mr. STUTZMAN.
H.R. 1326: Mr. CASSIDY.
H.R. 1331: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 1339: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 1354: Mr. ROONEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 1406: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. ROSS, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. HURT, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. LONG, Mr. FLORES, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. OLSON, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 1416: Mr. GOWDY, Mr. HALL, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 1432: Mr. ROYCE, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SIMPSON, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. HANNA, Mr. VELA, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. KIND, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. OLSON, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. COLE, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. JONES, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. YODER.
H.R. 1433: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1438: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. PETERS of California.
H.R. 1479: Mr. PETRI, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. HARPER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SALMON, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. BARTON, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 1493: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 1496: Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 1502: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 1523: Mr. POCAN, Mr. FARR, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. HAHN.
H.R. 1526: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 1528: Mr. FARR, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 1549: Mr. HARPER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. WHITFIELD.
H.R. 1567: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.J. Res. 28: Mr. PERRY and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H. Con. Res. 23: Mr. SMITH of Texas and Mr. WOODALL.
H. Con. Res. 30: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. FLEMING.
H. Res. 30: Ms. EDWARDS.
H. Res. 36: Mr. BARTON, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. BARR, Mr. AMASH, and Mr. BOUSTANY.
H. Res. 90: Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. EDWARDS.
H. Res. 147: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia and Mr. FORBES.
H. Res. 160: Mr. CALVERT.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

H.R. 1287: Mr. HOLT.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013 No. 51

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, the explosions at the Boston Marathon remind us that we live in a dangerous world and that human life, regardless of the level of physical excellence, is fragile. The knowledge that You, O God, can bring order from chaos inspires us to number our days so that we may have hearts of wisdom. Use our lawmakers as instruments of Your Providence. May they labor with such faithfulness and integrity that You will surround them and our Nation with the shield of Your favor. Remind them that it is better to fail in a cause that will ultimately succeed than to succeed in a cause that will ultimately fail.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks the Senate will be in a period of morning business for an hour. The majority will control the first half, the Republicans the final half.

Following morning business the Senate will resume consideration of the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act, with the time until the recess for the caucus meetings for debate only.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

Today we will continue to work on a path forward to consider amendments to the gun safety bill. Currently, the Manchin-Toomey amendment on background checks is pending to the bill. Senators will be notified when any votes are scheduled.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 729 AND S. 730

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading. I would ask, if it is appropriate, for the clerk to report whatever the Chair advises.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 729) to protect law abiding citizens by preventing criminals from obtaining firearms.

A bill (S. 730) to prevent criminals from obtaining firearms through straw purchasing and trafficking.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would object to any further proceedings on these two bills at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

BOSTON MARATHON VIOLENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in the prayer given to the American people and to the Senate through our wonderful Chaplain, he basically said it all. We are still reeling from the senseless violence at the Boston Marathon yesterday. The one thing, though, we are united in is sympathy for the victims of this senseless attack and the families of the victims who are suffering today.

Adding to the horror of this tragedy are the questions of who did this and why. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security are investigating this attack as aggressively as possible.

As the President said last night, rest assured that the perpetrators will feel the full weight of justice for this terrible crime.

ANTI-GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on the anti-gun violence legislation before the Senate, we are making good progress in the effort to schedule a series of votes on amendments.

I have had constructive conversations with my Republican counterpart, Senator MCCONNELL.

The American people deserve to know where we stand on these important antiviolence proposals. There are disagreements as to what we should do with gun legislation, if anything, and I understand that. We have already spent a week and a half on this legislation, so it is time to begin processing these amendments.

I hope we will be able to reach an agreement earlier rather than later—hopefully, sometime by early afternoon—to hold votes on a number of amendments, including both Democratic and Republican amendments.

That series of votes would include a number of issues, not the least of which is the compromise background check proposal crafted by Senators MANCHIN, TOOMEY, KIRK, and SCHUMER. This bipartisan measure has the support of antiviolence advocates and law

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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enforcement groups as well as second amendment advocates, including the second largest gun rights group that exists, consisting of more than 650,000 members.

The measure would keep guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals by requiring background checks for private gun sales at gun shows and over the Internet.

Mr. President, whether you are from a pro-gun State such as Vermont or Nevada—even in those States, huge amounts, huge numbers of people support this legislation. Nationwide, about 90 percent of the people support this legislation, including 75 percent of NRA members.

So I am optimistic and hopeful that cooperation from both sides will continue and that victims of gun violence will get the debate and votes they deserve, including pro-gun advocates who want votes of their own liking.

So I hope we can move forward. It would be a shame if we got into a procedural hassle on all this stuff. We want to debate the issues. And as I have indicated to the Republican leader, we are not trying to cut off amendments. The ones we agree to start debating, that is not a limit as to what we are going to do. I want to have a full, complete debate on guns, and we will carry this on just as long as possible.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

BOSTON MARATHON ATTACKS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today the thoughts of every American are with the people of Boston but especially with the many victims of yesterday's horrendous attacks and their families.

Many who were looking forward to celebrating the achievement of a loved one yesterday woke up to the grim reality of facing the rest of their lives with a disfiguring injury. For them, yesterday's attacks were the beginning of a long and difficult journey. Three others who lined up to encourage others, including an 8-year-old boy who was there to cheer on his dad at the finish line, lost their lives in the blast.

We pray in a special way for these families.

As the President said yesterday, the two parties stand united today in our deepest sympathy for all those who were affected firsthand by these heinous attacks and in our unshakable—unshakable—resolve to bring those responsible, and any others who are contemplating acts like this, to justice.

These horrific attacks are a grim reminder of the hatred and contempt that many continue to harbor in their hearts not only for our Nation and its freedoms but for innocent human life. On 9/11 we were forever disabused of the notion that attacks like the one that rocked Boston yesterday only happen on the field of battle or in distant countries. With the passage of time, however, and the vigilant efforts of our military, intelligence, and law enforcement professionals, I think it is safe to say for many the complacency that prevailed prior to September 11 has actually returned. So we are newly reminded that serious threats to our way of life remain.

Today, again, we recommit ourselves to the fight against terrorism at home and abroad.

Another point: As always, we marvel at the courage and the selflessness of those who rushed to the scene after yesterday's blasts. In moments like this, we see the worst of humanity and the best of our fellow citizens: whether it was the exhausted marathoners who became helpers and healers the moment they realized what had happened; the doctors and nurses who had expected the usual marathon day uptick in cases of dehydration or exhaustion but who spent the rest of their day handling far worse; or the first responders and law enforcement officials who rushed to the scene with total disregard for their own safety, including those who tore down a fence to get to the wounded before they were even sure the area was safe.

We honor all of them today.

Those responsible for this act of terror will be brought to justice for their deeds. But today our thoughts are mainly with the victims, their families, and friends—and all those whose lives have suddenly been turned upside down by the wicked designs of those responsible. For most of us, it is hard to imagine how anyone could even contemplate doing something like this. But, as always, as a nation, we will face this sad reality head on and show the world that America does not cower in the face of it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half.

The Senator from Maryland.

LIBRARY PROJECT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, Baltimore, like many other major cities, has struggled to educate its children. Recent statistics indicate that the number of third graders reading below grade level in Baltimore is double the State average. This is especially troubling in light of the numerous national studies showing that for every six students who are not reading proficiently by third grade, one will not graduate.

Across the United States, research has shown that students in schools with good school libraries learn more, get better grades, and score higher on standardized tests than their peers in schools without libraries.

We have a program, the qualified zone academy bonds, that is available to help school districts in areas such as improving their libraries. Since 2001 Baltimore City has used those funds. Recently we extended the program through 2013. Academy bonds are important, but much more needs to be done to help our students.

Let me share with my colleagues a wonderful initiative, the Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project, which is leveraging academy bonds and bringing in additional partners to maximize the resources available for hard-pressed schools and students. The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation is spearheading this initiative. The Weinberg Foundation is one of the largest private charitable foundations in the United States. The Weinberg Foundation provides approximately $100 million each year to nonprofits that provide direct services to low-income and vulnerable individuals and families, primarily in the United States and Israel. Since 1990 the foundation has made grants totaling $1.6 billion—that is billion with a ''b.''

The foundation was created by Harry Weinberg. His family emigrated from Eastern Europe to the United States in 1911. Harry Weinberg began his life in poverty, but he eventually built a transportation empire which extended into real estate. The fortune Harry Weinberg amassed now has grown to more than $2 billion. These are the assets behind the Weinberg Foundation's grant-making.

Senator MIKULSKI and I are very proud that the Weinberg Foundation is based in our Baltimore City. I knew Harry Weinberg. I know the Weinberg family. I am very fortunate to have that relationship. The foundation has helped so many people, particularly in affordable housing, immigrant services, poverty issues, and humanitarian needs.

I would like to acknowledge the role my former State director, Bailey Fine, has played with the Weinberg Foundation.

I could list dozens of major charitable projects and initiatives that bear the name of the Weinberg Foundation, including a $10-million grant to fund emergency services for Holocaust survivors in North America; a $9.6 million commitment to make Maryland a model for care of lower income, older adults; a $3 million investment in affordable housing for persons with disabilities, which includes a joint venture with the State of Maryland—the

first of its kind in the Nation. The Weinberg Foundation also has stepped up in times of global crisis, providing millions of dollars of relief grants in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy and emergency funding for humanitarian efforts following the Haiti earthquake in 2010 and the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004.

In 2011 the Weinberg Foundation joined forces with a group of innovative and committed individuals to initiate a simple vision: transform Baltimore City school libraries to create larger, lasting change by increasing literacy rates and inspiring students. Words such as ''partnership'' and ''collaboration'' are often overused, but these concepts are central to the library project, a real-world demonstration of the power of combining resources directed toward a common goal.

To date, with the help of more than 30 government, nongovernment, and community partners and individuals, many who have traveled to Washington today, the library project has gone far beyond a simple makeover by creating completely transformed, well-designed, well-equipped spaces that send a simple but powerful message to young students in Baltimore City: They deserve the best. The Weinberg Foundation and its partners believe this manuscript for meaningful change can be applied to any city where people from nonprofits and public and private entities are willing to focus on a plan and then roll up their sleeves to make it happen.

The first of these refurbished libraries was dedicated in the fall of 2012. I was privileged to be able to visit and see firsthand how impressive this refurbished library is. Three more are scheduled to open this fall, with a total of 12 planned through 2015. The Weinberg Foundation has supported 30 percent of the capital project cost, is providing 4 years of additional staff support and professional development funds for the library. The Weinberg Foundation's support also goes to fund new books, up to 4,000 per space. Overall, the foundation has made a $5 million, 4-year commitment to this initiative, and the children of Baltimore will benefit.

Each transformed library features thousands of new books and the latest in learning technology, including new computers and e-readers. As you can see from the photo I have brought to the floor, these are very impressive spaces and really go a long way to making them friendly places for students.

In addition to the direct educational benefits of these new spaces, one of the goals of the library project is to help each transformed library become a hub for greater school community. Because the Weinberg Foundation wants this project to be a successful model for years to come, it has partnered with the Baltimore Education Research Consortium to evaluate the impact of this space within the school community. Evaluations are underway at the first three libraries and involve students, teachers, and community members.

In addition to supplying books as part of each renovation, the Weinberg Foundation and its partners wanted to do even more to equip these new spaces with the gift and adventure of reading. As part of the first year of the library project, the foundation launched a huge book drive with more than 40 partners and 100 pickup locations. It was clear that my fellow Marylanders were eager to contribute directly to this project, donating some 13,000 books valued at over $75,000.

I share the story with my colleagues and the rest of the country because, just like a favorite book, it should be shared. The library project goes beyond funding, blueprints, bright new designs, and even state-of-the-art learning technologies. These libraries will improve reading and learning opportunities for countless children, helping to break the grinding cycle of poverty by providing young people with the hope and the tools for success in life.

As I said, this is a story that needs to be shared. The devoted officers and staff of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and all the other participants in the library project would welcome the opportunity to tell this marvelous tale over and over and see it duplicated across the country.

Time constraints prevent me from talking about all of the partners in the library project. I mentioned the Federal partners, and I have highlighted the Weinberg Foundation's lead role, but everyone involved deserves recognition and our heartfelt thanks.

I ask unanimous consent that the list of the other partners and the descriptions of their contributions be printed in the RECORD.

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

FEDERAL/STATE FUNDING

In 2001, Baltimore City Public Schools began applying for Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) funds that are used for the renovation of public school libraries. The QZAB funds renovate the physical space at each location and ensure proper configuration, environmental abatement, quality air control, lighting, and flooring for a few approved libraries each year. To qualify for QZAB funds, the school must be located in either an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community with 35% or more of its students eligible for the free or reduced price meal program.

As of 2011, 53 City School libraries have been renovated with $14.2 million in QZAB funds and with more than $2.5 million of donated in-kind volunteer hours. City Schools have also contributed an additional $8.5 million for architectural/mechanical work, construction costs and furniture. The Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project has leveraged these funds and brought in additional partners to maximize additional resources for schools and students.

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As a partner in the Library Project, the district is providing guidance and academic and facilities support in the creation of new and newly renovated school libraries that will contribute to 21st-century learning and position students for success.

ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

Advisory Committee Member.

ART WITH A HEART

For the Library Project, Art with a Heart will work with volunteers to create a mosaic for each of the three schools. All of the mosaics will incorporate the Library Project logo, however, each mosaic will be personalized to reflect the individual school community.

ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE AREA GRANTMAKERS

ABAG will publicize the library effort to ABAG members, particularly the Education Funders Affinity Group, through ABAG's monthly Members' Memo, website, and social media. ABAG will write a Daily Record article, and will be helpful in other ways identified over the life of the initiative.

BALTIMORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Baltimore Community Foundation encourages its donors to participate in the Library Project, which fits into BCF's overall vision for successful schools and successful students. The Library Project is a prime example of how a foundation can attract private sector partners to address a public need, inviting businesses and individuals to find ways to join together in promising Baltimore's youth a brighter future.

BALTIMORE EDUCATION RESEARCH CONSTORTIUM (BERC)

In relation to the Baltimore Library Project, BERC will examine the change experienced at the first three library openings at Moravia Park Elementary, Southwest Baltimore Charter, and Thomas Johnson Elementary/Middle School.

BALTIMORE READS

Baltimore Reads assures that teachers have classroom libraries and that students receive books that they may take home. The Library Project complements the work of the Baltimore Reads' Book Bank, which collects and redistributes children's books all over the Baltimore region at no cost to recipients.

BALTIMORE SUN

The Baltimore Sun commitment at this time will be to deliver 25 papers each day (M-F) to each of the first six schools. The value of the papers for a year at full retail price is $11,700, a total of $70,200 for all six schools!

BARNES AND NOBLE

Barnes and Noble will provide 400 Nook digital devices and Certified Pre-Owned Nook digital devices, at special discounted prices for this project. Barnes and Noble will donate up to 20 hours of student and teacher training per month to ensure that every user is comfortable with the technology.

BOGDAN COMPUTER SERVICES

Bogdan Computer Services was responsible for the design and implementation of the Baltimore Library Project website. Its staff has also been a tremendous asset in technology purchases and book drive donations.

COMCAST

Previously Comcast has offered in-studio and on location filming and interviews which will be aired on CNN Headline News. This sponsorship package was valued at nearly $100,000. Comcast will continue to review additional ways to sponsor the Library Project.

CPS GUMPERT

Partners in the Weinberg Library Project through the graphic design and printing of event signage, promotional products, and

printed materials. We look forward to participating in the program as it continues to grow.

DLA PIPER

Financial donation.

DYSLEXIA TUTORING PROGRAM

The mission of The Dyslexia Tutoring Program is to provide free screening and remedial tutoring for low-income adults and children throughout Maryland with dyslexia and other language based learning differences. Volunteers take a free 20-hr training course in preparation for tutoring. The program works to achieve the following: (1) Train teachers in Orton-Gillingham, a proven method of teaching reading, writing and spelling; (2) Tutor students that are accepted into our program by providing free tutoring; (3) Provide In-Service Workshops to school staff to help identify potential students.

ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY

The Enoch Pratt Free Library will be a major partner in the library project. Each elementary school library will include an ''Enoch Pratt Parent Corner'' with a computer connecting parents to the Enoch Pratt system. In addition, each library will have a permanent loan collection on parenting books and other appropriate adult literature. Enoch Pratt will also provide four Family Reading Circle programs during the school year. This six-week program brings a library professional to the school, with high-quality books and dinner for the group. Enoch Pratt will also provide limited funding for students to take public transportation from their homes or from school to the closest Pratt Library. Finally, Enoch Pratt Free Library will host students from each school for field trips to the central library each year. The estimated value of this partnership is $20,000 per library, or $80,000 for the first four libraries.

FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Fund for Educational Excellence has worked side by side with Baltimore City Public Schools for over 25 years securing the financial, human, and knowledge resources necessary to support policy and practice resulting in increased student achievement for Baltimore City Public School students. On this project the Fund serves as the fiscal agent working as an intermediary between City Schools and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation to ensure all grant dollars are allocated to the project appropriately.

HEART OF AMERICA FOUNDATION

HOA will coordinate the purchasing, sorting, cataloging and delivery of brand new library books for each school. In addition, to address the fact that as many as 61 percent of children from low income families do not have any books in the home, HOA will provide three books per student for his or her home library. This year, HOA will deliver more than 9,800 library books in total and over 4,800 take home books for the students for this project.

INCITE CREATIVE

The firm's focus group facilitation with students and their parents helped guide their design and development of the Library Project's logo and overall identity.

JRS ARCHITECTS, INC

JRS Architects, Inc., as a consultant to Baltimore City Public Schools, will work closely with Kirk Designs to incorporate the elements of the concept plan into the architectural plans, including coordination of proposed lighting and technology with electrical and data plans, incorporation of floor, wall and window treatments into the construction documents. JRS Architects will also help coordinate the efforts of other partners donating technology and equipment to ensure smooth coordination into the finished library. JRS Architects, Inc. will be donating the time required to coordinate the efforts of the partners in the three QZAB-funded projects.

KIRK DESIGNS

Kirk Designs Inc. will design and detail all aspects of the library pertaining to selections for, but not limited to, lighting, flooring, wall and window treatments as well as all furnishings while creating a usable and exciting space for grades Pre-K through Eight. Kirk Designs will interface with vendors as well as provide and enforce a schedule for completion. Kirk Designs will be donating a substantial design cost for each project, approximately $15,000 per library.

KNOTT MECHANICAL

Knott Mechanical will provide for modifications to the libraries' existing air distribution systems including installation of new diffusers and low-pressure ductwork to conform with the new designs. Knott Mechanical is one of the Baltimore metropolitan area's premier commercial HVAC and plumbing service providers, serving more than 150 clients including Johns Hopkins and Comcast.

MARYLAND FOOD BANK

Maryland Food Bank is happy to investigate the implementation of their school pantry program in each of these school locations and can also help with summer feeding programs when school is out of session.

PARKS AND PEOPLE FOUNDATION

Parks & People will consider each renovated library as a potential site for after school and summer programming. Site assessments for the first six libraries could amount to as much as $2,000 per site, or a total of $12,000. For libraries that are determined to be a fit for an after school or summer program, services provided would range from $5,000–$80,000 per site. The organization is also involved in green initiatives at each school including asphalt removal and the creation of reading gardens.

RAISING A READER

Raising A Reader is partnering with the Weinberg Foundation to provide library project schools with an opportunity to implement the program in kindergarten classrooms. The partnership covers the cost of training, materials and the financial support needed to implement Raising A Reader for many of our youngest learners and their families.

STATE OF MARYLAND/MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The State of Maryland, through The Maryland State Department of Education will provide focused technical assistance by working with the Manager for Library Media Services for the Baltimore City Public Schools to support the library/media specialists in the Weinberg Library Project schools with the incorporation of digital resources, the utilization of the MDK12 Digital Library, assistance with professional development needs, and with collection development. MSDE staff will also facilitate linkages with public libraries to promote professional development opportunities and broaden access to materials. During the transition to the new Maryland State Common Core Curriculum, MSDE staff will commit time and energy to supporting the work of the library/media center specialists in providing assistance to teachers who are engaged in integrating primary resources into their lessons.

UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL MARYLAND

As part of United Way Worldwide's effort to cut the high school dropout rate in half, United Way of Central Maryland has joined their call to help recruit one million readers, tutors and mentors and will launch a new volunteer program: Read, Learn, Succeed this fall. We look forward to recruiting members of the community to read to young children to fill in some of the volunteer gaps that exist in many local programs.

VPC, INC.

Handles all of the production and multimedia content creation for Library Project events.

WELLS FARGO

Wells Fargo is proud to further its commitment to Baltimore City students by serving as the Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project's Financial Literacy Partner. Their commitment will include a $20,000 donation to fund library technology thereby providing access to a world of information including www.handsonbanking.com, the online portal to its free financial literacy program. The company also commits its most valued resource, the time and talent of local Wells Fargo team members. Local team members will provide financial literacy to members of the Weinberg Library communities, including teachers, students and their families. Additionally, through Wells Fargo's Reading First program, team members will read aloud to Pre-K through 1st grade classes to support early childhood literacy and will then donate those books to the library.

Mr. CARDIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

COMMEMORATING VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTING

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to perform a solemn duty today, which is to commemorate the shooting at Virginia Tech of 32 students and faculty members who were killed 6 years ago today and many others who were injured:

Ross Alameddine, Jamie Bishop, Brian Bluhm, Ryan Clark, Austin Michelle Cloyd, Jocelyne Couture-Nowak, Daniel Alejandro Perez Cueva, Kevin Granata, Matthew Gwaltney, Caitlin Hammaren, Jeremy Herbstritt, Rachael Elizabeth Hill, Emily Hilscher, Jarrett Lane, Matthew La Porte, Henry Lee, Liviu Librescu, G.V. Loganathan, Partahi Mamora Halomoan Lumbantoruan, Lauren McCain, Daniel O'Neil, Juan Ramon Ortiz-Ortiz, Minal Panchal, Erin Peterson, Michael Pohle, Julia Pryde, Mary Karen Read, Reema Samaha, Waleed Mohammed Shaalan, Leslie Sherman, Maxine Turner, and Nichole White.

I read those names to honor those who were killed and had their lives snuffed out on April 16, 2007. I acknowledge also that many students and faculty members were injured. We have with us today both family members of those who are deceased and even some students who were injured. I also honor all in the Hokie, the Virginia Tech community that is very close, that still suffers the wounds from this horrible shooting.

In the aftermath of the shooting at Virginia Tech 6 years ago today, we learned a lot. We learned that we have

to make fixes to the mental health system: that school security and safety is incredibly important, that alert systems that can notify people when bad things happen are incredibly important. We also learned a tragic but important lesson; that is, background record checks make us safer. The young, troubled individual with no criminal record who committed those horrible crimes had a long history of mental illness. He had been adjudicated mentally ill and dangerous. Because of that adjudication, he was not supposed to be able to own or purchase weapons, but a flaw in the background record check system kept that record from being entered into the national database. So when he decided and went to purchase the weapons he used in committing this horrible homicide, he was allowed to purchase them.

In the immediate aftermath of the shooting, with the strong support of the Virginia Tech families, we fixed that problem in the background record check. As Governor, I worked with my Republican attorney general, the current Governor of Virginia, Bob McDonnell. We fixed the background record check system that facilitated this gruesome crime. Background records checks make us safer. The better the system, the safer we are.

I later went to my legislature and tried to get them to fix the background record check in another way—by closing the gun show loophole, to require records checks at gun shows. I failed in that task. I not only could not convince my legislature to do it, I could not even convince a single committee to report a bill out to the floor.

That is why I am so glad we are debating on the floor meaningful fixes to gun violence, including a fix to our background record check system when it comes to gun shows or online purchases. I look forward to the debate, and I look forward to supporting the proposals that have been advanced by Senators MANCHIN and TOOMEY.

I read the names, the 32 names of those who were killed. As I conclude, I wish to take a couple of minutes to tell the story of one of the individuals.

I read the name of Liviu Librescu, who was a professor at Virginia Tech, a professor of engineering. He was teaching a course in Norris Hall on the day of this horrible tragedy, and as shots rang out, he heard the shots. He went to the door, and he barricaded the door with his own body, and on the second floor of Norris Hall, he told his students to get out of the window and get to the ground and get to safety. He stood there against the door as Seung-Hui Cho, the shooter, fired repeated rounds through the door, striking his body many times and eventually killing him. But not until the last shot when he was killed did he stop saying to the students: Hurry. You have time. You can get out of the window. And all but one of Liviu Librescu's students were able to get out of the window. One student, Minal Panchal, ended up being killed because he bravely waited for the other students to go out the window first.

What heroism and bravery. Yet the Liviu Librescu story is even more powerful than that because Liviu Librescu, the professor, was 76 years old—long past retirement age. He had continued to teach because he loved teaching.

He was born in 1930 in Romania. When the Romanian Government became allied with Nazi Germany in 1940, because he was Jewish and his family was Jewish, he was subjected to the persecution Jews in Romania were subjected to, his family was sent into forced labor camps, and Liviu Librescu lived in a crowded ghetto in a Romanian city, being persecuted, but he came through the Holocaust as a survivor. Many Jews, after the war, left Romania because of the persecution of Jews, but it was Liviu Librescu's home, and he stayed. He went to a university, and he became a world-renowned aerospace engineer, and he continued to teach.

But now Romania fell under the influence, as a puppet state, of the Soviet Union. He would not pledge allegiance to the Communist Party. He would not relinquish his tie to his Judaic faith. Because of that, he began to be subjected to persecution for a second time, to be persecuted because of his religion, to be denied the ability to publish articles or travel to academic conferences. Eventually, he lost his job at the university because of his Judaism and because he was unwilling to take the oath of allegiance to the Communist Party.

He was persona non grata in his home country of Romania. However, people in the outside world who knew of his scholarship never let go, and they continued to speak on Liviu Librescu's behalf. He was eventually allowed, in 1977, to emigrate to Israel.

He lived in Israel for 8 years and received a 1-year teaching fellowship at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. He came for 1 year and never left. He taught as a popular teacher and researcher in Blacksburg, VA, from 1985 until the day he was killed in 2007.

This horrible day, April 16, 2007, started as a normal Monday for virtually everyone who ended up sharing the tragic fate. It was not a normal day. It did not start as a normal day for Liviu Librescu. Liviu Librescu, as a proud Jew, observed that day, from sundown on the 15th of April, the evening before, until sundown on the 16th of April, as Yom HaShoah, Holocaust and Heroism Memorial Day.

Yom HaShoah, in the Jewish religion since 1953, has been a day worldwide where Jews and their allies remember the Holocaust, perpetrators, victims, and the bystanders—the bystanders who wouldn't do anything to stop the atrocity.

They also remember the heroism of those who fought against the Holocaust.

As Professor Librescu went to his class on this day, while it was a normal Monday for most, I know he walked into his class thinking about Yom HaShoah, perpetrators, victims, bystanders, and heroes. He made a decision, in the split second he heard shots being fired, to be a hero and to save others' lives.

He survived the Holocaust, perpetrated by Nazi Germany, and anti-Semitism in Romania. He survived the persecution perpetrated in his country by the Soviet Union. However, Liviu Librescu could not survive the epidemic of gun violence in this country, the country which he adopted and loved.

In conclusion, I would encourage all of us to take a minute, Senators, staff, pages, people in the gallery, members of the press, take a moment and ask yourselves would you do what Liviu Librescu did. Would you put your body against a door, allow yourself to be shot, and encourage others to be safe? Would you do that? Would we do this?

As I thought about this question, being honest, I would say I hope I would do that. I pray if it comes to that I would act to protect others ahead of myself.

If I am honest with myself, what I have to say is I don't know whether I would do that. I don't know whether I would be a hero like Liviu Librescu. I don't know if I would have the courage to do what Liviu Librescu did.

The good news for those of us who have the honor and blessing to serve in this Chamber is we do not need to put our body in front of bullets to keep people safe. We do not need to put our bodies in front of bullets to protect kids and protect students. All we need to do is have an infinitesimal portion of the courage Liviu Librescu had and cast votes. We need to cast votes on the floor of this body to keep our community safer and to keep our children safer.

I have heard it said this will be a hard vote. For 20 years there has not been a meaningful discussion of these issues on the floor of the Senate because interests are too powerful, the NRA is too powerful. It will be a vote which will be scored, and we need to worry about it. It will take courage. It does not take courage, to any degree, when we think about Liviu Librescu, who saved his students.

Last week I met the daughter of Mary Sherlach, who was the guidance counselor in Sandy Hook who ran to save her students and was killed. When we think about the courage and heroism shown by these individuals, what we are being asked to do on the floor of this body is the least we can do.

It is about heroism. We honor heroes such as Liviu Librescu. The people who put us in office expect us to have at least a small measure of courage, a small measure of heroism. We owe it to those students and others who were shot, killed, and wounded at Virginia Tech. We owe it to the people who were killed or wounded in Newtown. I would ask all my colleagues to reflect upon

the example of Professor Librescu and the heroism he showed as we debate what might be a controversial proposal this week.

Again, the blessing we have as Senators is that we do not have to interpose our bodies in the way of violence to make a difference and make people safer. It is my wish we do that as we debate and vote in the coming days.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, let me first say I also am on the floor because today is April 16, the sixth anniversary of the horrible shootings at the campus of Virginia Tech. I think every Virginian and every American—I can say Virginians at least—remember when we first received those news reports of the violence perpetrated by Seung-Hui Cho.

I say to my colleague and friend, the Senator from Virginia, in the 33 years we have known each other I have valued his friendship and appreciate his intellect, grace, and knowledge. There was never a moment I was prouder of then-Governor TIM KAINE than those moments after the tragedy.

I don't know if in his comments he noted he had been on a trade mission in Asia when these incidents happened. He barely had landed when he turned around—he and his wife Anne—boarded a plane and came back with virtually no rest. As a Governor you bear these responsibilities in remarkable ways when Virginians are hurt, and in those days he spoke for all of us.

The words he said at the Virginia Tech campus in the ceremony afterward brought together the community and brought together our Commonwealth. In many ways he spoke for our whole Nation, as he has so eloquently spoken this morning. I thank him for what he did as a Virginian in those days afterward and thank him for the eloquent comments he made this morning.

In the aftermath of the tragedy at Virginia Tech, under the leadership of Governor KAINE, Virginia acted. We were within the legislature able to close the legal loophole which allowed Cho, who had been adjudicated mentally unsound, we closed the loophole so he could no longer—or someone who had been adjudicated in such a way—be able to purchase firearms. In the aftermath of the tragedy, then-Governor KAINE appointed a nationally respected commission of experts to recognize what happened and recognize ways we might make all our colleges and universities safer.

This leads me to some of my comments this morning. We are about to take on a debate around how we keep America and Americans safer in a way that also respects our constitutional amendment of the right to keep and bear arms.

An underlying amendment of the bill we are about to debate has at least one part of the legislation which is relatively noncontroversial, a piece of legislation I have been working on for some time. I know Senator KAINE has supported this as well. The issue is to look at campus safety. It has been one of the top priorities of those victims of the Virginia Tech massacre.

Those families who have spoken with me repeatedly, and with Senator KAINE as well, said let's at least make sure, if a tragic event takes place on a college campus somewhere in America, there are ways we can learn from these tragedies.

So the CAMPUS Safety Act, which is embedded in this legislation, will bring together research and resources on campus safety to strengthen training and improve collaboration. Today, campus public safety officers are the only first responders who don't have access to Federal support to assist in sharing the best practices, relevant research, and training opportunities.

The CAMPUS Safety Act, which received bipartisan support in the committee markup, seeks to address this by consolidating scattered Federal efforts into a national center for campus public safety housed within the Department of Justice. This Center would not only provide a one-stop repository of relevant research but also examples of best practices. It would have an ability to issue grants to colleges, universities, and nonprofit organizations to strengthen efforts to help make our campus community safer.

This kind of planning and training will help prevent future violence on our campuses and will help improve responses in the event of another horrific outbreak of violence on our campus or other university. I am pleased our bipartisan CAMPUS Safety Act is included in the discussions we are having in this body in the coming days and weeks.

I wish to take a moment to speak about a specific aspect of this debate which will, I imagine, be coming up for a vote in the next few days. I stand before my colleagues to say a few words in support of the Manchin-Toomey amendment we will most likely vote on this week. Both Senators Manchin and Toomey have shown courage in working together on what Senator KAINE said is a difficult issue. I support the bipartisan compromise on background checks they proposed.

Their amendment will strengthen our background check system, close the gun show loophole, and prohibit the commercial sale of guns to those who are seriously mentally ill or have a criminal record. Let me also say their amendment also contains appropriate exemptions so responsible gun owners will still be allowed to make direct transactions between family and friends to ensure a father or grandfather could pass that shotgun along to their son or daughter.

Our shared goal is to ensure we keep guns out of the hands of the wrong people while respecting the basic constitutional right to bear arms. I have been disappointed by some who said somehow this amendment will infringe upon this right. I couldn't disagree more. This has been a common refrain on both sides of the aisle since we started this conversation in December after the tragic events in Newtown.

If we are serious about achieving this goal, the Manchin-Toomey amendment achieves a thoughtful, effective, and balanced approach to achieving our background check system. It strengthens the instant check system of all States to put their information into the NICS, the National Instant Background Check System. One of the outgrowths we saw after the horrible tragedy at Virginia Tech was so many States, while they may have collected this information, didn't even put it into the national database.

One other amendment Senator TOOMEY put forward would establish a national commission on mass violence to study all the causes of mass violence in our country, including school safety, mental health, issues about firearms, and also issues around some of the images all of us and our children are exposed to in television and film.

This amendment, combined with provisions to prevent gun trafficking and our proposal to improve campus safety, represents a reasonable path forward. In our efforts to reduce violence—as Senator KAINE has so eloquently stated—we are trying to ensure we don't have to create the kinds of heroes which took place 6 years ago on the campus of Virginia Tech.

Let me also add, as I am sure all my colleagues will express, our hearts go out to the families of the victims of the most recent tragedy which took place in Boston. I think I can relate, as a former resident of Boston—and I know Senator KAINE, former Governor KAINE, then-law student TIM KAINE—he and I first met at a law school in Boston—remembering Patriots' Day in Boston, when even if you were not going to run in the marathon, the kind of joy that swept through Boston on Patriots' Day. We all know Boston will be back. We all saw those images yesterday of the horrific tragedy.

I talked to a friend whose wife had literally finished the race 4 minutes before the bombing took place. If she had finished 4 minutes later, he or his daughter or his wife might have been one of the victims of that tragedy. I know, as a father, I called my daughters last night to try to enforce how much I love them, how valuable life is, and how at any moment, whether in a classroom in Virginia Tech or running the Boston Marathon, life can be snuffed out.

I agree with Senator KAINE that in the coming days and weeks, as we have this debate, we are not going to be asked to make acts of courage; we are simply going to be asked to do our job. I believe the Manchin-Toomey amendment and the CAMPUS Safety Act are part of our role and responsibility in doing our job, and I hope we will be able to act on that matter.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Texas.

BOSTON MARATHON BOMBINGS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, yesterday afternoon we were reminded that America faces determined enemies willing to engage in barbaric acts against innocent civilians—men, women, and children. On Patriots' Day—a day that has always been a celebration of American heritage and American freedom—terrorist bombings took the lives of at least three people standing near the finish line of the Boston Marathon, including an 8-year-old boy. His name was Martin Richard. He was watching runners complete the race alongside his family. His mother and his sister also sustained injuries, along with more than 150 other people.

We still don't know who is responsible for this terrible atrocity, but we do know the people of Boston responded to this attack with courage and compassion. As the smoke rose, the American people saw their fellow citizens running toward—not away but toward—the scene of the blast. From the police officers and the first responders who secured the bomb site and loaded the injured into ambulances to the marathon participants who literally ran to hospitals to donate blood, to the doctors and other medical professionals who performed emergency lifesaving treatments on the victims, to the Boston area residents who opened their homes to those who had been left stranded, this attack brought out the very best in our country.

In fact, in the immediate aftermath of the bombing, so many people rushed to donate blood, the Red Cross literally had to turn them away. Dr. Richard Wolfe, the head of the emergency medicine department at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, called it ''the smoothest sort of handling of mass casualty I've ever seen in my career''—something I hope none of us have to see again.

This Chamber has spent the last 4 months, and even years before that, debating issues such as taxes, spending, and health care. But the No. 1 responsibility of the Federal Government is to keep the American people safe and secure. Our response to this attack must be firm and unequivocal. We must send a clear message that we will never compromise our values or our freedom in the face of terrorist violence. We must stay on the offensive against the enemies of civilization and remain vigilant in our day-to-day lives. The victims of Boston deserve nothing less.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The Senator from Iowa.

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.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, morning business is closed.

SAFE COMMUNITIES, SAFE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2013

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 649, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 649) to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Manchin amendment No. 715, to protect Second Amendment rights, ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and provide a responsible and consistent background check process.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12:30 p.m. will be for debate only.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am glad we are proceeding on this very important legislation. The American people might be wondering why the Senate has not been voting on any amendments to the pending gun legislation.

The Senate voted on Thursday to proceed to the bill. This followed calls that the Senate should debate the bill, and that is why I said I am glad we are getting to it. There has been very little debate. The President has said various proposals deserve a vote. We, on this side of the aisle, don't intend to stand in the way of proceeding on those votes, particularly on the amendments. So I hope we are able to vote very soon.

Last week Senator MANCHIN and Senator TOOMEY unveiled an amendment on background checks. The media hailed the agreement as a way to pass gun control. The majority announced that the Manchin-Toomey amendment would be the first one we vote on. Since we are just starting the debate now, obviously we have not voted on the amendment.

We have not voted because despite claims from the other side, background checks are not and never have been the sweet spot of the gun control debate. We have not voted on it because supporters don't have the votes to pass it—at least at this point that is the way it appears to me—and I think they know it.

They don't have the votes even though published reports indicate that Vice President BIDEN, the President of the Senate, has been calling Senators and asking them to support the Manchin-Toomey bill. They must not be telling him what he wants to hear. They don't have the votes for background checks even though the Vice President has reportedly stated that the opposition to the proposal comes only from the ''black helicopter'' crowd.

Well, it doesn't come from that point.

The Manchin-Toomey amendment would impose new obligations on law-abiding gun owners. It would do so even though expanding gun background checks would have done nothing to stop Newtown or other mass killings. It would do so even though expanding background checks would do nothing to prevent these killings in the future.

I often quote the Deputy Director of the National Institute of Justice, who recently wrote that background checks could work only if they were universal and were accompanied by gun registration. Of course, most Members of the Senate oppose gun registration. They know what has happened historically with gun registration. In other countries it has led to gun confiscation, and Members of the Senate—but more importantly, lots of people appearing at our town meetings—fear that could happen and don't want to go down that road.

Supporters of the background check amendment claim that it strengthens the rights of gun owners; but, in fact, it does not. The fact is the opposite is true. Opposition to the amendment does not come from the fringe elements of society. In fact, one of the reasons the Senate has not voted on the amendment is the widespread opposition to the amendment from many quarters. If only fringe elements had problems with it, we would be voting on this amendment. So keep watching. If we do not vote on the Manchin-Toomey amendment, it means the proponents of that idea know they don't have the votes to pass it. If we turn to assault weapons or magazines, then it is clear to all that the majority knows it is far from the number of votes they need. I think people are going to be waiting while they try to pick up the votes that will probably never be there.

Meanwhile, on this side of the aisle, our caucus hopes to have their amendments considered soon and to vote on those amendments. Our amendments, unlike the Manchin-Toomey amendment, will actually strengthen the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners and help thwart gun violence by criminals. In fact, there are reports that the other side of the aisle wants to block one of our amendments which would do exactly that.

So that is the situation. Maybe there are leaders around here who would dispute me, but that is the way I see it. The majority doesn't have the votes to pass their amendment, so we are not voting. The majority wants to block Republican amendments that they fear would pass, so we are not voting on the Republican amendments either.

The Senate voted to proceed to the bill. The Senate voted to have a debate. The Senate was promised an open amendment process which would mean we would conduct votes on the various amendments that will be offered, but so far that has not happened. I hope it will happen soon, so I ask that the audience stay tuned.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we are debating one of the most important bills we have had before the Senate in a long time. The reason we are debating this subject is because of what happened in Newtown, CT, on December 14, and the gun violence that takes its toll every day in cities all across America, including in my home State of Illinois. We know because we read and hear about it in the news and from the victims.

At this moment our Nation is saddened by what happened yesterday in Boston. We still don't know what the cause of that was or who was responsible for it. I just have to say we are stunned by it.

Members of the Senate and I—who have worked on the immigration bill—had planned to announce that bill today in a press conference. We have postponed that announcement out of respect to the people who have fallen, those who were injured, and their families. It is a moment of grave concern across America which was expressed well by the President last night.

We are waiting for the information and details to build a case on those who are responsible. I, for one—and I am sure my colleagues feel the same way—don't want to rush to judgment until we have the facts as to the parties responsible. The sadness we feel for the victims and the sadness we feel for America—an open and free America where people stand on the sidelines cheering marathon runners—is one that is profound in the Senate today.

The issue before us now is gun safety. It comes before us because 20 beautiful little first graders were massacred at their grade school—at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. Six of their teachers and administrators literally gave their lives in defense of those children. There is not a parent or grandparent alive who doesn't identify with that horrible loss.

Last week I met with a group of parents, still grieving, from Sandy Hook Elementary School who came to Congress to beg us to do something to spare future families and future children from this type of massacre. I met with them in the morning. As you can imagine, there was not a dry eye in the room as they showed me the photographs of their beautiful children who are now gone. I commend them for their courage and stepping forward.

Now the question is whether the Senate has the courage to step forward. This is not an easy vote politically. I think we know what is at stake. I come from a pretty diverse State. I come from downstate Illinois, which is more rural. They have small towns and more gun owners than the great city of Chicago.

For 14 years, as a Congressman in downstate Illinois, I ran in an area where gun issues were very volatile and very important to many people. I took some positions which the gun lobby did not care for, and several times they decided they would wage a campaign against me when I ran for reelection. I survived their attacks and eventually was elected to the Senate.

This is the first meaningful gun safety legislation we have taken up since I was elected to this body over 16 years ago. We are here because of what happened in Newtown, CT. There is no question about it.

I often remind people that it was a little over 2 years ago that one of our own, Gabrielle Giffords, a Congresswoman from Arizona, was at a town meeting when she was gunned down and shot pointblank in the face. We did nothing about it. There were no hearings or changes in the law. It was just another gun statistic to many people.

But Newtown touched our hearts: to think that those beautiful little children could be massacred in their grade school classroom. One child was shot 11 times with a semiautomatic weapon that was firing off rounds as fast as this deranged individual could load it.

We are here today in the beginning of a debate on this important legislation. What is at stake? Well, this is about background checks. Here are the basic questions we need to ask: Do we believe the current Federal law, which prohibits a convicted felon, a person who is under an order from the court to avoid domestic abuse, a person who has been judged mentally incompetent—should they be able to buy a gun in America?

Now, 90 percent of Americans say that is an easy question, and the answer is, no; they should not be able to buy a gun. In fact, 75 percent of gun owners say that.

I come from a family of gun owners. They are responsible, law-abiding citizens who would never dream of looking the other way if a convicted felon or mentally deranged person wanted to buy a gun. They store their guns safely. They use them in a safe manner, and they represent the majority of gun owners across America.

So if this is such an obvious question where 90 percent of Americans agree we should not sell guns to those who have been convicted of a felony, for example, why is this being debated? What is the big deal? It comes down to the second part of the question: What would you think—and this Capitol is filled with tourists, many of whom flew on airplanes to get here today—if before the plane took off, the flight attendant said: Welcome aboard; fasten your seatbelts. We hope everyone has a safe flight. Incidentally, the TSA would like to inform everyone that they have closely checked the passengers onboard the plane to see if they are carrying guns or bombs. We are happy to report we have checked 60 percent of them, and they are not carrying guns or bombs. Have a nice flight.

Sixty percent—does that give anybody refuge, consolation, or peace of mind? That is what is going on today with the sale of guns. Up to forty percent of firearms sold in America today are not subject to background checks.

What difference does that make? I want to tell the story which goes back to a moment in history in my State of Illinois which illustrates why this is so important. Ricky Byrdsong was the head coach of the Northwestern University men's basketball team back in the 1990s. He was a great fellow. He was a loving father of three children and a man of deep Christian faith.

On July 2, 1999, Coach Byrdsong was walking with two of his children through his neighborhood in Skokie, IL, a great town. A White supremacist drove up and shot Ricky Byrdsong to death in front of his kids. He was 43 years old.

This gunman ended up going on a shooting spree for days across Illinois and Indiana, randomly targeting African Americans, Jews, and Asian Americans. In the end, he killed two and wounded nine.

Here is the reality. The man who did the shooting never, ever should have owned a gun. He was prohibited by law from buying guns because of a domestic violence restraining order against him. Before his murderous rampage, he tried to buy a gun from a federally licensed dealer in Peoria Heights, IL. He was rejected when it was revealed he was prohibited from purchasing a gun. But this white supremacist took advantage of a gap in our background check laws that still exists today. He found an advertisement for guns in the classified ad section of a newspaper.

A gun trafficker named Donald Fiessinger had been buying guns from a dealer—over 72 guns in a 2-year period—then turning around and reselling them through classified ads to buyers who wouldn't have to go through a background check. Ricky Byrdsong's killer bought two handguns from Fiessinger without a background check. He then used those guns on a shooting spree and killed Ricky Byrdsong on the streets of Skokie in front of his children.

The amendment before us today would make that more difficult, if not impossible. Under the Manchin-Toomey amendment, a background check would be required to sell guns advertised in a newspaper. This would have shut down the opportunity for Ricky Byrdsong's killer to get this murderous weapon. That is one of the issues before us, and it is critically important.

JOE MANCHIN is from West Virginia. JOE MANCHIN is a conservative Democrat, no question about it; no debate on that issue. PAT TOOMEY is one of the

most conservative Republicans from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The two of them came together and said, Let's write something that is respectful of the Second Amendment, respectful of the rights of gun owners, but closes the gaps in the law when it comes to background checks. I think they have done a good job. But let me add quickly they put some things in this amendment I don't like at all. Let me be specific.

The amendment repeals the law that prevents gun dealers from selling handguns to out-of-State buyers, and it expands civil immunity to unlicensed gun dealers. I don't want to vote for those two things, but this is the nature of a compromise and this is the nature of the Senate. If we are going to pass this, I have to be prepared to take on and accept some issues I personally don't agree with because of the larger good. To me, the notion of plugging this 40-percent gap in the sale of firearms is so compelling I am prepared to accept parts of this amendment I don't like. I am never going to get exactly what I want on the floor of the Senate, nor will any Senator, nor should they expect to. We have differences of opinion, differences of party, differences of philosophy.

I commend Senators MANCHIN and TOOMEY for stepping up. This wasn't easy. They could have stepped back and said, Let somebody else do this. They haven't. I know they have taken some grief over it. The major gun lobby organizations oppose this Manchin-Toomey amendment, but we need to do this. Would it have saved the lives of those children at Newtown, CT? No. This measure would not have, because the guns he used were purchased by his mother who could legally purchase the guns. But it could have saved the life of Ricky Byrdsong and it could also save the lives of so many others who are being gunned down on the streets because people are owning and using guns who have no legal right to them. The Manchin-Toomey amendment moves us in the direction of closing that gap in the law.

I know the gun lobby opposes this amendment. I don't know what their position is on the underlying bill, but I know that Americans and gun owners overwhelmingly support it. So here is the question: Can the Senate rise above the political pressure and vote for this measure? We need 60 votes, and it means it has to be bipartisan, not just the majority on this side of the aisle, but a good number on the other side.

I am encouraged by last week's vote because last week we had a preliminary vote, a procedural vote, about whether we were even going to debate this issue, and there was a question about it. Before the vote came up, 13 Republican Senators, supported by the Republican minority leader, sent a public letter saying they were going to oppose any effort to even debate the gun issue on the floor of the Senate. It looked pretty bad when the Republican leader took that position. But 16 Republican Senators stepped up and showed, I thought, courage and a commitment to this institution by voting with us to move forward on this debate. I am not assuming their votes on any issues, but I want to commend them in the spirit of this institution which has failed in recent years to accept its mandate and deliberate and vote on the most important issues of our time. I commend them for remembering that and for committing themselves to at least engaging in this debate on the floor of the Senate.

What about background checks and the Second Amendment? Well, the gun lobby argues that background checks are unconstitutional, even though Justice Scalia made it clear in the Heller decision, which was the decision on the Second Amendment that said, basically, the Second Amendment is a personal right to bear arms, not the right of a militia, which had been argued for years. Scalia said in that decision: ''laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms'' are ''presumptively lawful.'' So there is no doubt, at least in Justice Scalia's mind or mine, that a background check is consistent with the Second Amendment.

The gun lobby also argues that background checks are ineffective. We have heard this argument: Well, go ahead and pass all the laws you want and all the law-abiding citizens will live by them but the criminals won't. Here is what they failed to note. Nearly 2 million prohibited purchasers have been blocked from buying a gun since background checks went into effect. They were so stupid, so careless, they tried to buy a gun anyway. They were stopped. The argument, of course, then goes: Well, why are there so many gun crimes committed? Well, because they get guns through other means which are also addressed by the bill. Straw purchases, for example; or through the ads in the newspaper I mentioned earlier. And the argument that unless a law is air tight and will stop all gun violence we shouldn't pass it—are we going to use that standard for speeding on highways or for texting on highways? I don't think so. We do our best to set a reasonable standard for the good of this society, understanding there will be those who violate the law. The same thing holds true for this argument.

The gun lobby argues we should not improve background checks until we prosecute more cases where buyers fail their background checks. Well, what of the agency that gathers information for that prosecution—ATF the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives? If we look to that agency, we will note that for years now the gun lobby and the NRA have worked to keep this as a leaderless agency and to make sure it didn't have the power to enforce the laws on the books. They can't have it both ways. They can't stop the ATF from its job and then argue they don't prosecute these gun violations seriously.

Here is the bottom line: We are going to have votes soon to see where Members of the Senate stand. Are they going to stand with our police officers, religious leaders, teachers, prosecutors, doctors, mayors, and the victims of gun violence and their families? Are they going to stand with the strong majority of 90 percent of Americans who support these reform proposals to save lives in this country? Or, will they stand with the gun lobby that refuses to compromise even when lives could be saved?

I know where I am going to stand. I am going to stand with Ricky Byrdsong's family and his widow Sherialyn. She wrote me earlier this year when I held a hearing on gun violence and this is what she said:

> How a criminal is able to buy a gun with no questions asked is absurd. Something must be done about this.

An important question from an important person whose life was changed forever because we do not have a strong law. I stand with so many other families who have suffered tragedy, including those families from Newtown who were here last week, as well as the families and the victims in my hometown of East St. Louis, IL, and the city of Chicago I am honored to represent. They are sick and tired of the gun lobby that puts industry profits before common sense and they are tired of the gun lobby having its way in Congress year after deadly year.

I urge my colleagues to join with the majority of Americans who support commonsense reforms for gun safety. I urge my colleagues to support the compromise Manchin-Toomey amendment and the bipartisan legislation on the Senate floor.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the period for debate only on the firearms bill, S. 649, be extended until 3:30 p.m. and that I be recognized at that time.

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

Mr. REID. We will continue to work on getting an agreement setting forth some initial amendments and votes in relation to the gun safety legislation. The Republican leaders said they needed to have their caucus first. We are hopeful that we will receive a positive response to our efforts soon after the two caucus lunches and begin moving forward on some initial amendments and votes in relation to gun safety legislation.

RECESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we recess until 2:15 p.m. for our caucuses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:20 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

SAFE COMMUNITIES, SAFE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2013—Continued

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

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

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

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, my colleagues, the week is finally here when we come to the floor to have votes on a piece of legislation we have been waiting on for decades. This Chamber is finally talking about what we can do to stop the plague of gun violence which has rippled through every single corner of this country.

As I watched these mass shootings play out over the course of the last 10 years—whether it be in Colorado or Arizona or Virginia—we think to ourselves that this is just something we are watching. This is just something that has happened somewhere else to someone else. We never think it could happen to us.

I will never forget that day I was in Bridgeport, CT, and it was right before Christmas. We were getting ready to take a train so I could bring my two little boys, along with my wife, to look at the pageantry of New York City. That was the day I got the call that there had been a shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

I thought it must have been a mistake. I thought, well, to the extent there is something going on at Sandy Hook Elementary School—this quiet hamlet in western Connecticut—it must be some disgruntled employee who walked in and had a grudge.

What I learned over the next few minutes during the half-hour drive to Newtown made my blood freeze. I learned this was a mass shooting involving dozens of adults and kids. I realized it was now happening in my neighborhood, in my State, in my town.

Unfortunately—as I stood at the firehouse where the community gathered that day and all the parents stood waiting for their children to come back or not come back from that school—I realized I had way too many colleagues I could call upon for advice on how, as an elected official, to deal with a tragedy of this magnitude. I could call my friends in Arizona, I could call my friends in Colorado, or I could call my new colleague, Governor KAINE, from Virginia. There were too many places to turn, and it happened to us in Connecticut in a place we never, ever thought would be subjected to gun violence. We are finally at the tipping point on a debate of what we can do. Through all of the back and forth this week and last week about whether we would have a vote on this floor or would we have to overcome a filibuster, could we come to a compromise on background checks, would we add provisions to ban high-capacity magazines, underneath it all are these victims. There have been thousands of victims. There were the little girls and boys in Newtown, but also 16-, 17-, 31-, and 68-year-olds from across the country who have been gunned down over the course of the last several decades without this body raising a finger to try to make things different. Well, it is time for those victims' stories to be told.

As I did last week, I will be on the floor this week so I can share the stories of victims of gun violence. I will tell stories of lives which were cut way too short because of guns, and, in part, because this body has not been serious enough to stand up and do something about it.

I want to start this afternoon's remarks by returning to the place where it all started for me, and that is Sandy Hook Elementary School. There are 26 stories to tell of the people who lost their lives at that school that day, and I think I have gotten to about 20 or 21 of them. I will talk about the last few stories. It is unbelievable.

I have not had a chance to tell the story of Anne Marie Murphy, even though I told the story of what she did that day on the floor at least once. I just shared her story with my Democratic colleagues.

Before that fatal day, Anne Marie Murphy was an amazing person. Anne Marie was a special education teacher, and she loved her work. She sought out working in the area of special education because she knew she had a talent, as so many of her students and the parents who worked with her found out. They knew she had a talent for reaching out and touching little boys' and little girls' lives.

In fact, it is not a coincidence that a number of the kids who were killed in Sandy Hook Elementary School that day were kids with autism because Sandy Hook was known as a school that had a talent for reaching out to kids on the autistic spectrum. And Anne Marie was part of that story. She was a special education teacher. She was a mother of four wonderful children: Kelly, Colleen, Paige, and Thomas. She grew up in Katonah, NY. She graduated from St. Mary's School there before attending JFK High School in Somers, NY. Then she got her degree in Connecticut at a school that actually was in the process of educating one of the other teachers who was killed that day, Victoria Soto. Southern Connecticut State University is where she got her degree.

She was remembered by her friends and family as sweet, happy, outgoing, and caring, and all of those characteristics came into play that day. I shared this story with my colleagues last week and then behind closed doors today, but I will share it quickly again.

That day, Anne Marie Murphy had in her charge a little boy named Dylan Hockley. When the bullets started flying, Anne Marie took Dylan into her arms and did her best to comfort him and perhaps shield him. When the police came into that classroom, that is how they found Dylan and Anne Marie—in each other's arms. To the Hockleys, the fact that there was some small measure of love being expressed to Dylan in the last horrible moments gives them some small measure of peace. She died a hero doing what she did best.

Anne Marie had been doing this for awhile, but she had a lot of years to give. She was only 52 years old. She could have continued to change the lives of children in need, children with autism, for another 10-plus years. Just think of all the lives she could have affected. How many more Dylan Hockleys could she have found and nurtured and helped work through their autism? We will never get to know. She was killed that day.

Grace McDonnell's parents are amazing. They have been down here to Washington a number of times already. They have led a lot of the debate in our communities in Connecticut about what we do to change the issue of guns and gun violence. They do so because they lost their daughter Grace McDonnell that day.

Grace was 7 years old when she died. Grace had asked for a purple cake with a turquoise peace sign and polka dots when she turned 7. That is what she wanted, I guess, for her birthday, was that purple cake. She loved the color purple and she loved the color pink, as so many of these girls did, and her funeral, which I had the honor of attending, was just buried in pink.

Grace loved the beach. One could always find Grace McDonnell on the beach. She loved country music. Taylor Swift and Kenny Chesney were amongst her favorites. She played soccer. She participated in gymnastics. She had a dog, Puddin', that she absolutely adored.

She was a very kind, wonderful little girl, so her parents have tried to think of the ways, big and small, in which they can try to pass along the kindness their 7-year-old little girl Grace showed for the world. They have done that by trying to explain to this country who she is. They have done that by taking all the art she produced—Grace was a fantastic artist, and many of us

have pieces of original art that Grace McDonnell did hanging on our walls in our offices or at our homes. But the McDonnells do small things. Following her memorial service, they stopped at a local restaurant and they ordered a cupcake for every patron who came into the establishment that day—white cake, chocolate frosting, pink and white sprinkles—just to do a small little thing to spread Grace's love throughout this devastated community.

Coincidentally, it was after Grace's funeral that I received word that the NRA was going to oppose virtually everything we did. Up until that moment, I had hoped the NRA was going to be a partner with us. I remember walking out of Grace McDonnell's funeral—amongst the dozens of wakes and funerals I went to over those 2 weeks—and getting a copy of the NRA statement handed to me. It was that day that I understood we were in for a fight, one a lot of us who were in the midst of that grief didn't expect we were going to have. We thought Newtown was going to bring us all together. Unfortunately, for some, it has not.

Allison Wyatt died that day. Allison was 6 years old. Allison was an overwhelmingly kind girl.

All of these little boys and girls were kind because, frankly, that is what most little boys and girls are when they are 6 and 7 years old. They are wonderfully kind. This tragedy kills us inside because we know that 6- and 7-year-olds remind all of us about what we want to be.

Allison once gave her snack to a hungry stranger on a plane. She gave it away as a simple act of kindness. She had a passion for drawing. She wanted to be an artist when she grew up. She would cover the walls of her house with her drawings, turning every room in the Wyatts' house into her own little art studio. In fact, just before her death, she had drawn a picture for her teacher Victoria Soto, and she had written on that picture, ''I love you, Love, Allie.'' Both Victoria Soto and her student Allison Wyatt died that day. Her daycare teacher said of Allison that ''she would come and put her head down on your shoulder if she was upset. It would make her feel better. She was just such a sweet and caring girl.''

Twenty-six teachers and students died that day in Sandy Hook, and we will remember every single one of them. Twenty-eight people died that day, and we have to remember that. As much anger and often hatred as we have for the shooter and as much confusion as we have about his mother and the questions we ask about why she would give him access to those kinds of weapons, knowing how troubled he was—28 people did die that day, 26 at the Sandy Hook Elementary School. But here is the thing. Every day more than that die in this country from gun violence. Every day, on average, 30 people die from gun violence across this country.

I have had this chart up for the last week, and it is hard to read if the viewer is in the gallery or in this Chamber or watching from somewhere else because each one of these little figures represents someone who has been killed by guns since December 14, 2012. In the now almost 4 months since that day—I think it is over 4 months now—over 3,400 people have died from guns all across this country.

We, as a legislative body, over the past several decades, seem to have become immune to the everyday gun violence that happens. We are just sort of used to picking up our local paper and reading about another shooting, reading about another victim, such as those who have died in my State, in New Haven and Hartford and Bridgeport, on a pretty regular basis.

This debate has to be not just about what we can do to try to lessen the likelihood that anyone has to call me and ask for advice on how they should handle the latest mass shooting in their State or their district, but it also has to be an answer to the thousands of people who are losing their lives on the streets of America due to routine, everyday gun violence. That is what the compromise that is on the floor for debate right now will do.

Since we put into place our background checks law, there have been hundreds of thousands of people who have been legally prohibited from buying guns because they were felons or they had been convicted of domestic abuse or they were judged so mentally ill that they shouldn't own guns. Hundreds of thousands of people have walked into gun stores and have been prevented from buying guns because of our background check law. The problem is that only about 60 percent of gun sales go through those background checks, and 90 percent of Americans agree we should apply background checks to as many people as we can to make sure criminals don't have guns. If criminals didn't have guns, I can virtually guarantee my colleagues that this visual would be a little less stunning than it is today. It wouldn't erase these figurines. Background checks, if they were universal, wouldn't erase the scourge of violence across this country, but it would certainly lessen the impact of this chart.

So let's talk about some of the victims of urban gun violence—of gun violence in our communities that is a 1-day story in the paper, not the multiday episode a mass shooting may be.

We can talk about someone like Kwante Feliciano. Kwante was killed just about a month ago in Hartford, CT. The shooting occurred on March 25. Kwante was shot in the chest, and a companion, 30-year-old Kelly Cooper, was shot in the head. Both of them were pronounced dead at St. Francis Hospital.

Kwante was a product of the Hartford public school system, and he was trying to do better for himself. There are a lot of kids who drop out of the Hartford public school system, but Kwante had figured out a way to graduate and was also trying to get himself employed in a tough economy. He was attending Lincoln Technical Institute, and he was studying to be an automotive technician at the time of his death. His obituary said that he was loved by everybody who came in contact with him and that what defined him to most of his friends and his family was his 100-watt smile.

Hartford is a tough place to grow up. There are a lot of kids who don't see a way out of their situation. But this young man did. He had gotten his high school diploma. He was trying to do something to make himself better by becoming an automotive technician, and he was shot dead in the chest just a few short weeks ago. Kelly, by the way, who was shot with him, leaves behind four children, four brothers, and one sister.

Kanasha Isaac was 16 years old. She was described by her friends as a social butterfly. She was full of energy and life. Her family was her center. Her uncle's home was always the place where her friends and her family congregated when they were there. Kanasha was the center of all of her family's life.

After exiting a local restaurant, Kanasha and her boyfriend got into their car. Another car pulled up beside them, blocked them as they were going into a parking space, and a man shot at their car. He shot Kanasha in the face. She died shortly thereafter at 16 years old. This was in Florida on February 24 of this year.

Kanasha was going to the local high school. She wasn't the first victim of gun violence in recent months. In December two high school classmates of hers, Coby Deleon and Natalia Trejo, were killed in a murder-suicide. Three students in this one local high school in Florida were killed in about a 2-month, 3-month period of time.

Christopher Walker was 19 years old, and he was shot on March 12 of this year in Milton, GA. It was an attempted robbery. He was a marketing student at Georgia Perimeter College, and he had just been accepted into Kennesaw State University for the upcoming fall semester. That is a big deal. He had been trying to do right for himself and his family. He had been studying marketing, and he had just gotten accepted into Kennesaw State University. He was excited about getting into that school. He was already working to pay for his degree. He was a successful salesman at a local Sears store, and he was doing all of this with a goal toward the long term. He was a great salesman. He was studying marketing.

He was going to get his degree, but he really loved music. His dream was to become a musician. Even as this 19-year-old college student was looking for a job, he was recording as much music as he could, and his goal was to

take his music and not keep the money he collected from it for himself; he was going to donate it to charity. So he was going to pursue his college degree, go out and continue to be a salesman, and do music on the side simply to make enough money to give to charity.

What an amazing kid, 19 years old. In an attempted robbery on March 12 of this year, Christopher Walker was shot dead in Milton, GA.

Dominique Boyer was 18 when he was shot in Atlanta, GA, on March 28.

All of these victims, by the way, are part of this chart. Unfortunately, I do not have to go back 6 months or a year or a year and a half to find an endless list of victims. We are just talking about March of this year.

Dominique was 18 years old and just months away from his high school graduation when he became an unintentional, innocent victim of a shooting in DeKalb County, GA. Dominique was a senior at Columbia High School and he had been planning to go to college to become an accountant.

His classmates remember him as happy, as outgoing, as a very respectful kid with a lot of friends. He was the oldest of four siblings. He was just months away; he was going to graduate this fall. He was going to go to college, and he was an unintentional, innocent victim of a shooting.

We hear this over and over and over. I have read now probably 50- or 60-plus stories of kids—18, 19 years old—who have been killed. The highest incidence of gun violence occurs to 19-year-olds, I think, followed by 18-year-olds, followed by 17-year-olds. It is really teenagers who are getting killed out there. Unfortunately, in Connecticut, it was 6- and 7-year-olds, but kids who are not much older than the kids who died in Sandy Hook are dying every day in this country from gun violence, and most of them are unintentional, innocent victims. At some level a lot of people want to believe that the people who are killed in urban gun violence are killed in connection with a crime or are wrapped up in gangs. Some of that is true, but the stories we are hearing are of good kids who were doing the right thing; who, as the President has said, were not in the wrong place at the wrong time but were in the right place at the right time.

Dominique Boyer was a respectful kid who treated everybody well but just happened to be in the way of a bullet that maybe was not designated for him but should not have been flying through the air in the first place.

Hakeem Jackson was 17 years old when he was killed a couple weeks before Dominique on March 11, 2013, in Knoxville, TN. He was just on a weekend visit to Knoxville visiting his family and his grandmother. Hakeem's mom described him as a quiet and bashful boy but sometimes a little bit of a prankster.

On a Friday night he asked his grandmother for some money. He was 17 years old. He just wanted to go down to the store. While he was walking down a street in a city that was not even his own, a gray sedan pulled up and shot Hakeem several times. Those shots eventually killed him. He was 17 years old, just visiting his grandmother in Knoxville, TN.

Let me share a couple more stories with you.

Kay Cornell Janus was on the other end of life's spectrum. She was 72 when she was shot just 1 day before Hakeem in Marietta, GA. She was known for her grace and her poise, and, again, as you have heard about a number of these victims, her radiant smile—something her family and friends remembered about her.

She was full of class. She loved fine food and wine and traveling and entertaining. Many of these hobbies became, over the course of her life, her passion. She was the mother of four, and she was the grandmother of two.

She was shot in her garage by her longtime boyfriend. Neighbors suspect that the murder may have been the result of a simple dispute they were having over finances. It ended in Kay, 72 years old, being gunned down.

Zachary Rose was killed in January of this year. He was celebrating his 22nd birthday. Two days later, after his 22nd birthday, he was killed. His loves were skateboarding and cars and dogs—dogs at the top of his list. He absolutely loved dogs, and he had a Great Dane, Mathias, that all of his friends said after he was killed was really ''his baby.''

He actually loved dogs so much that he ran his own dog training company. Zachary's friend dedicated a page of their company's Web site to help raise money for Zachary's funeral because his family was going through very tough times, and when he was killed, leaving behind three siblings—a brother and two sisters—they did not have enough money to pay for his funeral.

His friends said Zachary was the kind of guy who ''literally had no enemies''—killed by guns on January 28, 2013.

His family did not have the money to pay for his funeral. It is the story of a lot of these families. Families are already going through tough times. Luckily, a lot of these communities rally to the victims' defense to raise the money for these funerals. But think about that. Think about going through the pain and the grief of losing your child or your son or your daughter or your grandson or your sister or your brother, and then looking into your family's accounts and not even having enough money to bury them. That is the reality of what is happening across this Nation today because it happens too often.

There has been another trend in the last several months that has in some ways been even more disturbing than the overall incidence of 3,000-plus people having died across our country. We have seen a very disturbing trend, in the last several months even, of accidental deaths from guns. As we have said, there is no one solution to this plague of gun violence. It is getting tougher on our gun laws: making sure criminals do not have them who should not, trying to take some of these dangerous weapons—the assault weapons and the dangerous high-capacity ammunition—off the streets, having a better mental health system. But it is also about gun safety. It is also about making sure if someone is going to be a gun owner they be a responsible gun owner, that they put a lock on their gun and keep it away from children.

Over the past several months there have been four absolutely tragic shootings involving toddlers.

A Tennessee woman was shot in the stomach by her 2-year-old child who discovered a Glock 9 stored underneath a pillow. The child picked it out from under the pillow, discharged the weapon, and shot Rekia Kid while she was sleeping.

Josephine Fanning was shot and killed in Tennessee when a 4-year-old boy discharged a handgun owned by Fanning's husband, who had just kept the gun loaded, in his words, ''for just a moment.'' A 4-year-old boy.

A 6-year-old boy was accidentally shot and killed by his 4-year-old playmate in a quiet residential New Jersey neighborhood. ''This never should have happened,'' the victim's uncle said. ''It's horrible.''

A 3-year-old died recently of an accidental self-inflicted gun wound in South Carolina after finding a gun in an apartment and discharging the weapon.

A 2-year-old shooting his mother, a 4-year-old shooting an adult, a 6-year-old getting shot by a 4-year-old, and a 3-year-old shooting themselves—these accidental shootings are likely not going to be solved by a background check law or by a ban on high-capacity ammunition, but it just speaks to how big this problem is. It speaks to how many guns are out there.

It also speaks to the fact that as part of our debate on background checks and on specific weaponry that should be kept in the hands of the military, we should be having a conversation about gun safety as well.

Lastly, I want to talk about the importance of today.

Senator KAINE, I believe, was down on the floor earlier talking about the 6-year anniversary of the worst mass shooting in this country's history at Virginia Tech. I want to close by just telling a few final stories about those victims. I have told some of them when I have been down here before, but that shooting was in some ways just as tragic.

In Sandy Hook, we had a little glimpse into who these little boys and girls would be. When we heard these stories about their intellectual curiosity and their kindness and their grace, we had a window into what amazing people folks such as Dylan Hockley and Grace McDonnell and

Madeleine Hsu would eventually grow up to be.

In Virginia Tech, though, we had a much better window into these kids because though they had not reached maturity, they had already succeeded by getting into Virginia Tech, and we could really see the kind of contributions they were going to leave.

Austin Michelle Cloyd lived life boldly. She had traveled the world with her family. She was interested in everything from politics to environmental issues to international relations. She was a very tall girl and everybody remembered what Austin looked like because she had flaming red hair and a big, bright smile. She played basketball throughout her middle and high school years, and she worked four summers with the Appalachia Service Project to help make homes better for people—to make them warmer and safer and dryer.

She loved reading and scuba diving and music and concerts, and she was just a girl who was absolutely full of life. She lived her life for a purpose. She knew she wanted to help people.

She had a brilliant mind and a compassionate heart and she had an iron will. We will never know what Austin was going to truly grow up to be. She was killed that day at Virginia Tech.

Jocelyne Couture-Nowak was a French Canadian who had a passion for teaching French. She was a faculty member who was killed that day. Before she moved to Virginia, she was very well known for being instrumental in helping to develop a school to ensure access for francophone families who wanted a safe school environment and a French language education.

She went between Nova Scotia and southwest Virginia. She loved the bucolic countryside, and she loved to go on hikes, whether it was in Virginia or back in Nova Scotia.

She was passionate for French education. She was passionate that other people would learn the language, and she still had a lot of passion to give. But she was killed that day as well.

Matthew Gwaltney was a second-year master's student in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. His professional goal was to go out and increase awareness and education about environmental issues. He wanted to encourage people to be proactive in their individual lives to try to better our environment, whether it was just leaving a smaller and more confined footprint on this world or going out and creating systems in their community to lower the impact of pollution.

His passion was environmental awareness, but he was also a big fan of sports. He was a detailed expert in sports statistics, and you could not beat Matthew in a game of trivia. He loved his Hokies and was a devoted fan, and he went to every ACC sporting event he could. Professionally, he loved the Atlanta Braves and the Chicago White Sox and the Chicago Bulls.

Matthew was going to lead a great life—one that was lived outwardly. But we never got to see the maturity of his passion for environmental awareness, nor his passion for the hobbies he loved because Matthew was killed that day at Virginia Tech.

The list just goes on and on and on—3,400 people killed since December 14. I have in the Chamber just a few of the pictures of the young men and women who have been killed in Hartford and Bridgeport and New York and Washington and Newtown, CT. It is their memories we will honor this week as we go forward on one of the most important public safety debates this Chamber and this city has ever had.

I will be back down to the Senate floor later this week to continue to engage my colleagues in talking about the real reason we are here; that is, the victims of gun violence all across this country.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for debate only on S. 649 be extended until 5:30 p.m., and that the majority leader be recognized at that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to begin by saying my thoughts and prayers, similar to those of so many Americans, are with Boston today, with the families and loved ones of those who have lost lives or been injured. I offer my deepest condolences to the families of those victims and my sincere gratitude to the courageous first responders, including many of the runners who courageously went to the aid of people who were grievously injured and some maimed by this horrific act of terror. Whether we call it a terrorist act or an act of terror or simply a criminal murder, it is certainly to be condemned and investigated as thoroughly and promptly as possible. I know the full resources of the Federal Government have been devoted to this purpose.

We are an open society. We appear soft-hearted to people who want to do harm to a democracy. We are vulnerable because we are a democracy and we are open. We have resolved that we will not become totalitarian or antidemocratic; that we will remain a free and open society. That is the wonder and strength and uniqueness of America, the greatest Nation in the history of the world.

Horror has brought us to this debate, the horror of gun violence, the horror of what has happened in our schools, our streets, our neighborhoods, in places where the public is admitted, indeed welcomed, whether it is movie theaters or places of worship or schools, places where the public has access and where, therefore, all our citizens, most especially our children, are vulnerable.

Last week when we opened this debate we spent a lot of time talking about victims. Senator MURPHY and I spent a lot of time on the Senate floor discussing Newtown and the victims of that unspeakable and unimaginable tragedy. Today we remember another similar tragedy, facilitated by the same extraordinarily dangerous weapons in the hands of people who should not be permitted to have firearms or guns. Six years ago today, Seung-Hui Cho used two semiautomatic handguns and nine 10- and 15-round magazines to kill 32 innocent victims and injure 23 at Virginia Tech University. Many of those weapons he used were purchased online. Others were purchased at local stores without a background check.

As somebody who has seen my own State grapple with this tragedy, I extend my condolences to the families of Virginia Tech victims—some of their families were here earlier today—and all who have felt the impact of this absolutely senseless slaughter, as senseless and unspeakable as what happened in Newtown just 4 months ago.

I wish to recognize the leadership of our two Senators from Virginia and their efforts to prevent another Virginia Tech. As he discussed earlier, Senator WARNER has been actively engaged in efforts to bring research and resources together to make our schools and campuses safer. His leadership has been extremely important. Colleges and universities play an extraordinarily important role in my own State of Connecticut. I know they are constantly working to keep their campuses safe. The School and Campus Safety Enhancements Act included in the gun violence legislation currently before this body would be an important step toward giving these very institutions of higher learning what they need to protect our students and support the kind of research that is necessary to develop new means and possibly new technology, new tools that our institutions of higher learning but also institutions of learning across-the-board, beginning with our elementary schools, need to do better.

I am proud to be cosponsor of this legislation. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure its passage. Senator KAINE spoke so powerfully and eloquently on the floor earlier today, showed such grace under pressure—which is one of the definitions of courage—in responding to the Virginia Tech tragedy. He has worked to deal with the wounds. He has resolved to learn from Virginia Tech and indeed he worked as a Governor to seek safer campuses across Virginia and across the country. He fought to put in place commonsense laws that would prevent shooters such as Seung-Hui Cho from having access to the arsenal

he used 6 years ago. I thank Senator KAINE for helping to lead the effort for a ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines such as the ones used at Virginia Tech and used at Newtown and used in so many other shootings across the country over the years. With his support, I plan to offer a high-capacity magazine ban, on behalf of Senator LAUTENBERG, in an amendment to the gun violence legislation currently before the Senate.

I am proud to be working with others, such as Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator SCHUMER, and my colleague Senator MURPHY, in that effort. I encourage my colleagues to work with me and Senator KAINE to pass commonsense legislation as we mark the tragedy at Virginia Tech and we remember the victims of Newtown.

I thank the families of the victims of these shootings from all across the country who have come to Washington over these past days, and indeed weeks, working so hard and so diligently, working through their grief and pain, doing something that is so difficult for them so others can be spared this pain and grief.

Many will face difficult votes, perhaps as early as tomorrow. We have approached the cusp of these vital and historic votes. Many of these votes will be difficult for my colleagues. But as difficult as they are for them—and for many whose difficulty I respect—let's remember how difficult it has been for those families of the victims to come here to look you in the eye as they have done and say: Let's now do something about gun violence. That is what I heard in the wake of Newtown, as early as the evening that horrific tragedy occurred. Let's do something about the guns.

We have the opportunity to do something about the guns. As Gabby Giffords said to the Judiciary Committee just weeks ago: Be bold. Be courageous. America is counting on you.

That is her urging to us. That is our obligation and our historic opportunity.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HONORING BRITISH PRIME MINISTER BARONESS MARGARET THATCHER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the resolution that is at the desk honoring the life, legacy, and example of British Prime Minister Baroness Margaret Thatcher.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 98) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we have just agreed to a resolution honoring the late Margaret Thatcher before her funeral tomorrow. It is our intention for that resolution to be a statement equal to her legacy. Her work with Ronald Reagan reinvigorated the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Margaret Thatcher was one of the most influential and revolutionary figures of the 20th century, and failing to name her achievements would do her memory and legacy a great disservice. It would be unheard of to commemorate Churchill, for example, and ignore his heroic role in steering his countrymen through the Battle of Britain, nor would we think of honoring Lincoln without mentioning the Civil War. Doing the right thing when it is not easy or popular is what defines leadership, and it defined Margaret Thatcher. It is fitting that the Senate honored her legacy just a few moments ago.

Margaret Thatcher didn't just change a country or give people hope, she helped alter the course of history. It is true that she did not just go along to get along. Had she done so, I am sure we would have long since forgotten her.

Let's honor her for all she did. Let's acknowledge the enormity of what she accomplished. Let's mention her achievements by name, and the resolution does that. As I said, we owe Margaret Thatcher a tribute equal to her legacy.

SAFE COMMUNITIES, SAFE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2013—Continued

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I rise today as a mother, a grandmother, and a Senator—a Senator whose State has been touched far too many times by gun violence, including mass shootings. I also wish to reiterate my support for the people of Boston who are dealing with the aftermath of senseless, tragic, and cowardly violence.

I think I need to put into context why I have for so long been an advocate of gun safety measures. In January 1989, a gunman stepped onto the grounds of Cleveland Elementary School in Stockton, CA. He fired at least 106 bullets from an AK–47 rifle across the schoolyard. He killed 5 children, ages 6 to 9, and 1 teacher, and he injured 29 other students before fatally shooting himself. This horrific crime led California to enact an assault weapons ban and, of course, we know that assault weapons ban in California is still in place. I so appreciate Senator FEINSTEIN's leadership in trying to, once again, authorize at the Federal level an assault weapons ban.

Californians still remember this tragedy in Stockton, just as the Nation will always remember the victims of the horrific events of Friday, December 14, 2012, at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

I flash forward to from 1989 and the Stockton tragedy to a law office in San Francisco in 1993, where a crazed gunman—I remember his name, but I will not say it—with an assault weapon killed eight people and wounded six. One of those people was a brave lawyer who threw his body over the body of his wife, sacrificing his own life to save hers. That young man was one of my son's best friends, and I know personally how these horrific and senseless tragedies live on with the survivors—the parents, the spouses, the children, the families, and the friends. It changes their lives and it pierces their hearts forever.

I have told you a couple of stories about California. But let me say this: Let's look at what has happened across this Nation since Sandy Hook. In the 120 days since Sandy Hook, more than 2,200 Americans have been killed by gun violence. Hardly any place was spared.

We know there are many, many firearms in America. There are 300 million firearms in the United States. If you were to divide that up, that would be one gun per person, of course. There are many people who have many, many guns.

This is a 50-percent increase—the number of guns in circulation—since 1995, when there were, as I say, about half that number.

When I go home and I speak about this—and I write about it—I say: There are 31,000 reasons why we need to pass sensible gun laws because—31,000—that is the number of people who die every year in America from gun violence. That is 87 people every single day, on average.

You look at this: 31,000 people dying every year from gun violence. So how do you get a sense of what that is? I think back. One of the reasons I got into politics in the first place was the war in Vietnam and trying to end it, first as an activist and then, actually, as an elected leader in my country. I think about how many people died in the 10-year war of Vietnam and it was

a little bit more than 50,000 in that 10-year period and it turned our country upside down—upside down. I can tell you, I lived through it: generation against generation. It was a very tough time in this Nation. People lost faith in the country. It was tough.

Yet we have 31,000 people killed every year in America from gun violence, and it is something where we all kind of just say: OK, that is terrible, but we do not do anything about it. But we are about to do something about it that is very important. It may not be everything I would want to do, given my history on this issue, but I will say, if we can move forward with sensible background checks—and I thank Senators MANCHIN and TOOMEY so much, so much, for their work—and if we can do something about straw purchasers, and if we can do something about making our schools safer—which I am pleased to say I wrote the legislation that is in the underlying bill before us—if we can do a few of these things, it would be a big step forward.

Do I want to see more done? Yes. Do I want to see the ban on assault weapons reinstated? I do. But I do feel we are at a point in time where we may be able to get something done that matters.

I think we ought to look at mass shootings in the last 30 years. First of all, 40 percent of mass shootings have occurred since 2006. So if you go back 30 years, you see 40 percent took place since 2006.

According to the Washington Post, in 2012 alone, 175 people were killed or wounded from mass shootings. People who should not get these weapons are getting these weapons. People with severe mental illness are getting these weapons. We know that.

Today, we got to see in the Democratic Caucus lunch a heroine, someone who is unbelievable, Gabby Giffords, struggle with each step, with every word. Why? What did she do? She held a townhall meeting so she could bring government to her people in the most personal of ways. And someone who was very sick got access to weapons, and the rest we know.

In the name of those who were lost, Gabby Giffords and her husband Mark Kelly have been truthtellers. These people—Mark and Gabby—are gun owners, proud gun owners. They are not coming from a different place. Yet they are standing for sensible gun laws. I am so grateful to them for dedicating their lives to this, and I am so grateful to the parents of the children and all the victims at Sandy Hook for putting a human face on these numbers.

Madam President, 175—what does that mean? If you saw the faces you would know what it means. And sometimes the wounds, as we see with Gabby, are so hard to deal with.

We can make it harder for people who are criminals, who have no right to have a gun, we can make it harder for them by making sure they have to undergo a background check.

Today, I learned from Mark Kelly that we, through the background checks that we already have—that is when people go to a regular retail store—we have stopped well over a million gun sales, well over. Yet we do not have that same system in place for gun shows or private sales.

So JOE MANCHIN and Senator TOOMEY have been working together, and they have crafted a way to move toward a sensible background check—yes, protecting family members who want to give a gun to the next, but they have preserved, the most important part of their bill, which is to simply make a uniform standard for a gun sale wherever you purchase your gun.

Some of the strongest proponents of this are people who run retail stores who go through the laborious situation—although it is pretty quick now—of doing a background check. Yet somebody can go across the street to a gun show and make a deal and never be asked, and they could be a criminal, they could be mentally unbalanced, they could be a terrorist, OK, and still get a gun.

I want to look at the issue of school shootings in America. The tragedy that took place at Sandy Hook is a tragedy that far too many of our Nation's communities have faced in recent years.

I have in the Chamber a chart that shows that since the year of Columbine, 262 students, teachers, and others have been killed or wounded in K–12 school shootings. People go to school. It is supposed to be a protected zone. Who thinks about this? Look how many people since Columbine. And we swore we would never allow that to happen again. It is happening. So we have to do more.

I tell you, this is just K–12. But if you look at America's colleges and universities, in my own State, at California's Oikos University, in 2012—it is in Oakland—a former student returned to the campus and killed seven people and injured three. We have these horrible violent incidents at colleges and universities.

School shootings are on the rise in America. I am telling you. I have the numbers to show it on this chart. Divided up by decades, we go back. From 1979 to 1988—this is the number of incidents at schools; not the people killed, but the number of school shootings—there were 27. This is just for K–12. This does not include the universities. So for K–12, from 1979 to 1988, 27 incidents; from 1989 to 1998, 55 incidents; from 1999 to 2008, 66 incidents.

This is a number we do not want to keep going up. In so many of these cases it could have been prevented. I am not saying every case, but certainly in some cases. If we were able to do something about the magazine capacity here, that would have a big impact on the numbers as well. So we are moving up, and that is not a good number.

The parents of the fallen children at Sandy Hook and Oikos in my home State have joined countless other parents who have lost their children in violent assaults on our Nation's schools and colleges. They have joined with parents of Colorado's Columbine High School, California's Santana High School, Minnesota's Red Lake Senior High School, West Nickel Mines School in Pennsylvania, Virginia Tech, and so many others.

The shooting at Sandy Hook is another reminder that we have failed our children. I do not know how to put it another way. I am so sad about it. This topic is so heavy in my heart because I know we can do some things to change it. I believe we are on the brink of doing some things—not enough in my view but some things to change it.

I could tell you, Madam President—because the Presiding Officer was there today—we had quite a caucus today. Our colleagues who stood up, who have seen these tragedies in their States, were beyond eloquent. Our colleagues—who are trying to do something that, yes, may be politically difficult—are showing courage.

It is one of those moments when you say: I am blessed to be here, and I can do something about this. I think more and more of our colleagues are beginning to realize this, as they meet with the parents and they meet with colleagues and they sit down one-on-one.

We have to keep our children safe.

One of the pieces of legislation that is less controversial that is included in the base bill before us is the School and Campus Safety Enhancements Act that I have authored with Senator COLLINS, Senator WARNER, and Senator KIRK to help secure our Nation's schools.

For years, we had the very successful Secure Our Schools program. Basically, we build from that program and we make some changes to it that I think will make it better.

I want to explain the way it would work. What we say is, if a local entity—and this could be a police department; it could be school districts—if they feel they want to secure their schools, they will have to put some funds on the line, about 50 percent of the funding. But we would supplement that funding by 50 percent. We would help to pay for security-related capital improvements at the school plant.

A lot of our schools are old. When they were built, no one thought 5 seconds about some of these issues. Classroom locks, lighting, fencing, reinforced doors, security assessments, training for students and teachers and administrators, coordination with local law enforcement—there are so many things we can do. But we know our school districts and our local police departments are stretched right now.

We want to help them pay for some of these things—perimeter fencing, for example, and cameras. You could see someone coming onto the campus and take action to either alert your school officers who may be there or your local police department to prepare.

We have had a similar program in place since 2002, but the authorization

expired in 2009. In the past, 5,500 schools have received these funds, but the funds were not even sufficient. Fifty-four percent of the entities that applied for these grants were turned away. So we know this is a program the schools like because they took advantage of it. But we ran out of funds. We want to make sure we reauthorize this. In the past, programs such as the one in the bill passed with a 307-to-1 vote in the House and the Senate 95 to 0.

What we do is reauthorize the Safety in Schools Program for 10 years. We increase the authorization to $40 million a year. We allow more flexibility. We do not say what they have to use it for. By the way, they do not use it for more cops in schools. That is another issue. It is not in this particular piece. It is something I care about and want to work on. It is not in this bill.

What is in this bill is making capital improvements to the facilities. It is not a one-size-fits-all. Some people do not need a fence or a camera or a door. We leave it up to the schools. Flexibility. We also do something Senator WARNER truly wanted. We create a Department of Justice and Department of Education task force to develop advisory school safety guidelines. We include language from Senator GRASSLEY to ensure adequate grant accountability. Senator WARNER and Senator KIRK also wanted to create a National Center for Campus Public Safety, which will serve as a clearinghouse for education, training, and best practices. Here is the thing. Some of our campuses know how to do this and others do not. So we want to make sure there is a central place one can find out the best practices.

I was going to go through, in closing, some of the ways these funds were actually used on the ground before this program expired. In Sulphur Springs, TX, which is a school district made up of nine schools, they wanted to do a safety assessment. They were able to make that safety assessment so they knew what they had to do to make their schools safer.

When they did their study, they found they needed to replace older security equipment and technology, expand restricted access keyway systems, and placed classroom security levers on all doors, which allowed teachers to lock doors from the inside. Simple point. You may say: Oh, that is not expensive. Why do you need to spend money? It sure adds up when you truly want to secure a door and want to do it right. So if you have many doors, we can help them do these things. If they wanted to make sure they hardened their facility, that is what the money is for.

There is a township in New Jersey that used funds to secure perimeter and playground areas by installing security gates at elementary and intermediate schools to create a safer learning environment. The new exterior fences defined school boundaries, making the school grounds safer for students. Interior gates were placed at schools, providing the ability to lock off specific areas of the schools during emergencies.

Again, it is common sense. But when these schools were built, no one thought about this. Everything was open. It is similar to the Capitol when I came here. I am dating myself. A long time ago, you could go anywhere—no metal detectors, no fences, walk up the steps to the Capitol. We have lost a lot of that freedom. Our world is now to balance our freedom in the greatest country in the world with security. That is what we are trying to do with this.

In Minnesota, we saw grants used to conduct security assessments and institute safety training classes. In Palmer High School in Colorado, they implemented a new surveillance, lockdown, and evacuation procedure. They doubled the number of doors that are operated by security cards, so it reduced the number of outside individuals able to gain building entry. It makes it harder for people to get in. It might be annoying for some parents, but I think right now people realize this is what is needed. It is this balance.

In Florida, in Leon County, which is responsible for 50 schools, they had no central point of contact to coordinate communication across all school facilities. So they set up, with the funds from this program, a 24-hour emergency operations center which has significantly reduced emergency response time. There is one point of contact.

So what we have done in this bill is not a one-size-fits-all. We do not say in here: You have to do 10 things. We say: You come up with the plan. You send it to the Department of Justice. They look at the plan. They work with you to make it good. If they think it is worthwhile, we will fund it 50 percent.

My final point. I want to show who supports school safety provisions in the bill: Fraternal Order of Police, Security Industry Association, National Sheriff's Association, National Association of School Resource Officers, International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

I ask unanimous consent to have the list printed in the RECORD.

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY INDUSTRY GROUPS

Fraternal Order of Police, National Sheriffs Association, National Association of School Resource Officers, International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, International Union of Police Associations, Security Industry Association, Texas State University's Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center (ALERRT).

PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS

National Parent Teacher Association, National School Board Association, National Education Association, American Association of School Administrators, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition, Association of Educational Service Agencies, National Rural Education Association, Virginia Tech Victims Family Outreach Foundation, American Association of University Women.

Mrs. BOXER. I have left out PTAs, National School Board Association, the NEA, and so on. We have a long list.

Look, we will never be able to stand here and say we have solved every problem. We cannot. But we have to be able to say, we have to be able to know we did everything we could to reduce these tragedies. As I stand here I think, what will people say who do not vote for this and the next tragedy comes? What will they say? How can they look at their kids and their grandkids and say: I did not think it was right.

We need to do commonsense things around here, not put ideology ahead of practicality. The slaughter of innocents must stop. I am going to support the Toomey-Manchin amendment. It closes the gun show and Internet loophole. It is not the perfect background check I would write. We know that. But it is good. It is solid. It moves forward. I am going to support Senator LEAHY—his amendment which will outlaw the abusive practice of straw purchasing and gun trafficking. I will support Senator FEINSTEIN's important amendment on assault weapons, to ban those weapons. She has worked so hard to make it fair and just and right. It would also take high-capacity clips off our streets.

Senator FEINSTEIN will have much more to say on assault weapons. I will withhold my remarks on that until that debate. Clearly, we have work to do. Clearly, we all carry from our State and in our hearts stories of this violence. Now we have a moment in time where we can actually act. I truly appreciate this opportunity.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 6 p.m. be for debate only; that at 6 p.m. the Senate recess subject to the call of the chair; that when the Senate reconvenes the majority leader be recognized.

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

Mrs. BOXER. 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. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET THATCHER

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise to honor the memory of Margaret

Thatcher. When she passed, the United States lost a great ally and the world lost one of the greatest champions of liberty who has ever lived. I commend our colleague Senator MITCH MCCONNELL for today offering a resolution that was approved by unanimous consent praising Thatcher's leadership. I commend all 100 Senators for consenting to and adopting that resolution.

I would like to spend a brief amount of time talking about the incredible import of Margaret Thatcher's legacy. Margaret Thatcher became familiar to so many of us in the United States after she started winning elections. We think of her as the scourge of the Socialist policies that threatened to ruin Britain, as the resolute victor of the Falklands War, and, of course, as the ideological soulmate of President Ronald Reagan, who battled the Soviets.

I have always been fond of her admonition that conservatives need to first ''win the argument,'' then we will win the vote; in other words, that we need to effectively communicate our ideas in order to prevail in elections, and elections will naturally follow as the consequence of doing so.

I would like to talk about her days winning the argument, in particular, her seminal speech on January 19, 1976, entitled ''Britain Awake.'' At the time, it seemed to many that the conservative movement had failed. As James Callaghan succeeded Harold Wilson as the Labor Prime Minister, the Tories were in apparent disarray.

Thatcher had wrested control of the party from former Prime Minister Edward Heath. Few gave her a chance at broader electoral success. Indeed, she said at the time she did not anticipate a female Prime Minister in her lifetime. I would be remiss if I did not note Margaret Thatcher was Britain's first and, to date, only female Prime Minister.

Thatcher was a trailblazer, and her ascension wasn't simply a matter of breaking the glass ceiling as much as it was refusing to acknowledge its existence.

Thatcher made the argument in that 1976 speech. She began by observing:

> The first duty of any Government is to safeguard its people against external aggression. To guarantee the survival of our way of life.

She then addressed the Soviet menace, noting: ''They put guns before butter, while we put just about everything before guns.'' She bluntly and truthfully said the Soviets were ''a failure in human and economic terms.''

She went on to tell the nation: ''The advance of Communist power threatens our whole way of life.''

However, she stated:

> That advance is not irreversible, providing that we take the necessary measures now. But the longer that we go on running down our means of survival, the harder it will be to catch up.

These comments strikingly were echoed not long after by President Ronald Reagan, when he spoke so clearly and addressed the Soviet Union as an evil empire. He went on to observe that Marxism would end up discarded on the ash heap of history.

At the time Margaret Thatcher's comments and Ronald Reagan's comments were derided by much of the intelligentsia, the media, the academy, and by many observers who knew far better than these seemingly naive souls. They were derided when President Reagan was asked: What is your philosophy of the Cold War? He responded: It is very simple. ''We win, they lose.'' This was seen as a simple Manichean view of the world and not realistic. Yet I would suggest their vision ushered in a far safer day for humanity.

Margaret Thatcher laid out the stark decision before the nation.

> There are moments in our history when we have to make a fundamental choice. This is one such moment—a moment where our choice will determine the life or death of our kind of society—and the future of our children. Let's ensure that our children will have cause to rejoice that we did not forsake their freedom.

Margaret Thatcher won the argument. She took office during Britain's ''winter of discontent'' when Britain had double-digit inflation, a top income tax rate of 83 percent, and rising unemployment. She revolutionized the economy with free market ideas in her 10 years of service which ushered in a new decade of prosperity.

When she took office, the top income tax rate was 83 percent. It was cut to 60 percent and then to 40 percent. The middle tax rate was cut to 30 percent, and the lowest tax rate was eliminated altogether.

When she took office, the top corporate tax rate was 53 percent. She cut it to 35 percent. The top capital gains tax rate was a stifling 75 percent. Thatcher cut it to 30 percent. As a result of progrowth policies, unemployment fell from a high of 12 percent early in her tenure to 7.5 percent near the end. Public spending as a percentage of GDP fell from 45.1 percent of GDP to 39.4 percent of GDP. Inflation fell from almost 22 percent in 1979 to a low rate of 2.4 percent in 1986.

Perhaps the most telling tribute to Margaret Thatcher's leadership is 3 days after she gave her ''Britain Awake'' speech, the heroic fearless speech, she was dubbed ''The Iron Lady'' in the Communist news outlet, the Red Star.

When your military enemies are describing you as formidable as ''The Iron Lady,'' it indicates you are winning the argument, that your message is being heard.

Margaret Thatcher wasn't great just because she gave a good speech. She became great because she explained what was at stake. She articulated the meaning of economic freedom, freedom which allowed someone such as she, a shopkeeper's daughter, to rise to prosperity and leadership.

She articulated the value of national pride and convinced the public of the virtue of standing for freedom and against tyranny and oppression.

As Baroness Margaret Thatcher lays down the tortured freedom she spoke of in 1976, we can pay no higher tribute to her than to heed her arguments which are as valid today as they were then.

It is unfortunate news accounts have indicated the U.S. Government will not be sending a member of the current administration to her funeral tomorrow. I hope those news accounts are mistaken.

I hope President Obama, Vice President BIDEN or senior Members of the Cabinet make the decision to travel to Britain and to honor the incredible legacy of Baroness Margaret Thatcher. It was truly a providential blessing Margaret Thatcher served alongside President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II. Together, the three of them did something which previously had been unimaginable.

So many had opined the Cold War was unwinnable. We had to accept detente. We had to accept a condition in which the United States would constantly be in military conflict with the Soviet Union and our children would constantly be in fear of potential catastrophic nuclear war.

Yet when Reagan, Thatcher, and Pope John Paul all ascended to leadership together, they had the vision to do something very few imagined was possible, to win the Cold War without firing a shot.

Had that been suggested in the 1970s, this would have been diminished as crazy talk. Yet this is precisely what they did. Indeed, I would suggest in modern times there are few, if any, more deserving of the Nobel Peace Prize than those three leaders whose vision, courage, and collective leadership transformed the global debate and ended the Cold War which jeopardized the very fate of humanity. There have been no other leaders in modern time more deserving of recognition of a prize such as the Nobel Peace Prize than the three leaders who avoided war without firing a shot.

Today, many of us are the children of the generation which fought and won the Cold War. We can gratefully rejoice that Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II did not forsake our freedom.

As the children of those great leaders, it is now incumbent upon us, the next generation, to ensure freedom remains every bit as vital and real, not just for this generation but for our children and their children's children.

Baroness Margaret Thatcher was an extraordinary leader and courageous leader, a woman of vision, a woman of principle, and a hero—a hero to the United States and to the world. All of us, in my judgment, are in her debt.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, let me begin by offering my deepest condolences on behalf of all the people of Maryland for the 20 students and 6 adults who lost their lives at the hands of a single shooter at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT, on December 14, 2012. Some of the victims put themselves in harm's way in order to save the lives of children, true heroes.

We have an obligation to the Sandy Hook families to seize this moment, set our political fears aside, and act responsibly. America has more than 3,300 victims of gun violence nationwide since the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, CT. Each heartbreaking event is shocking in its own right but also tears us apart, wondering what could we have done to prevent this from happening.

I am proud the Senate has come together to engage in a real debate on what steps should be taken to minimize the risk of future shootings.

The safety of our children and communities should never be put at risk by partisan gridlock. I agree with President Obama. We cannot wait for another tragedy to enact commonsense, reasonable gun safety measures, especially on weapons of war which have no legitimate civilian use.

I am sympathetic to the interests of legitimate hunters and collectors, but we should reinstate the Federal ban on assault weapons. We should also prohibit high-capacity ammunition clips which hold more than 10 rounds at a time. We must take steps together to strengthen our mental health system, make our schools safer, crack down on gun traffickers, straw purchasers, and reduce the glorification of violence in our culture.

The elimination of assault weapons in our community would have minimal or no impact on legitimate hunters or legitimate gun owners, but it could save lives. Listen to what law enforcement says. They don't think it is a fair fight when they have to go up against a criminal who has an assault weapon. The criminal has the advantage. We should support law enforcement and get assault weapons off the street.

Listen to the accounts of the massacres we have seen when the perpetrators had these clips with so many rounds of ammunition. At Sandy Hook, they went into a classroom and used the number of bullets which were in that round to massacre children. This was tragic. The consequences could have been different if these large ammunition clips were not available. It could save lives.

Dealing with mental health issues, dealing with school safety issues, dealing with straw purchase purchases, all that could keep these weapons out of the hands of those who should not have these weapons, the types of weapons which caused these massive killings.

I support universal background checks for all firearms buyers as proposed by Senator SCHUMER. I congratulate my colleagues, Senators MANCHIN and TOOMEY, for coming to a bipartisan consensus on strengthening the current background check system.

The background check proposals for the first time would require background checks for all gun sales in commercial settings, including at gun shows, Internet, and in classified ads. I believe this legislation will keep guns out of the hands of convicted felons, domestic abusers, and seriously mentally ill who have no business buying a gun. Studies have shown nearly half of all current gun sales are made by private sellers who are exempt from conducting background checks.

It makes no sense that felons, fugitives, and others who are legally prohibited from having a gun can so easily use a loophole to buy a gun. Once again, the use of a universal background check will have no impact on the legitimate needs of people who are entitled to have weapons, but it could and would help us keep our communities safe by keeping weapons out of the hands of our criminals who have serious mental illness, domestic abusers. We need to stop their ability to easily obtain weapons as they do today.

This legislation strengthens the National Instant Criminal Background Check System by incentivizing States to improve their reporting system and removing certain barriers to the submission of critical mental health records.

This legislation also makes it easier for Active-Duty military personnel to buy guns in States where they live and are stationed for duty. It clarifies people traveling across State lines may carry guns which are locked and unloaded.

It is heartbreaking to listen to stories of innocent lives cut cruelly short. The pain and grief of families and friends of these students and teachers is unimaginable. We know that teachers and the aides put their lives on the line to try to save children, and that first responders coming to the scene had the unbelievable task of not knowing what they would find. We send our prayers to all, but we have to do more than just say words. We are going to be judged by our deeds, and we have a chance to take action that will be helpful.

This is a tragedy beyond words. I think President Obama said it best when he said that our hearts are broken. Congress needs to come together and take action to protect the safety of our children. We must do better. There have been too many episodes in which children's lives and others have been lost. We must figure out a way to prevent these types of tragedies.

I am pleased the State of Maryland has recently taken action in the general assembly session that concluded last week. Governor O'Malley recommended legislation adopted by the Maryland General Assembly that bans assault weapons, limits the capacity of magazine clips from 20 to 10, and increases restrictions on the possession of firearms and ammunition by convicted criminals and those with mental health disqualifications.

The President was correct to take executive action to strengthen and enhance our gun safety laws, but now it is time for Congress to act. The victims of gun violence deserve to have Congress take an up-or-down vote on these issues.

To my colleagues who have reservations about this legislation, let me cite the Heller decision. In June 2008 the Supreme Court decided the District of Columbia v. Heller. The Court held that the Second Amendment protects individuals rather than a collective right to possess a firearm. The Court also held the Second Amendment right is not unlimited, and it is not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner and for any purpose. Justice Scalia wrote for the Court in that case, and I am going to quote Justice Scalia:

> . . . nothing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on the longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms.

Justice Scalia recognized Congress's right, and I would say obligation, to make sure those who are not qualified to own a firearm do not get that firearm. We have an obligation to make sure that background checks are effective so as to keep out of the hands of criminals and those who have serious mental health issues the opportunity to easily obtain a firearm, as they can in many States today.

The legislation pending before the Senate is in full consistency with the Heller decision and the language of Justice Scalia's opinion for the Court. I know we can protect children while still protecting the constitutional rights of legitimate hunters and existing gun owners. We should take that action on behalf of the safety of our communities. It is our obligation to act.

With that, Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, we are gathered in the Senate in the somber shadow of the events in Boston at the marathon, and I guess I will start by conveying my sympathies to the individuals and their families who were killed or hurt in that terrible act. I share the determination of so many people that our law enforcement folks will indeed get to the bottom of this; that they will get the resources they need, and we will have answers

and justice for the families who are affected.

CLIMATE CHANGE

I rise today, though, on the subject I come to the floor every week we are in session to discuss, which is the need for this body to wake up to the reality of the clear scientific consensus that human activity is driving serious changes in our climate and oceans.

For more than two decades the fossil fuel companies and certain rightwing extremists have cooked up a well-organized campaign to call into question the scientific evidence of climate change. The paid-for deniers then manufacture an interesting product—they manufacture uncertainty—so the polluters who are doing the paying can also keep polluting because a sufficient atmosphere of uncertainty has been created to inhibit progress.

This is not a new strategy. We have seen this played before. Industries eager to drown out scientific evidence to maximize profit is not a new story. They questioned the merits of requiring seatbelts in automobiles, they questioned the toxic effects of lead exposure, and they questioned whether tobacco was really bad for people. Well, they were wrong then and they are wrong now about climate.

Interestingly, they do not actually care. It is not their purpose to be accurate; they just want to create doubt, to sow enough of a question to stop progress. So these sophisticated campaigns are launched to give the public the false impression there actually is a real scientific debate over climate change. In the Senate, regrettably, some of my colleagues even promote this view.

But let's be practical. Which is the more likely case: Are a handful of nonprofit environmental groups using their limited funding to pay off literally hundreds and hundreds of climate scientists in an internationally coordinated hoax to falsify complicated climate research? Really? Or is it more likely that fossil fuel corporations are using a slice of their immense profits to float front groups to protect their immense profits? Well, I think the answer to that question is obvious just from the logic, but we don't have to apply logic. We can follow the money and look at evidence.

According to an analysis by the Checks and Balances Project, a self-described pro-clean-energy government and industry watchdog group, from 2006 to 2010, four sources of fossil fuel money—just four of them—contributed more than $16 million to a group of conservative think tanks that go about the business of being publicly critical of climate science and of clean energy. Those four sources are the Charles G. Koch Foundation, the Claude R. Lambe Charitable Foundation, the Earhart Foundation, and oil giant ExxonMobil.

On the receiving end is a lengthy roster of well-known and often-cited right-ward leaning outfits. We will just talk about the top 10 in this set of remarks. They are the American Enterprise Institute, the Cato Institute, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, the Heartland Institute, the Heritage Foundation, the Hudson Institute, the Institute for Energy Research, the George C. Marshall Institute, the Manhattan Institute, and the Mercatus Center.

Who is giving? Well, Charles Koch is the chairman and CEO of Koch Industries and the sixth richest person on the planet. Koch Industries is the second largest privately held company in the United States of America. Koch companies include the Koch Pipeline Company and Flint Hills Resources, which operates refineries with a combined crude oil processing capacity of more than 292 million barrels per year. That much oil accounts for 126 million metric tons of carbon pollution each year—as much as 35 coal-fired powerplants produce or 26 million cars.

So to put it mildly, this fellow has some skin in the game. Between 2006 and 2010, the Charles G. Koch Foundation gave almost $8 million to think tanks and institutes, including $7.6 million to the Mercatus Center, and $100,000 to the American Enterprise Institute.

Charles Koch, along with his brother David, also established the Claude R. Lambe Charitable Foundation—those two have the same source—and they direct that foundation's giving as well. This foundation provided almost $5 million to climate-denying think tanks and institutes, including over $1 million to the Cato Institute and more than $2 million to the Heritage Foundation.

The Earhart Foundation was started by Henry Boyd Earhart, using funds from his oil business, White Star Refining Company—now a part of, you guessed it, ExxonMobil. The Earhart Foundation has donated almost $1.5 million to climate denier groups, $370,000 to the American Enterprise Institute, $330,000 to the Cato Institute, and another $195,000 to the George C. Marshall Institute.

That leaves us, of course, ExxonMobil itself, which is the second largest corporation in the world and often the most profitable. Ranked No. 1 among Fortune 500 companies, its total revenues reached nearly $½ trillion in 2012, and their profits were nearly $45 billion. ExxonMobil produces over 6 million barrels of oil per day at its 36 refineries in 20 countries. So it is the world's largest oil producer. From 2006 to 2010, the petroleum giant gave institutes more than $2.3 million: $1.2 million to the American Enterprise Institute, $220,000 to the Heritage Foundation, $160,000 for the Institute for Energy Research, and $115,000 for the Heartland Institute.

So what did the Charles G. Koch Foundation and the Claude R. Lambe Charitable Foundation and the Earhart Foundation and ExxonMobil get for all of that so-called charitable giving? Well, the Checks and Balances Project found from 2007 to 2011 the 10 organizations I cited—the top 10—were quoted or cited or had articles published over 1,000 times—over 1,000 times—in 60 mainstream newspapers and print publications, and invariably they were promoting fossil fuels, undermining renewable energy, or attacking environmental policies.

That is good investing—spend millions of dollars on a handful of think tanks to protect billions of dollars in profits. Really, it is a 1,000-to-1 return. But here is the problem. The public is unaware of the connection usually. Only a handful of these attacks were accompanied by any explanation by the media the fossil fuel industry was involved in them.

Here is one prime example: Last summer, when the Navy displayed its great green fleet, a carrier strike group that runs on a 50–50 blend of biodiesel and petroleum, Institute for Energy Research president Thomas Kyl wrote a column for U.S. News and World Report calling that initiative ''ridiculous'' and ''a costly and pointless exercise.'' Never mind for a moment our defense and intelligence communities have repeatedly warned of the threats posed by climate change to national security and international stability and of their own need to secure a reliable and secure fuel supply.

What is misleading is that the U.S. News and World Report in publishing that article attributed the column simply thus, ''Thomas Pyle is the president of the Institute for Energy Research,'' with no mention the Institute for Energy Research is a front for big donors such as the Claude R. Lambe Charitable Foundation and ExxonMobil.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. The problem is that this is one example of a misleading practice that is the norm in the media. More than half of the time, media outlets do nothing more than state the name of the publishing organization, such as ''Thomas Pyle and the Institute for Energy Research,'' or they may add a functional description such as ''think tank'' or ''nonpartisan group.''

The instances where the publication described the basic ideology of the group—for example, as a ''free market'' or ''conservative'' think tank—amount to less than one-third. In all of the media outlets reviewed between 2007 and 2011, the financial ties between the authors and the fossil fuel industry were mentioned a mere 6 percent of the time. Ninety-four percent of the time, the fossil fuel industry funders got away with it.

This chart shows some of the examples. The Washington Post ignored the financial connection 88 percent of the time, Politico ignored the financial

connection 95 percent of the time, the Christian Science Monitor ignored it every time, USA TODAY ignored it 98 percent of the time, and the New York Times ignored it 90 percent of the time. So the scam of laundering money through independent-sounding organizations works. The media lets it work. The vast majority of scientists agree that global warming is occurring, but a recent Gallup Poll revealed that only 62 percent of Americans believe that the vast majority of scientists agree that global warming is occurring.

Well over 90 percent of scientists agree that climate change is happening and that humans are the main cause. The only uncertainty is about how bad it is going to be, and the leading research predicts warmer air and seas, rising sea levels, stronger storms, and more acidic oceans.

Most major players in the private sector actually get it. While the big fossil fuel polluters try to confuse the public in order to boost their bottom line and prolong their pollution, hundreds of leading corporations understand that climate change ultimately undermines our entire economy. Let me mention some of the examples: the Ford Motor Company; Coca-Cola; GE; Walmart; the insurance giant Munich Re; Alcoa, the great aluminum maker; Maersk; Proctor & Gamble; FedEx; and the so-called BICEP group, which includes eBay, Intel, Starbucks, Adidas, and Nike.

This notion that this is a hoax, that there is doubt, is belied by some of the most respected names in the private sector. Those companies join the National Academies, they join NASA, they join the U.S. Department of Defense, the Government Accountability Office, the American Public Health Association, and, yes, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, as well as a majority of Americans in understanding that it is time to wake up, to end this faux controversy that has been cooked up by the fossil fuel industry, and to do the work in Congress that needs to be done to protect Americans from the harms of carbon pollution.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:04 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 7 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. DONNELLY).

SAFE COMMUNITIES, SAFE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2013—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I want to start off by saying I am deeply saddened by the tragedy in Boston. Franni's and my thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has been affected.

Franni and I went to school in Boston. In fact, we met more than 43 years ago at a freshman mixer in Copley Square, so we know Boston. We have witnessed firsthand the kind of compassion and resilience we have seen from Bostonians, and I have faith we will find whoever did this and bring that person or those persons to justice.

Mr. President, I came to the floor today to speak in support of the gun violence legislation we are considering. Since the tragedy in Newtown, we have been asking ourselves what we should do to address this problem of gun violence in our country.

My primary focus in the wake of Newtown has been on mental health. Improving the access to mental health care has been one of my top priorities since I came to the Senate, and I am glad people are beginning to focus more on the issue. If we are going to make mental health a part of this, let's make it more than just a talking point. Let's make it a true national priority. Let's really do something to improve access to treatment for folks who need it.

Since the first day I got here, I have been pushing the administration to issue the final regulations for the Wellstone-Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, which requires insurance plans to cover mental health and addiction services and to do so to the same extent they cover medical and surgical services. Five years after that bill was signed into law, at long last the administration has promised to implement it, and to do so by the end of the year. I expect the administration to follow through on that commitment.

I have also introduced the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act to help law enforcement officers respond to mental health crises in their communities and improve access to mental health treatment for people who end up in the criminal justice system. This is a bipartisan, bicameral bill that I have been working on since last year, well before the tragedy in Newtown.

In January I introduced the Mental Health in Schools Act which will improve children's access to mental health services. Catching these issues at an early age is very important. I met with some mothers from the Mounds View School District in Minnesota about this matter. Their children's lives, their own lives, and their families' lives were changed for the better because the kids got access to the mental health care they needed at an early age.

My bill has 17 cosponsors and key provisions have been included in a package which was recently reported out of the HELP Committee. I look forward to considering that legislation on the Senate floor soon. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

These are important measures, but let me be absolutely clear: The last thing we need to do is stigmatize mental illness. I said this many times before, and I will say it again because it bears repeating, and it is very important to me: The vast majority of people with mental illness are no more violent than the general population. In fact, they are more frequently the victims of violence than others are.

There is a very small subset of those with serious mental illnesses who may become more violent if they are not diagnosed and treated, and that is the one place where this issue of mental health intersects with the issue of violence. Improving access to mental health care is all about improving people's lives. It is about helping people with mental illness and their families by making them happier and more productive people. However, today we are talking about gun violence prevention legislation.

People have strongly held views on both sides—or all sides—of this issue. Not only is that true in Minnesota, it is true throughout the country. Minnesota has a proud tradition, like Indiana, of responsible gun ownership.

We are home to many sportsmen and sportswomen. Generations of Minnesotans have learned to hunt pheasants, deer, and ducks from their parents, their grandparents, their aunts and uncles, friends and neighbors. We cherish our traditions and our Second Amendment right to bear arms for collection, protection, and sport.

Minnesota has both urban and rural areas. It is home to moms, dads, teachers, law enforcement officers, and health care providers too. We have members of the National Rifle Association and members of the Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence.

After the shooting at Sandy Hook, I reached out to my constituents. I got on the phone, I traveled across the State, I convened roundtables, I talked to hunters, school officials, law enforcement officers, and mental health experts. I wanted to hear Minnesotans' ideas, their hopes, their concerns, and their thoughts because it was and is important to me to approach this in a deliberative way.

Here is what I took away from these conversations: Minnesotans want us to take action to reduce gun violence and make our communities safer, but they want us to do it in a way that honors the Second Amendment and respects Minnesota's culture of responsible gun ownership. There is a balance to be struck there.

The overwhelming majority of gun owners are law-abiding citizens who responsibly use their guns for recreation and self-protection. Their concern should not be dismissed or trivialized. Their rights should not be undermined because of the horrible acts of just a few. So I suggest that our goal should be to take whatever steps we can to reduce gun violence and improve public safety without unduly burdening law-abiding, responsible gun owners. I believe that is what the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act, the Manchin-

Toomey amendment, and the assault weapons ban do.

First, we need to improve the Nation's background check system, and we need to strengthen our laws to combat straw purchases and gun trafficking. This was one of the key recommendations I have taken away from my meeting with law enforcement leaders in Minnesota. I think background checks are the single most important thing we can do to save lives.

Today background checks are required only when a gun is sold by a federally licensed dealer. Background checks are used to determine whether a perspective buyer has a felony conviction, is a fugitive from the law, has a restraining order against him, or has a serious mental illness. The problem is that people who cannot pass a background check simply go to a gun show or go on the Internet or to the classified ads to get a gun instead, and that is exactly what they do.

By some estimates about 40 percent of all gun transactions are processed without a background check. This is like having two lines at the airport: one where people go through the security screening and one where they don't, and those passengers are the ones who choose which line they stand in. Would anyone feel comfortable on a plane if they knew that 40 percent of the passengers didn't go through the security check and they were the ones who chose not to go through the security check?

The Manchin-Toomey amendment will expand background checks to gun shows and other congressional transactions. These checks are not an undue burden. They can typically be conducted in a matter of minutes through NICS, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. The amendment excludes certain exchanges, such as when a Minnesotan hands his gun down to his son or to her daughter.

The Manchin-Toomey amendment fixes another problem. We all know background checks are only as good as the database they use. The problem is that a lot of States are not submitting court documents and other records to NICS. The amendment will provide new incentives and penalties to make sure the States do a better job.

This law will work. Since we started administering instant background checks more than 1.7 million felons, fugitives, domestic abusers, and people with serious mental illnesses have been denied access to firearms—and that is under the system that exists today with all of its loopholes and flaws.

We have seen that women are less likely to be killed by an intimate partner in States that have expanded their own background check systems. And, look, about 90 percent of Americans want us to pass this measure—90 percent. This is not a Republican idea, it is not a Democratic idea, it is just a good idea.

I think it would be a remarkable failure of our democracy if we cannot get this done. If we cannot get this done, I am afraid it is because we have relied on fears and falsehoods instead of on facts.

For instance, some have argued that an expanded background check system will result in a Federal gun registry, but Federal gun registries are banned under existing law and the legislation we are considering would not repeal or weaken that. In fact, the Manchin-Toomey amendment would strengthen the current prohibition on Federal gun registries.

The other argument we have heard is that we should not bother improving the background check system until we do a better job prosecuting those who cheat the background check system under current law. There is really no reason we cannot do both, enforce and improve the law. In fact, that is exactly what the legislation does.

This legislation expands the background check system and strengthens the penalties for straw purchasers and gun traffickers. So I strongly support these proposed improvements to the background check system and to our gun trafficking laws.

The Judiciary Committee also reported Senator FEINSTEIN's assault weapons ban to the Senate floor. The bill would ban the future manufacture of large-capacity magazines and certain weapons with military-style characteristics. This bill will not require anyone to forfeit a gun he or she already has.

We saw the damage assault weapons or large-capacity magazines can do at Newtown, Tucson, Aurora, and elsewhere. Here is what Milwaukee Police Chief Edward Flynn said about assault weapons at a recent Judiciary Committee hearing:

> Assault weapons are built to inflict violence against humans. Their military characteristics are not merely cosmetic in nature. These weapons are designed for combat. They are designed to quickly, easily, and efficiently cause lethal wounds to humans.

We are not talking about just mass shootings. For instance, studies suggest that large-capacity magazines may be used in up to a quarter of all gun crimes and 41 percent of police murders.

I believe the assault weapons ban will make our communities safer without unduly interfering with the rights of responsible gun owners. I think the bill strikes an appropriate balance. Others disagree, and I respect their views, but there are a few arguments that have been advanced against the assault weapons ban that I wish to address.

The first argument we have heard against Senator FEINSTEIN's bill is that Justice Department studies have proved the assault weapons ban was ineffective. During our first hearing, a witness said: ''Independent studies, including a study from the Clinton Justice Department, proved that ban had no impact on lowering crime.'' And others, including my colleagues, repeated this claim.

Well, I went back and looked at the studies. What they actually say—and they say it over and over—is that it was premature to draw definitive conclusions about the ban's effectiveness. Here is what they said:

> It is premature to make definitive assessments on the ban's impact on gun violence.
>
> The effects of the [assault weapon and large-capacity magazine] ban have yet to be fully realized; therefore, we recommend continued study.
>
> The ban's reauthorization or expiration could affect gunshot victimizations, but predictions are tenuous.

I could go on and on. The reports repeat this point time and time again. If anything, the Justice Department report suggests a ban would be effective. For example, they said: ''It could conceivably prevent hundreds of gunshot victimizations annually and produce notable cost savings in medical care.''

It is simply not possible to read those studies and honestly say they prove an assault weapons ban is ineffective.

Another argument we have heard against Senator FEINSTEIN's bill is it will undermine one's ability to defend oneself. But here is the thing: The record contains no evidence of a real case in which someone actually needed a large-capacity magazine or assault weapon for self-defense.

During our first hearing, a witness submitted many examples where guns were used in self-defense, but I have not seen any evidence that any one of those cases actually involved a weapon that would be banned under Senator FEINSTEIN's bill. At our last markup, one of my colleagues submitted some additional cases for the record, but, again, after reviewing that list, I am not persuaded an assault weapon or large-capacity magazine was needed for self-defense in any of those instances.

Rather than presenting real cases in which someone actually needed an assault weapon or a large-capacity magazine to defend oneself, opponents of Senator FEINSTEIN's bill instead asked us repeatedly to imagine hypothetical situations where these weapons were needed for self-defense.

Sure, I can imagine hypothetical cases, but I am not sure what value that holds, because I can also imagine someone using a large-capacity magazine or an assault weapon to massacre people at an elementary school or a movie theater or a supermarket parking lot. I can imagine these things because they really happened. That is the reality. And it is reality we should be talking about.

I asked Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, the president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, about this and he said: ''This idea that these weapons are for self-defense is, based on our experience, completely absurd.''

The final argument I wish to address is one of the most important. Some have argued a ban on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines is unconstitutional. The problem with the argument is it typically rests on the premise that the Second Amendment is absolute or unlimited.

For example, during our committee markup, one of my colleagues asked Senator FEINSTEIN whether she would ''consider it constitutional for Congress to specify that the First Amendment shall apply only to the following books and shall not apply to the books that Congress has deemed outside the protection of the Bill of Rights?''

The point my colleague was trying to make, I think, is that banning certain guns is like banning certain speech, and that this ban would violate the Constitution. This line of argument assumes the Second Amendment is absolute and unlimited—that any new gun law necessarily is unconstitutional.

But one doesn't have to be a constitutional scholar to know that rights are not unlimited. In fact, my colleague's question actually makes that very point. There are books that are not protected by the First Amendment. The Bill of Rights does not protect libel. The Bill of Rights does not protect child pornography. One cannot yell ''fire'' in a crowded movie theater where there is no fire.

And, likewise, the Second Amendment does not protect the rights of everyone to carry whatever weapon he likes in anyplace he wishes for whatever purpose he desires. The Second Amendment does not entitle felons or fugitives or domestic abusers or people with serious mental illnesses to carry guns. It does not entitle Americans to own a fully automatic machine gun or a bazooka or to bear nuclear arms.

Here is what Justice Antonin Scalia said in the Heller decision:

> Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited. . . . The right is not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose.

Senator DURBIN chaired a hearing on this issue in February. I was persuaded by Professor Lawrence Tribe's testimony. He examined the legislation and said: ''I'm convinced that nothing under discussion in the Senate Judiciary Committee represents a threat to the Constitution or even comes close to violating the second amendment.'' Remember, Professor Tribe has supported gun rights. He argued for an individual's right to bear arms many years before the Heller decision.

I was also persuaded by the DC Circuit Court of Appeals' analysis in Heller II. There, the Court examined the District of Columbia's assault weapons ban by asking a series of questions. First, to what extent does this law burden an individual's right to bear arms for lawful purposes? Second, how does that burden compare with the public's interest in implementing the ban? Finally, is the ban sufficiently well tailored to that public interest?

This is the sort of inquiry that is typical in constitutional cases, and I think it is appropriate in the Second Amendment context too. It is nuanced and principled, not absolutist. The constitutional question is not whether a law touches upon Second Amendment interests at all. The question is whether the law unduly burdens those interests—whether it strikes an appropriate balance between the Second Amendment interests at stake and the public's interest in its safety. We don't have to choose between the Second Amendment and saving lives. That is a false choice.

The Heller II Court correctly concluded that the District of Columbia's law—their assault ban—struck an acceptable balance and upheld DC's ban on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines. In fact, every court that considered laws banning assault weapons and large-capacity magazines has upheld those laws as constitutional. I am confident Senator FEINSTEIN's bill will be upheld in the courts as well.

When my colleague began drawing comparisons to the First Amendment, I was reminded of what Justice Potter Stewart famously said of obscenity: ''I know it when I see it.'' The debate on this issue changed the day that gunman massacred 20 little children and 6 educators with an assault weapon and large-capacity magazines at an elementary school in Newtown. That was an obscenity. Americans knew it when they saw it.

I hope we will continue to debate these issues in the days ahead. Debate is important, especially when people feel so strongly on both sides of this issue. I respect those who hold different views, and I hope they respect mine.

As we debate this issue, I hope we keep in mind what Gabby Giffords, Miya and Sam Rahamin, and Neil Heslin told us during our committee hearings. Gabby Giffords was shot in the head during the massacre in Tucson in 2011. Six people died that day. The youngest among them was Christina-Taylor Green, the 9-year-old girl who loved to dance and who very well may have followed in Gabby's footsteps.

Christina-Taylor had just been elected to the student council at her elementary school and she had taken an interest in public service at a young age. That is why she was visiting her Congresswoman. Christina-Taylor was killed with the 13th bullet fired that day. Christina-Taylor Green is not with us anymore, but by some miracle Gabby is, and Gabby has used this second lease on life to be a voice for people such as Christina. Gabby mustered every bit of energy she could to appear before the Judiciary Committee in January. Let's not forget what she said, which was this:

> Speaking is difficult, but I must say something important. Violence is a big problem. Too many children are dying. Too. Many. Children. We must do something. It will be hard. But the time is now. You. Must. Act. Be bold. Be courageous. Americans are counting on you.

Miya and Sam Rahamim asked us to take action too. They lost their father Reuven when a gunman opened fire at a sign factory in Minneapolis in September. Reuven is an immigrant from Israel and lived the American dream. He started a company that employed dozens of people over the years and exported products to the rest of the world, even to China—something Reuven was always eager to tell people. And Reuven was especially proud of his patented method for making Braille signs which, obviously, helped the blind. That was Reuven's thing—helping people. He was active in my synagogue and in his community, and he will always be remembered for his generous spirit.

Miya and Sam gave me a letter in January just a few weeks after Sandy Hook and a few months after the mass shooting that took their father's life, and others. This is what the letter said:

> While Congress cannot prevent every death from gun violence, it has a moral obligation to attempt to save as many lives as possible. By passing this legislation, Congress can prevent some Americans from receiving the call that is dreaded most—that their father or mother, brother or sister, spouse or child will not be coming home. . . . I want my story told so that other families will not have to go through the devastation that mine has been through.

And then there is Neil Heslin. He came to Washington to testify at a Judiciary Committee hearing a few weeks ago. Neil told us about the morning of the shooting at Sandy Hook when his son Jesse was killed. On the way to school that morning, Neil and Jesse stopped at the deli to get breakfast. Neil got coffee. Jesse got what he called coffee, which was really hot chocolate. That is the part of the story that has really stayed with me. It is a small detail but it is a pure detail. It says something about how an innocent child looks up to his dad.

Neil was in a good mood. Christmas was around the corner and he had plans to make gingerbread houses with Jesse and Jesse's classmates that afternoon. Talking to Neil, you kind of got the sense that he was just as excited about this as the kids were—maybe more so. He really cherished this time together.

After they had their ''coffees,'' Neil dropped Jesse off at school. It was 9:04 a.m. Neil told us this:

> Jesse gave me a hug and a kiss. And he said, ''Goodbye, I love you.'' Then he stopped, and he said, ''I love mom, too.'' That was the last I saw of Jesse.

Neil is not a political guy. In fact, he told us:

> Half the time, I think it doesn't matter which group of you guys runs things out there, no offense.

But he continued:

> Let me tell you, when you're sitting at a firehouse and it's one in the morning and you're hoping against hope that your son is still hiding somewhere in that school, you want any change that makes it one bit more likely that you'll see your boy again.

For me, that is what this is about, to make any change that will make it one bit more likely that the next Jesse will live to make gingerbread houses at Christmas. To see so many innocent lives lost on that December morning,

so many hopes and dreams dashed, so many families grieving, the country was heartbroken, my wife and I were heartbroken, and we are still. I wish we could offer more than our thoughts and our prayers and the thoughts and prayers of our fellow Minnesotans.

We cannot turn back time. We cannot bring back the lives we have lost. But if there is something we can do today in this Chamber—this week in this Chamber—to save lives in our communities tomorrow, to make it more likely that boy will be coming out of the school, then I think we should do it.

Thank you.

I ask unanimous consent that the time for debate only be extended until 8:30 p.m. and that at 8:30 p.m. the majority leader be recognized.

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

Mr. FRANKEN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the Manchin-Toomey amendment No. 715 to be set aside and the following amendments be in order to be called up: Grassley substitute amendment consistent with the summary, which is at the desk; Leahy-Collins amendment No. 713, trafficking; Cornyn amendment No. 719, conceal carry; Feinstein amendment No. 711, assault weapons-clip bans; Burr amendment No. 720, veterans-guns; Lautenberg-Blumenthal amendment No. 714, high-capacity clip ban; Barrasso amendment No. 717, privacy; and Harkin-Alexander amendment relative to mental health, the text of which is at the desk; that following leader remarks on Wednesday, April 17, the time until 4 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees to debate the amendments concurrently; that at 4 p.m., the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Manchin amendment No. 715; that upon disposition of the Manchin amendment, the Senate proceed to votes in relation to the remaining pending amendments in the order listed; that all amendments be subject to a 60-affirmative vote threshold; that no other amendments or motions to commit be in order to any of these amendments or the bill prior to the votes; that there be 2 minutes equally divided prior to each vote, and all after the first vote be 10-minute votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business, and Senators be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RECOGNIZING DARN TOUGH VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont is known for many of its great businesses and products. Among those successful companies is Darn Tough Vermont, whose brand represents the commitment to quality and excellence that defines Vermont. For nearly a decade, Darn Tough Vermont has been making the type of quality products our Nation has grown to expect from Vermonters.

Darn Tough was launched in 2004 by Ric Cabot, whose family founded Darn Tough's parent company in Vermont 35 years ago. For three generations, the Cabot family has stayed true to their roots and committed to the Northfield community. While other clothing manufacturers have outsourced their labor, the Cabots carry on where they began—manufacturing in New England, keeping faith with their customers and their 120 employees.

Darn Tough has a local feel to those who visit its factory and know its operators, but the company's name brand is known across the country and around the world wherever people appreciate a high-quality wool hiking and athletic sock, and its products are even worn overseas by our troops in combat. And as with other Vermont companies that equip and outfit our military, taxpayers can rest assured our troops are in good hands when their feet are in quality goods made by Darn Tough.

The Burlington Free Press recently paid tribute to Ric Cabot and all of the employees at Darn Tough for their hard work that continues to benefit our troops and the Vermont economy. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the recent Free Press article entitled ''Rebuilding American textiles, one sock at a time: Darn Tough measures success,'' be printed into the RECORD.

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

[From Burlington Free Press, Apr. 4, 2012]

REBUILDING AMERICAN TEXTILES, ONE SOCK AT A TIME: DARN TOUGH MEASURES SUCCESS

(By Dan D'Ambrosio)

In Northfield, about 50 miles north of White River Junction where Ibex makes its home, Cabot Hosiery Mills, Inc. has been making private label socks not only in America, but in Vermont, since 1978. Third generation owner Ric Cabot, who launched the company's own label—Darn Tough Vermont—in 2004, says one of the secrets to Darn Tough's success is the deceptive difficulty of making a good sock.

''People think socks are easy to do, it's just a pair of socks, how hard could it be?'' Cabot said. ''I guess that allows people to come into the market, but the staying power of companies that don't produce their own product is very short. There are so many people that are doing it well, it's hard to maintain a presence.''

Perhaps the best symbol of Cabot's fastidiousness when it comes to socks is the 18-inch ruler projecting incongruously out of his back pocket when he greets visitors at the front door of the plain metal building that houses Darn Tough.

Cabot sat on the ruler and broke it about 20 years ago. He had one of Cabot's maintenance workers glue it back together, giving it the look of a broken bone that has healed well. There are certain things, Cabot says, you don't want to replace.

Cabot is never without his ruler as he roams the knitting floor and quality control departments of Darn Tough, handling socks, and measuring them.

''I sweat quarter-inches,'' Cabot says. ''The first thing I do when I pick up a sock, is it the right length? If a sock is the right length, that means a lot of people are doing their jobs.''

Later, at a quality audit station, Cabot picks up a sock, a men's large.

''Socks that made it this far, there's not going to be a huge hole, or wrong color, but the sizing should be right,'' he says. ''This should be at or on 10¾ inches.''

It's dead on. Socks, Cabot explains, are a math problem, ''like most things in life.'' Among the numbers you have to work out are the size and gauge of the needles used to knit the socks. The gauge of the needle is basically how many needles you can fit in a circumference, because socks are knit in a circle.

''Those needles are in a cylinder,'' Cabot says. ''You have to take into account needle size, cylinder size, what's the right weight of wool, nylon and Lycra? How are you going to reinforce it? How many stitches per inch? Where are you going to put the terry, the cushioning?''

Once you answer all of these many mathematical questions, Cabot says, you have the ''DNA'' of a Darn Tough sock. Then that DNA has to be expanded to hiking socks, running socks, cycling socks. Every sock has more in common, mathematically, than they don't have in common with other Darn Tough socks.

''That's the math of it, the durability story, the comfort story, the fit story,'' Cabot said.

But all those stories, he said, are trumped by another story when it comes to marketing Darn Tough socks: The Vermont story. Darn Tough employs about 120 people in Northfield, maintaining the New England tradition of textiles that once included hundreds of towns.

''You got to remind people, they know it, but you tell them nobody ever outsourced anything for quality,'' Cabot said. ''That's the key.''

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO RAMBLERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last Monday, college basketball fans crowned their newest champion, the Louisville Cardinals. I wish to take a

moment to congratulate another historic college hoops team.

The NCAA recently announced that the 1963 NCAA Men's Basketball Champions, the Loyola University Chicago Ramblers, would become the first team ever enshrined into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

In an era when racism gripped the game, Loyola Coach George Ireland assembled the first predominately black team to win an NCAA Championship. Loyola's starting lineup featured four African Americans. This was unheard of in those days.

Despite hateful comments from the public and threatening letters from the Ku Klux Klan, Loyola lost only two games all season and marched through the Final Four. In the championship game they faced Cincinnati, a team which had been ranked No. 1 all season and had won the tournament the 2 previous years. If this wasn't pressure enough, the 1963 NCAA championship was also the first nationally televised NCAA title game.

Les Hunter, starting center for Loyola, remembered it as an opportunity to show ''that the brand of black basketball was exciting and it provided for more exposure and recruiting for future players.''

The championship game was an uphill battle for Loyola. After missing 13 of its first 14 shots, they trailed by 15 points with less than 15 minutes to play. Then, with only 9 seconds left and the score tied, Walter Vic Rouse tipped in a missed shot to put the Loyola Ramblers ahead by 2 points. When the final buzzer sounded, the Loyola University Chicago Ramblers were national champions.

To this day, Loyola remains the only school from Illinois to have won the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship.

To most players, winning the NCAA championship would be unquestionably the highlight of the season.

As Ramblers point guard and All-American Jerry Harkness says, now that he has gotten older he is even more proud of a game Loyola played earlier in that championship season.

On March 15, 1963, Loyola and Mississippi State played a game the NCAA calls The Game of Change. It was a game which changed college basketball forever—and helped change race relations in America.

Mississippi State had won their conference for the past 3 years, but it appeared they would be unable to compete in the 1963 NCAA tournament because of an unwritten State law barring the team from competing against teams with black players. Rather than forfeit their place, Mississippi State's president and coach decided to defy Governor Ross Barnett's vow of ''segregation now and forever.'' They snuck their team out of town under the cover of darkness to avoid being served an injunction barring them from leaving the State.

Loyola won The Game of Change, but both teams, together, made history. The Game of Change altered college basketball and became a watershed event in the civil rights era. Three years later, for the first time in NCAA history, Texas Western, with an all-black starting lineup, won the championship. The 1963 Loyola University Chicago Ramblers helped make this possible.

Loyola's basketball team was led by Coach Ireland and Assistant Coach Jerry Lyne, and featured starters John Egan, Jerry Harkness, Les Hunter, Ron Miller, and Vic Rouse, as well as reserves Dan Connaughton, Jim Reardon, Rich Rochelle, and Chuck Wood. All of those individuals are members of the Loyola Athletics Hall of Fame, and each of the five starters has also had his jersey number retired.

I congratulate the 1963 Loyola University Chicago Ramblers on their accomplishments and look forward to their induction ceremony in the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame on November 24, 2013.

HONORING MILDRED MANNING

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I honor the legacy of Mildred Manning, the last surviving American female WWII POW, who died March 8 at age 98. Mrs. Manning's heroics in Bataan and Corregidor are an enduring example of the bravery of American servicemembers and of nurses' dedication to caring for patients. I wish to share her amazing story.

Mrs. Manning, born in 1914 on a poor Georgia farm, aspired to escape the poverty which surrounded her. She attended nursing school during the Depression, and in 1939 she joined the Army Nurse Corps. Wishing to see the world, she requested assignment in the Philippines.

Weeks after Mrs. Manning arrived in Manila, Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and a U.S. air base near Manila. During the months-long Battle of the Philippines which forced an American retreat to the peninsula of Bataan and the island of Corregidor, Mrs. Manning was one of a handful of Army and Navy nurses who braved the relentless attacks to treat wounded and dying soldiers. When Americans surrendered in May, 1942, Mrs. Manning was one of 77 Army and Navy nurses who were captured and spent the rest of the war in harrowing imprisonment.

The prison, built on the grounds of Manila's Santo Tomas University, held nearly 4,000 people in squalid conditions. There were no showers, beds, or kitchens. Hundreds of people were forced to share a single toilet. Food was so scarce prisoners suffered severely from malnutrition.

Despite these trials, Lieutenant Manning and her fellow nurses remained fiercely dedicated to providing medical care to those around them. For 2½ years, they maintained strict order, wore uniforms, and cared for their fellow prisoners. For their efforts, she and her fellow nurses earned the moniker, ''Angels of the Pacific.'' Upon their return to the U.S. in 1945, Mrs. Manning and her fellow nurses were honored by President Roosevelt with the Bronze Star Medal and a Presidential Unit Citation.

We are all so grateful for Mildred Manning's service. Her legacy will live on in our Nation's history, reminding us of the horrors of war and of the bravery of the special people who persevere by helping others. Mrs. Manning's unwavering dedication to serving our Nation in the midst of hardship continues to inspire me, and I am honored to commemorate her today.

ISRAEL'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to express my congratulations to Israel on the 65th anniversary of its independence.

Today, America's closest ally in the Middle East, Israel, commemorates its Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut—one day after its Memorial Day, Yom Hazikaron, and one week after Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah.

While Independence Day is a celebration for the people of Israel, this Memorial Day was marked by somber ceremonies and national grief over the loss of their soldiers. Nationwide sirens and moments of silence emphasize the sacrifices Israelis have made to protect their thriving, free and democratic state. These intensely personal losses in such a small country underscore the continuing threats faced by Israelis, the scale of their efforts and the importance of a Jewish homeland. And Yom HaShoah reminds Israelis of the terrible devastation of the Holocaust that happened to the Jewish people in a time before they could celebrate the existence of the modern State of Israel.

As we celebrate Israel's Independence Day, we must continue to reduce the key threats to Israel's security. We must focus on opportunities for peace in the Middle East. Israel has always been prepared to pursue those opportunities and make peace with its neighbors. Over the past six decades, despite diplomatic gestures, multiple Arab countries have repeatedly attacked Israel. We should not forget that it was Palestinian, not Israeli, leaders who walked away from the negotiation table at Camp David in 2000, on the eve of what would have been a historic breakthrough for peace.

Today, it is Israel who continues to acknowledge the necessary framework for any peace agreement—a two state solution. While Israel has shown willingness for direct negotiations, the Palestinians continue to be an unreliable partner in moving toward peace. It is vitally important to stress the importance of the Palestinian Authority's close security cooperation with Israel. If peace is to be possible, the Palestinian Authority also needs to confront the recent surge in violence in the

West Bank, cease all anti-Israel incitement and renounce Hamas until it unequivocally meets the three Quartet requirements.

I am proud to have joined with 78 of my colleagues in reminding President Obama in a letter on the eve of his visit to Israel that the U.S. and Israel share common values and interests, and that Israel stands ready for peace. Top among these interests is restarting the peace process and preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear state.

This is precisely why the role of the United States in this process must be one of an honest broker. President Obama must make clear that the pathway for peace is through unconditional direct negotiations between both the Israelis and Palestinians and that the United States vigorously opposes any Palestinian efforts to circumvent direct negotiations. I commend President Obama for pursuing peace during his recent trip to the Middle East, and for working on policy solutions to address the urgent and important threats facing Israel and the United States today.

Since Israel's founding 65 years ago, every American administration has worked to strengthen the bonds between our two nations. This support has been vital for Israel, as the nation is under the constant threat of military and terrorist attacks, economic boycotts and diplomatic hostility—often merely due to the fact of its very existence. At this critical moment, when Iran is moving forward with its nuclear program and simultaneously strengthening Hezbollah's capacity to attack Israel, it is imperative that the Obama administration say in clear and unambiguous language that we stand with the people of Israel and will do all in our power to protect our shared values and national bonds.

As Israel celebrates its 65th anniversary, let us all proclaim that the U.S. continues to value its unbreakable alliance with our closest ally in the Middle East.

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize that today, April 16, 2013, is National Healthcare Decisions Day.

National Healthcare Decisions Day exists to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning. It began as a local, grassroots effort 7 years ago in the Commonwealth of Virginia, started by a Virginia Attorney, and it became an annual event in 2008.

It now is recognized across all 50 States as an annual imitative to provide clear, concise and consistent information on health care decision making to the public and providers. This year over 100 national organizations, including groups like the AARP, Volunteers of America, government groups like the Veterans Health Administration, providers like the hospital company HCA, American College of Nursing, and American Academy of Nursing, along with faith-based groups like B'nai B'rith International have all pledged to participate today to spread the word on the value of conversations about our goals and values and preferences about medical treatment.

I know how important this is, not just from my time serving both as a Governor and as a Senator, but also through the eyes of a loved one who struggled with these issues. My mother suffered from Alzheimer's disease for 10 years, and for 9 of those years, she could not speak. My father, sister and I found grappling with the challenges of caring for her difficult. The difficulty was greater because, when she was first diagnosed, my family did not take the opportunity to talk in a frank and fully informed way with her and her health care providers about the full array of health care options available or about what her priorities would be during the final years of her life.

It is so frustrating that some have labeled advance care planning as efforts to take away choice from patients. This is ignorant and is disrespectful to those struggling will illness and caregiving. In fact, what we are trying to do is the opposite, give patients and their families the ability to make decisions when they can and provide enough support and information so that they can make informed choices based upon their own values and goals.

It is not easy, this is a subject that most people do their best to avoid: who will decide how we will live when we are unable to make our own decisions. But it is critical.

Most of us, more than 80 percent, will be unable to make decisions about what medical treatments we will receive for some period in our lives. The lucky will regain decision-making ability, but most of us will lose it for good.

Family or friends are then asked to step in. Sometimes they are asked to make routine decisions, like using antibiotics to treat an infection. Sometimes it is more significant. Would a hip replacement improve quality of life when you are physically pretty healthy, but substantially impaired by Alzheimer's or another dementia? Or would it cause more harm than good?

Often proxies are forced to choose between terrible options. Should they consent to an amputation of a gangrenous leg of a loved one who can no longer get out of bed, communicate, or recognize family for the remote chance that doing so will slow, but not cure, the progression of vascular disease?

State laws and Supreme Court decisions direct proxies to make the decision that a now-incapacitated loved one would have made.

But research says this often does not work. It might not work, for example, because a widow never told her adult children what she would want.

Maybe she assumed that her children knew.

Maybe she feared that they would disagree with her preferences.

Whatever the reason, those who make decisions for her do so blind-folded with their hands tied behind their backs.

Too often, proxies are left with guilt, anxiety, and depression.

But some are at peace because they know what the person wants. They know because they talk about how decisions should be made and who should make them. They talk about when a decision best honors the person by pulling back on treatments designed to treat the disease and instead forge ahead with aggressive symptom control. They talk about when a hospital bed at home is the right choice over tubes and needles and monitors in the ICU, or vice versa.

After talking, they write it down in an advance directive.

Each of us has an obligation to our families and friends to think about what we want, to talk to them about what we want, and to document our choices.

In the last two sessions of Congress, I have introduced a bill to help patients, providers, and caregivers get the support and education they need. Among other things, it will make advance directives more accessible, and it will make it easier for providers to follow them. I am planning on introducing a bill, the Senior Navigation and Planning Act, in the coming weeks.

However, today, I urge you all, on this National Decisions Day, to discuss your preferences and goals with your family and friends. Fill out an advance directive. Think of it as a gift.

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss a very important issue—living well at the end of life.

Today is National Healthcare Decisions Day. It is a day dedicated to reminding people to plan for the future, to encourage discussions—no matter how difficult—to let families, friends, and caregivers know your wishes, whatever they may be.

This is an incredibly important and pressing issue, but it is one that no one likes to talk about. No one likes to face their own mortality. But we must because we know that more often than not, patients' preferences are not known or adhered to near the end of life.

In the absence of clearly defined expectations and wishes, death can be an incredibly scary and confusing time for a patient and their family. Misunderstanding among physicians and family members about a loved one's final wishes can cause significant psychological and emotional hardship. Families may disagree about treatment options and argue about whether their loved one should get more or less treatment, aggressive intervention or palliative care.

These disagreements can often result in the patient receiving a different course of treatment than they might have preferred—an undesirable yet easily avoidable outcome. We need to empower patients to express their wishes, to exert their choice, and to clearly define their preferences and expectations, whatever they may be, to those who will be along their side at that difficult time.

People often think, ''I'm too young to worry about that.'' Or, ''I have plenty of time to deal with that later.'' But these conversations aren't just important for people who have been diagnosed with terminal illness or individuals approaching old age. In fact, if you wait too long, you may not get the chance.

Most diseases don't discriminate and accidents can happen to anyone. The time for us to think about what our wishes might be is before we are in a crisis—when we can think clearly about the consequences of the course we select, consult with our spiritual and moral leaders, and discuss these difficult issues with family and friends. There are many physical, emotional, and spiritual components to these issues, and it takes careful reflection to determine which are most important to you.

I am very proud to say that my State has been a leader on this issue. We have a great organization called Honoring Choices Minnesota that provides resources and tools to help people start these difficult conversations with their families.

There will be several events in my State today and all across the country highlighting the importance of not only making your preferences known, but ensuring that people who want to can document their wishes through an advanced care directive, physicians order for life sustaining treatment, or other legal mechanism.

I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to take time today to think about their families, their wishes, and to begin planning for the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL DELANEY

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate an excellent lawyer and a dedicated public servant—New Hampshire Attorney General Michael Delaney. As Mike completes more than 14 years of service to the people of New Hampshire I would like to acknowledge his significant record of accomplishments.

Long before Mike rose to the position of attorney general, he served as a prosecutor in the homicide unit. I was privileged to work with him on several murder trials, including the case involving two murdered Dartmouth professors. And I was proud to continue serving with him when I was the attorney general and he was the deputy attorney general, working together to provide leadership for the office.

Having had the privilege of working side by side with Mike, I can attest to his passion for seeking justice in all prosecutions, his outstanding advocacy on behalf of victims, and his commitment to providing the State with legal representation and counsel of the highest quality.

After serving as legal counsel to the governor, Mike was appointed to serve as New Hampshire's attorney general in 2009. Throughout his service as attorney general, Mike served the people of New Hampshire with diligence, independence and integrity, leading by example as he and his staff performed the constitutional, statutory and common law duties of the attorney general as the State's chief legal officer and chief law enforcement officer.

As Mike leaves public service to return to private practice, I commend him on a job well done. He has successfully carried forward the highest traditions of excellence and independence of the office of attorney general and leaves a legacy of improvements to all aspects of the work of the New Hampshire Department of Justice. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service and wishing him, his wife Caroline, and their children Will, Maggie and Katie, well in all their future endeavors.•

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:39 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 882. An act to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other Purposes.

H.R. 1162. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to make improvements in the Government Accountability Office.

H.R. 1246. An act to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to provide that the District of Columbia Treasurer or one of the Deputy Chief Financial Officers of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia may perform the functions and duties of the Office in an acting capacity if there is a vacancy in the Office.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 882. An act to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1162. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to make improvements in the Government Accountability Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 729. A bill to protect law abiding citizens by preventing criminals from obtaining firearms.

S. 730. A bill to prevent criminals from obtaining firearms through straw purchasing and trafficking.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 743. A bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, 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–1131. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program'' (RIN0560–AI06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1132. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Accounting and Reporting Requirements; Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Funding and Fiscal Affairs; GAAP References and Other Conforming Amendments'' (RIN3052–AC75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1133. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a date for the completion of an annual report relative to recruitment incentives; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1134. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress on Corrosion Policy and Oversight Budget Materials for Fiscal Year 2014''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1135. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress On Repair of Naval Vessels in Foreign Shipyards''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1136. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the National Security Education Program for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1137. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order

13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1138. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Mongolia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1139. A communication from the Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Hong Kong; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1140. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations'' ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA–2013–0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1141. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations'' ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA–2013–0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1142. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Identity Theft Red Flags'' (RIN3038–AD99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1143. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, two reports on sequestration entitled: ''OMB Sequestration Preview Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2014'' and ''OMB Report to the Congress on the Joint Committee Reductions for Fiscal Year 2014''; to the Committees on the Budget; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1144. A communication from the Acting Assistant Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2013–14 and 2014–15 Subsistence Taking of Fish Regulations'' (RIN1018–AX64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1145. A communication from the Director of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, (8) eight reports relative to vacancies in the Environmental Protection Agency, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1146. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Branch of Recovery, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reinstatement of Removal of the Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife'' (RIN1018–AZ31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1147. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Technical Correction for African Wild Ass'' (RIN1018–AY31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1148. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for Allium munzii (Munz's Onion) and Atriplex coronata var. notatior (San Jacinto Valley Crownscale)'' (RIN1018–AX42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1149. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher'' (RIN1018–AX43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1150. A communication from the Human Resources Specialist, Office of the Executive Director, Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the No FEAR Act for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1151. A communication from the President, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1152. A communication from the Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1153. A communication from the Staff Director, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be United States Governor of the International Monetary Fund for a term of five years; United States Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of five years; United States Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of five years; United States Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Margaret A. Hanson-Muse and ending with Sarah E. Kemp, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 27, 2013.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 731. A bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency to conduct an empirical impact study on proposed rules relating to the International Basel III agreement on general risk-based capital requirements, as they apply to community banks; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 732. A bill to modify the criteria used by the Corps of Engineers to dredge small ports; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 733. A bill to amend the Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004 to improve the high-end computing research and development program of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 734. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 735. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and assistance provided to surviving spouses of veterans under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 736. A bill to establish a maximum amount for special use permit fees applicable to certain cabins on National Forest System land in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 737. A bill to require the Federal banking agencies to conduct a quantitative impact study on the cumulative effect of the Basel III framework devised by the Basel

Committee on Banking Supervision before issuing final rules amending the agencies' general risk-based capital requirements for determining risk-weighted assets, as proposed in the Advanced Approaches Risk-Based Capital Rules Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Standardized Approach for Risk-Weighted Assets Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and the Implementation of Basel III, Minimum Regulatory Capital Ratios Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued in June 2012, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 738. A bill to grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 739. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 740. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require drug manufacturers to provide drug rebates for drugs dispensed to low-income individuals under the Medicare prescription drug benefit program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 741. A bill to extend the authorization of appropriations to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. THUNE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BLUNT, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 742. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 743. A bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 744. A bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. VITTER):

S. Res. 98. A resolution honoring the life, legacy, and example of British Prime Minister Baroness Margaret Thatcher; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. COONS, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. Res. 99. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. Res. 100. A resolution commending and congratulating the University of Louisville men's basketball team for winning its third Division I National Collegiate Athletic Association championship, and the University of Louisville women's basketball team for being runner up in the 2013 Women's Division I National Collegiate Athletic Association Basketball Tournament; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to establish background check procedures for gun shows.

S. 33

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 33, a bill to prohibit the transfer or possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices, and for other purposes.

S. 34

At the request of Ms. WARREN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 34, a bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms or the issuance of firearms and explosives licenses to known or suspected dangerous terrorists.

S. 150

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 150, a bill to regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, and for other purposes.

S. 162

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004.

S. 264

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 264, a bill to expand access to community mental health centers and improve the quality of mental health care for all Americans.

S. 306

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 306, a bill to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 395

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 395, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide further protection for puppies.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 463

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 463, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to modify the definition of the term ''biobased product'' .

S. 475

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 475, a bill to reauthorize the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004, to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

S. 526

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 557

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 557, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to medication therapy management under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 572

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 572, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the conditions under which certain persons may be treated as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes.

S. 612

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 612, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to remove social security account numbers from Medicare identification cards and communications provided to Medicare beneficiaries in order to protect Medicare beneficiaries from identity theft.

S. 629

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 629, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 646

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 646, a bill to create the National Endowment for the Oceans to promote the protection and conservation of United States ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems, and for other purposes.

S. 675

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 675, a bill to prohibit contracting with the enemy.

S. 679

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 679, a bill to promote local and regional farm and food systems, and for other purposes.

S. 680

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 680, a bill to rescind amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Defense for the Medium Extended Air Defense System, and for other purposes.

S. 687

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 687, a bill to prohibit the closing of air traffic control towers, and for other purposes.

S. 691

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, a bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

At the request of Mr. CARPER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, supra.

At the request of Ms. WARREN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, supra.

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, supra.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, supra.

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, supra.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, supra.

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, supra.

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, supra.

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, supra.

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, supra.

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, supra.

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, supra.

At the request of Mr. REED, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, supra.

S. 700

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 700, a bill to ensure that the education and training provided members of the Armed Forces and veterans better assists members and veterans in obtaining civilian certifications and licenses, and for other purposes.

S. 703

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 703, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the eligibility of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region for designation for participation in the visa waiver program for certain visitors to the United States.

S. 707

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 707, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans.

S. 719

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 719, a bill to provide for the expansion of Federal efforts concerning the prevention, education, treatment, and research activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, including the establishment of a Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee.

S. 720

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 720, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for taxpayers making donations with their returns of income tax to the Federal Government to pay down the public debt.

S. 730

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 730, a bill to prevent criminals from obtaining firearms through straw purchasing and trafficking.

S. CON. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 6, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 65

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 65, a resolution strongly supporting the full implementation of United States and international sanctions on Iran and urging the President to continue to strengthen enforcement of sanctions legislation.

S. RES. 97

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 97, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Food and Drug Administration should encourage the use of abuse-deterrent formulations of drugs.

AMENDMENT NO. 711

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 711 intended to be proposed to S. 649, a bill to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 714

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 714 intended to be proposed to S. 649, a bill to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. REED, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 714 intended to be proposed to S. 649, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 735. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and assistance provided to surviving spouses of veterans under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as the Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, one of my top priorities is to honor the promise that we made, as a nation, to care for veterans and their survivors. The Senate recently passed a resolution, which I was proud to cosponsor, designating April 5 as ''Gold Star Wives Day,'' in honor of the Gold Star Wives of America, a nonprofit organization that provides services, support, and representation for widows and widowers whose spouses died on active duty in the military or as a result of a service-connected disability. We recently celebrated ''Gold Star Wives Day,'' by recognizing the sacrifices of the families of fallen servicemembers and veterans.

In addition to honoring surviving spouses and families, we must take steps forward to provide the comprehensive care and benefits they need. Without a doubt, a decade of war has had a major impact on our military families. Over 6,600 U.S. servicemembers have died in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. They leave behind spouses, who must now face a variety of issues such as financial difficulties, preserving the family home, maintaining the family business, and caring for their children.

Earlier this year, the Veterans' Affairs Committee heard from the Gold Star Wives of America about the significant challenges that survivors continue to face. Among the issues the organization advocated for were improved Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits and qualification requirements. These are some of the challenges that this legislation would address.

This legislation would improve existing survivor benefits and establish a new pilot program to help address the grief counseling needs of surviving spouses. It would also expand health care and other supportive services to children who suffer from spina bifida as a result of their parent's exposure to certain herbicide agents during service in Thailand during the Vietnam War. This legislation would make a real and positive impact in the lives of the approximately 350,000 surviving spouses and children, currently receiving benefits, who have lost a loved one as a result of service to this country.

The Survivor Benefits Improvement Act of 2013 would extend the timeframe for increased DIC benefits for surviving spouses with children from 2 years to 5 years. A 2001 evaluation of benefits for survivors of veterans with service-connected disabilities revealed that survivors with dependents perceived an approximate $6,000 annual gap between DIC received and DIC needed. The study also found that the average total household income decreased over $20,000 on average during the transition period after the veteran's death. As a result of this study, it was recommended that the $250 monthly increase in DIC payment be extended from two years to five years for surviving spouses with dependent children. It has now been over a decade since the 2001 report and we still have not provided this increase.

Furthermore, a recent survey from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicated that approximately 44 percent of surviving spouse respondents had incomes below $20,000. It is clear that this legislation is necessary to provide much needed additional support to survivors during the period following a veteran's death, especially for low-income families. We must act to remedy this shortfall immediately.

This legislation would also expand eligibility for DIC to surviving spouses who remarry at or after age 55. The lower remarriage age would ensure that surviving spouses receive benefits at a requirement level comparable to other federal survivor programs. For example, under the Military Survivor Benefit Plan and for federal employees generally, the remarriage age is 55 for retaining benefits.

At present, VA presumes that spina bifida in biological children of certain Vietnam-era and certain Korea service veterans was caused by the veterans' exposure to Agent Orange during military service. As a result, VA provides health care, vocational rehabilitation and employment services, and a monthly monetary allowance to qualifying children. Although Agent Orange was primarily used in Vietnam, it was also used at military installations and other facilities, such as those in Korea and Thailand. Veterans who served in certain occupations at certain bases in Thailand are eligible to receive service-connected disability compensation. Therefore, it is only logical that VA should also be required to provide benefits to the children of veterans with qualifying service in Thailand, who are suffering from spina bifida.

The loss of a loved one is a devastating and life changing event. This legislation would strengthen our dedication to the overall well-being of surviving spouses by providing a pilot program on grief counseling in retreat settings. The program would enable surviving spouses, and dependents in certain instances, to receive the counseling, support, and sense of community necessary to heal from losing a loved one.

We have made a steadfast and unwavering commitment not only to our veterans, but to their surviving spouses and children. This legislation would strengthen, develop, and expand essential programs and benefits for survivors. Veterans and their families, who have both sacrificed so much for this country, deserve these benefits. We must deliver.

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. 735

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 ''Survivor Benefits Improvement Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF INITIAL PERIOD FOR INCREASED DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES WITH CHILDREN.

Section 1311(f)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''two-year'' and inserting ''five-year''.

SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION, HEALTH CARE, AND HOUSING LOANS FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES WHO REMARRY AFTER AGE 55.

Subparagraph (B) of section 103(d)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(B) The remarriage after age 55 of the surviving spouse of a veteran shall not bar the furnishing of benefits specified in paragraph (5) to such person as the surviving spouse of the veteran.''.

SEC. 4. BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF CERTAIN THAILAND SERVICE VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA BIFIDA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 1822. Benefits for children of certain Thailand service veterans born with spina bifida

''(a) BENEFITS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may provide to any child of a veteran of covered service in Thailand who is suffering from spina bifida the health care, vocational training and rehabilitation, and monetary allowance required to be paid to a child of a Vietnam veteran who is suffering from spina bifida under subchapter I of this chapter as if such child of a veteran of covered service in Thailand were a child of a Vietnam veteran who is suffering from spina bifida under such subchapter.

''(b) SPINA BIFIDA CONDITIONS COVERED.—This section applies with respect to all forms and manifestations of spina bifida, except spina bifida occulta.

''(c) VETERAN OF COVERED SERVICE IN THAILAND.—For purposes of this section, a veteran of covered service in Thailand is any individual, without regard to the characterization of that individual's service, who—

''(1) served in the active military, naval, or air service in Thailand, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975; and

''(2) is determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to have been exposed to a herbicide agent during such service in Thailand.

''(d) HERBICIDE AGENT.—For purposes of this section, the term 'herbicide agent' means a chemical in a herbicide used in support of United States and allied military operations in Thailand, as determined by the

Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SUBCHAPTER HEADING.—The heading for subchapter III of chapter 18 of such title is amended by inserting ''AND THAILAND'' after ''KOREA''.

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 18 of such title is amended—

(A) by striking the item relating to subchapter III and inserting the following new item:

''SUBCHAPTER III—CHILDREN OF CERTAIN KOREA AND THAILAND SERVICE VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA BIFIDA''; AND

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 1821 the following new item:

''1822. Benefits for children of certain Thailand service veterans born with spina bifida.''.

SEC. 5. PILOT PROGRAM ON GRIEF COUNSELING IN RETREAT SETTINGS FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF VETERANS WHO DIE WHILE SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out, through the Readjustment Counseling Service of the Veterans Health Administration, a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing grief counseling services described in subsection (b) in group retreat settings to surviving spouses of veterans who die while serving on active duty in the Armed Forces.

(2) PARTICIPATION AT ELECTION OF SURVIVING SPOUSE.—The participation of a surviving spouse in the pilot program under this section shall be at the election of the surviving spouse.

(b) COVERED SERVICES.—The services provided to a surviving spouse under the pilot program shall include the following:

(1) Information and counseling on coping with grief.

(2) Information about benefits and services available to surviving spouses under laws administered by the Secretary.

(3) Such other information and counseling as the Secretary considers appropriate to assist a surviving spouse under the pilot program with adjusting to the death of a spouse.

(c) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program at not fewer than six locations as follows:

(1) Three locations at which surviving spouses with dependent children are encouraged to bring their children.

(2) Three locations at which surviving spouses with dependent children are not encouraged to bring their children.

(d) DURATION.—The pilot program shall be carried out during the two-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(e) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the first year of the pilot program and not later than 180 days after the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall contain the findings and conclusions of the Secretary as a result of the pilot program, and shall include such recommendations for the continuation or expansion of the pilot program as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''active duty'', ''surviving spouse'', and ''veteran'' have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 740. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require drug manufacturers to provide drug rebates for drugs dispensed to low-income individuals under the Medicare prescription drug benefit program; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Drug Savings Act of 2013. I am proud to be joined by my long-time partner in this effort, Senator BILL NELSON, as well as my colleagues Senator TAMMY BALDWIN of Wisconsin, Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL of Connecticut, Senate BARBARA BOXER of California, Senator SHERROD BROWN of Ohio, Senator RICHARD DURBIN of Illinois, Senator AL FRANKEN of Minnesota, Senator ANGUS KING of Maine, Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota, Senator PATRICK LEAHY of Vermont, Senator JEFF MERKLEY of Oregon, Senator JACK REED of Rhode Island, Senator BERNIE SANDERS of Vermont, Senator BRIAN SCHATZ of Hawaii, Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN of New Hampshire, Senator DEBBIE STABENOW of Michigan, Senator TOM UDALL of New Mexico and Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island, in introducing this important piece of legislation.

We need to responsibly reduce our deficit, but taking away health care for seniors and other vulnerable people should be off the table. Rather than dismantling Medicare and Medicaid, we can save billions of dollars by holding drug companies accountable and using the purchasing power of the federal government to negotiate lower drug prices, just the way any private insurance plan would use its purchasing power to lower prices.

That is why we are introducing the Medicare Drug Savings Act. The bill will eliminate a special deal from the 2003 Medicare prescription drug law that allows drug companies to charge Medicare higher prices for some seniors' prescription drugs. It would require prescription drug manufacturers to pay rebates to Medicare for dually eligible beneficiaries in Medicare and Medicaid as well as other low-income Medicare beneficiaries. This proposal would reduce the deficit, saving taxpayers an estimated $141.2 billion over the next 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Similar proposals were also included in the recommendations from the President's Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, the President's framework for deficit reduction and the President's budget for fiscal year 2014.

Prior to the creation of the Medicare prescription drug program, brand-name drug manufacturers paid a drug rebate for dually eligible beneficiaries in Medicare and Medicaid. However, when the new Medicare drug program was established, drug companies no longer had to provide these rebates, resulting in windfall profits for prescription drug manufacturers, at taxpayers' expense.

The Medicare Drug Savings Act would require prescription drug manufacturers to pay the difference between the lowest current rebates they are paying to private Part D drug plans, and the percentage of Average Manufacture Price, AMP, they currently pay under Medicaid, plus an additional rebate if their prices grow faster than inflation. They would be required to participate in the rebate program in order for their drugs to be covered by Medicare Part D.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. In doing so, we will protect Medicare for seniors, and end a giveaway to drug companies that is costing taxpayers billions of dollars.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 98—HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND EXAMPLE OF BRITISH PRIME MINISTER BARONESS MARGARET THATCHER

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. VITTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 98

Whereas Baroness Margaret Thatcher was born on October 13, 1925, in Grantham, United Kingdom;

Whereas Baroness Margaret Thatcher first visited the United States in 1967;

Whereas Baroness Margaret Thatcher became the first and, to date, only female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in 1979;

Whereas Baroness Margaret Thatcher served as Prime Minister for 11 years, making her the longest-serving Prime Minister in the 20th century;

Whereas Baroness Margaret Thatcher in 1982 led United Kingdom efforts to liberate the Falkland Islands after they had been invaded and occupied by the Government of Argentina;

Whereas Baroness Margaret Thatcher in 1983 supported the deployment of United States nuclear cruise missiles at United Kingdom bases and the deployment by the United States of short-range nuclear missiles in Europe when there was stiff opposition to her doing so;

Whereas Baroness Margaret Thatcher in 1984 survived an assassination attempt by the Irish Republican Army in Brighton, United Kingdom, and declared that ''all attempts to destroy democracy by terrorism will fail'';

Whereas Baroness Margaret Thatcher in 1986 allowed U.S. F-111s to fly from British territory to attack sites in Libya in response to the Berlin discotheque bombing which killed 2 members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Baroness Margaret Thatcher's personal relationship with President Ronald Reagan demonstrated once again that the special relationship between the United

States and the United Kingdom is a powerful force for good in the world;

Whereas Baroness Margaret Thatcher stood shoulder to shoulder with United States leaders against the Soviet Union and the threats posed by communism;

Whereas Baroness Margaret Thatcher defended United Kingdom sovereignty within the European Economic Community; and

Whereas Baroness Margaret Thatcher dedicated her life to the cause of democracy, freedom, and economic liberty for the United Kingdom and the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the legacy of Baroness Margaret Thatcher for her life-long commitment to advancing freedom, liberty, and democracy throughout the world;

(2) extends its deepest condolences and sympathy to the family of Baroness Margaret Thatcher and the people of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(3) recognizes that Baroness Margaret Thatcher, working with President Ronald Reagan, helped bring a peaceful end to the Cold War;

(4) reiterates its continued support for the close tie and the special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom; and

(5) expresses admiration for Baroness Margaret Thatcher and her legacy as an inspirational and transformative leader in the United Kingdom and the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 99—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. COONS, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.:

S. RES. 99

Whereas the week of May 5 through 11, 2013 has been designated as ''Public Service Recognition Week'' to honor the employees of the Federal Government and State and local governments of the United States;

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the United States through work at all levels of government;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service in every city, county, and State across the United States and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas the Federal Government and State and local governments are responsive, innovative, and effective because of the outstanding work of public servants;

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous country, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the United States benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of the highly-trained individuals who work in public service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) defend the freedom of the people of the United States and advance the interests of the United States around the world;

(2) provide vital strategic support functions to the Armed Forces of the United States and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

(3) fight crime and fires;

(4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(5) deliver Social Security and Medicare benefits;

(6) fight disease and promote better health;

(7) protect the environment and the parks of the United States;

(8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(10) help the people of the United States recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;

(11) teach and work in schools and libraries;

(12) develop new technologies and explore the Earth, the Moon, and space to help improve understanding of how the world changes;

(13) improve and secure transportation systems;

(14) promote economic growth; and

(15) assist the veterans of the United States;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and are on the front lines in the fight to defeat terrorism and maintain homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent the interests and promote the ideals of the United States;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, and abuse, and of dangers to public health;

Whereas the men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as the skilled trade and craft Federal employees who provide support to their efforts, are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances, and contribute greatly to the security of the United States and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflict in defense of the United States and its ideals, and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas government workers have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas, and serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants; and

Whereas the week of May 5 through 11, 2013 marks the 29th anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of May 5 through 11, 2013 as ''Public Service Recognition Week'';

(2) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great country during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;

(3) salutes government employees for their unyielding dedication to and spirit for public service;

(4) honors those government employees who have given their lives in service to their country;

(5) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession; and

(6) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.

SENATE RESOLUTION 100—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING ITS THIRD DIVISION I NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR BEING RUNNER UP IN THE 2013 WOMEN'S DIVISION I NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 100

Whereas, on April 8, 2013, the University of Louisville Cardinals defeated the University of Michigan Wolverines, 82 to 76, in the final game of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as ''NCAA'') Division I Men's Basketball Tournament in Atlanta, Georgia;

Whereas the Louisville Cardinals have won 3 national titles and appeared in 10 NCAA Final Fours, their first title and third Final Four appearance under Coach Rick Pitino;

Whereas Hall of Fame Coach Rick Pitino is the only coach to win NCAA national men's basketball championships at 2 universities;

Whereas senior guard Peyton Siva has led the Cardinals to 2 Big East Conference Tournament Championships, 2 NCAA Final Fours, and 1 NCAA national title while playing for the University of Louisville men's basketball team;

Whereas junior center Gorgui Dieng was named Big East Conference Defensive Player of the Year and First Team All-Big East, along with junior guard Russ Smith;

Whereas junior forward Luke Hancock was named Most Outstanding Player of the 2013 NCAA Final Four, the first nonstarter to win the award;

Whereas each player, coach, athletic trainer, and staff member of the University of Louisville men's basketball team dedicated their season and tireless efforts to a successful team effort;

Whereas the University of Louisville women's basketball team inspired the people of the Commonwealth with its memorable and exciting run in the tournament and for being the lowest-seeded team to make it to the NCAA title game since the inaugural women's championship game in 1982;

Whereas residents of the City of Louisville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Cardinal fans worldwide are to be commended for their long-standing support, perseverance, and pride in this team; and

Whereas Coach Rick Pitino, Coach Jeff Walz, and the University Louisville Cardinals have brought pride and honor to the City of Louisville and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky this season, which is rightly known as the college basketball capital of the world:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends and congratulates the University of Louisville Cardinals on its outstanding accomplishment; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the president of the University of Louisville.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 716. Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HELLER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 717. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 718. Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 719. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. VITTER, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 720. Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 721. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 722. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 723. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 724. Mr. REID (for Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COWAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. REID, of NV to the bill S. 649, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 716. Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HELLER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. STUDY; NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Department of Health and Human Services, jointly, shall undertake to enter into appropriate arrangements with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive study and investigation of—

(1) whether there is a connection between exposure to violent video games and harmful effects on children; and

(2) whether there is a connection between exposure to violent video programming and harmful effects on children.

(b) CONTENTS OF STUDY AND INVESTIGATION.—

(1) VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES.—The study and investigation under subsection (a) shall include—

(A) whether the exposure listed under subsection (a)(1)—

(i) causes children to act aggressively or causes other measurable harm to children;

(ii) has a disproportionately harmful effect on children already prone to aggressive behavior or on other identifiable groups of children; and

(iii) has a harmful effect that is distinguishable from any negative effects produced by other types of media;

(B) whether any harm identified under subparagraph (A)(i) has a direct and long-lasting impact on a child's well-being; and

(C) whether current or emerging characteristics of video games have a unique impact on children, considering in particular video games' interactive nature and the extraordinarily personal and vivid way violence might be portrayed in such video games.

(2) VIOLENT VIDEO PROGRAMMING.—The study and investigation under subsection (a) shall include—

(A) whether the exposure listed under subsection (a)(2)—

(i) causes children to act aggressively or causes other measurable harm to children;

(ii) has a disproportionately harmful effect on children already prone to aggressive behavior or on other identifiable groups of children; and

(iii) has a harmful effect that is distinguishable from any negative effects produced by other types of media; and

(B) whether any harm identified under subparagraph (A)(i) has a direct and long-lasting impact on a child's well-being.

(3) FUTURE RESEARCH.—The study and investigation under subsection (a) shall identify gaps in the current state of research which, if closed, could provide additional information regarding any causal connection—

(A) between exposure to violent video games and behavior; and

(B) between exposure to violent video programming and behavior.

(c) REPORT.—In entering into any arrangements with the National Academy of Sciences for conducting the study and investigation under this section, the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Department of Health and Human Services shall request the National Academy of Sciences to submit, not later than 15 months after the date on which such arrangements are completed, a report on the results of the study and investigation to—

(1) Congress;

(2) the Federal Trade Commission;

(3) the Federal Communications Commission; and

(4) the Department of Health and Human Services.

SA 717. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROTECTING THE PRIVACY AND SAFETY OF LAW-ABIDING GUN OWNERS.

Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(1) PROTECTING THE PRIVACY OF LAW-ABIDING GUN OWNERS.—

''(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'private gun ownership data' means information held by a State or unit of local government that concerns—

''(A) a license or permit of an individual to purchase, possess, or carry a firearm;

''(B) a license or permit of an individual relating to ammunition; or

''(C) the location of an individual gun owner.

''(2) WITHHOLDING FUNDS FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), and notwithstanding any other provision of this part, if a State or unit of local government receiving a grant under this part publicly releases private gun ownership data during any fiscal year, the Attorney General shall withhold 5 percent of the amount that would otherwise be provided to the State or unit of local government under this part for that fiscal year.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any release of private gun ownership data that is necessary in the course of—

''(i) a bonafide criminal investigation; or

''(ii) a trial, hearing, or other proceeding of any court, board, commission, or agency.

''(3) REDISTRIBUTION OF WITHHELD FUNDS.—On the first day of the first fiscal year after a fiscal year in which amounts were withheld from a State or unit of local government under paragraph (2), such amounts shall be made available to States and units of local government that do not publicly release private gun ownership data.''.

SA 718. Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ANNUAL REPORT ON AMMUNITION.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Except as provided in subsection (c), not later than December 31, 2013, and before each December 31 thereafter, each agency shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) the number of firearms and types of firearms purchased or otherwise acquired by the agency during the previous fiscal year;

(2) the number of rounds of ammunition and the type of ammunition purchased by the agency during the previous fiscal year;

(3) the number of firearms owned by the agency that were stolen, lost, or unaccounted for during the previous fiscal year; and

(4) the number of firearms possessed by the agency at the end of the previous fiscal year.

(c) NATIONAL SECURITY EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) shall not apply to the Department of Defense or the Central Intelligence Agency, if the Secretary of Defense or the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency—

(1) submits to Congress a detailed explanation of why reporting of the information described in subsection (b) would harm national security; and

(2) upon request, makes the information described in subsection (b) available to the relevant congressional oversight committees in a classified format.

SA 719. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. VITTER, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. CONSTITUTIONAL CONCEALED CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT OF 2013.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2013''.

(b) RECIPROCITY FOR THE CARRYING OF CERTAIN CONCEALED FIREARMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 926C the following:

''§ 926D. Reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of the law of any State or political subdivision thereof to the contrary—

''(1) an individual who is not prohibited by Federal law from possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm, and who is carrying a government-issued photographic identification document and a valid license or permit which is issued pursuant to the law of a State and which permits the individual to carry a concealed firearm, may possess or carry a concealed handgun (other than a machinegun or destructive device) that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce in any State other than the State of residence of the individual that—

''(A) has a statue that allows residents of the State to obtain licenses or permits to carry concealed firearms; or

''(B) does not prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms by residents of the State for lawful purposes; and

''(2) an individual who is not prohibited by Federal law from possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm, and who is carrying a government-issued photographic identification document and is entitled and not prohibited from carrying a concealed firearm in the State in which the individual resides otherwise than as described in paragraph (1), may possess or carry a concealed handgun (other than a machinegun or destructive device) that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce in any State other than the State of residence of the individual that—

''(A) has a statute that allows residents of the State to obtain licenses or permits to carry concealed firearms; or

''(B) does not prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms by residents of the State for lawful purposes.

''(b) CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS.—The possession or carrying of a concealed handgun in a State under this section shall be subject to the same conditions and limitations, except as to eligibility to possess or carry, imposed by or under Federal or State law or the law of a political subdivision of a State, that apply to the possession or carrying of a concealed handgun by residents of the State or political subdivision who are licensed by the State or political subdivision to do so, or not prohibited by the State from doing so.

''(c) UNRESTRICTED LICENSE OR PERMIT.—In a State that allows the issuing authority for licenses or permits to carry concealed firearms to impose restrictions on the carrying of firearms by individual holders of such licenses or permits, an individual carrying a concealed handgun under this section shall be permitted to carry a concealed handgun according to the same terms authorized by an unrestricted license of or permit issued to a resident of the State.

''(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt any provision of State law with respect to the issuance of licenses or permits to carry concealed firearms.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 926C the following:

''926D. Reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.''.

(3) SEVERABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, if any provision of this section, or any amendment made by this section, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, this section and amendments made by this section and the application of such provision or amendment to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 720. Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title I, insert the following:

SEC. 114. CONDITIONS FOR TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PERSONS AS ADJUDICATED MENTALLY INCOMPETENT FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 55 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 5511. Conditions for treatment of certain persons as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes

''In any case arising out of the administration by the Secretary of laws and benefits under this title, a person who is mentally incapacitated, deemed mentally incompetent, or experiencing an extended loss of consciousness shall not be considered adjudicated as a mental defective under subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18 without the order or finding of a judge, magistrate, or other judicial authority of competent jurisdiction that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 55 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''5511. Conditions for treatment of certain persons as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes.''.

SA 721. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROTECTION OF PROSECUTORS, JUDGES, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Line of Duty Act of 2013''.

(b) PROTECTION FOR PROSECUTORS AND JUDGES.—

(1) MODIFICATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAM.—Section 1701(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (16), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (17) as paragraph (18);

(C) by inserting after paragraph (16) the following:

''(18) to train and provide security details for prosecutors and judges, including their immediate families, involved in cases that raise substantial concerns of retaliation or intimidation through violent acts; and''; and

(D) in paragraph (18), as so redesignated, by striking ''(16)'' and inserting ''(17)''.

(2) MODIFICATIONS TO THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 501(a)(1) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3751(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(H) Prosecutorial and judicial security details and programs.''.

(c) JUSTICE FOR PROSECUTORS, JUDGES, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.—

(1) KILLING OF PROSECUTORS, JUDGES, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—

(A) OFFENSE.—Chapter 51 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1123. Killing of federally funded prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officers

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the terms 'Federal law enforcement officer' and 'United States judge' have the meanings given those terms in section 115;

''(2) the term 'federally funded public safety officer' means a public safety officer or judicial officer for a public agency that—

''(A) receives Federal financial assistance; and

''(B) is an agency of an entity that is a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any territory or possession of the United States, an Indian tribe, or a unit of local government of that entity;

''(3) the term 'firefighter' includes an individual serving as an official recognized or designated member of a legally organized volunteer fire department and an officially recognized or designated public employee member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew;

''(4) the term 'judicial officer' means a judge or other officer or employee of a court,

including prosecutors, court security, pretrial services officers, court reporters, and corrections, probation, and parole officers;

''(5) the term 'law enforcement officer' means an individual, with arrest powers, involved in crime or juvenile delinquency control or reduction or enforcement of the laws;

''(6) the term 'public agency' includes a court system, the National Guard of a State to the extent the personnel of that National Guard are not in Federal service, and the defense forces of a State authorized by section 109 of title 32; and

''(7) the term 'public safety officer' means an individual serving a public agency in an official capacity, as a law enforcement officer, as a firefighter, as a chaplain, or as a member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew.

''(b) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for any person to—

''(1) kill, or attempt or conspire to kill—

''(A) a United States judge;

''(B) a Federal law enforcement officer; or

''(C) a federally funded public safety officer while that officer is engaged in official duties, or on account of the performance of official duties; or

''(2) kill a former United States judge, Federal law enforcement officer, or federally funded public safety officer on account of the past performance of official duties.

''(c) PENALTY.—Any person that violates subsection (b) shall be fined under this title and imprisoned for any term of years not less than 30, or for life, or, if death results and the offender is prosecuted as a principal, may be sentenced to death.''.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 51 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''1123. Killing of federally funded prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officers.''.

(2) FUGITIVES FROM JUSTICE.—

(A) OFFENSE.—Chapter 49 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1075. Flight to avoid prosecution for killing prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officials

''(a) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for any person to move or travel in interstate or foreign commerce with intent to avoid prosecution, or custody or confinement after conviction, under the laws of the place from which the person flees or under section 1114 or 1123, for a crime consisting of the killing, an attempted killing, or a conspiracy to kill a Federal judge or Federal law enforcement officer (as those terms are defined in section 115), or a federally funded public safety officer (as that term is defined in section 1123).

''(b) PENALTY.—Any person that violates subsection (a) shall be fined under this title and imprisoned for any term of years not less than 10, in addition to any other term of imprisonment for any other offense relating to the conduct described in subsection (a).''.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 49 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''1075. Flight to avoid prosecution for killing prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officials.''.

(3) AGGRAVATING FACTORS FOR HOMICIDE.—Section 3592(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (16) the following:

''(17) KILLING OF A PROSECUTOR, JUDGE, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, OR FIRST RESPONDER.—The defendant killed or attempted to kill a person who is authorized by law—

''(A) to engage in or supervise the prevention, detention, or investigation of any criminal violation of law;

''(B) to arrest, prosecute, or adjudicate an individual for any criminal violation of law; or

''(C) to be a firefighter or other first responder.''.

(4) FEDERAL REVIEW OF STATE CONVICTION FOR MURDER OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR JUDGE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 2254 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j)(1) For an application for a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court for a crime that involved the killing of a public safety officer (as that term is defined in section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b)) or judge, while the public safety officer or judge was engaged in the performance of official duties, or on account of the performance of official duties by or status as a public safety officer or judge of the public safety officer or judge—

''(A) the application shall be subject to the time limitations and other requirements under sections 2263, 2264, and 2266; and

''(B) the court shall not consider claims relating to sentencing that were adjudicated in a State court.

''(2) Sections 2251, 2262, and 2101 are the exclusive sources of authority for Federal courts to stay a sentence of death entered by a State court in a case described in paragraph (1).''.

(B) RULES.—Rule 11 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Rule 60(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure shall not apply to a proceeding under these rules in a case that is described in section 2254(j) of title 28, United States Code.''.

(C) FINALITY OF DETERMINATION.—Section 2244(b)(3)(E) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the subject of a petition'' and all that follows and inserting: ''reheard in the court of appeals or reviewed by writ of certiorari.''.

(D) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—This paragraph and the amendments made by this paragraph shall apply to any case pending on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(ii) TIME LIMITS.—In a case pending on the date of enactment of this Act, if the amendments made by this paragraph impose a time limit for taking certain action, the period of which began before the date of enactment of this Act, the period of such time limit shall begin on the date of enactment of this Act.

(iii) EXCEPTION.—The amendments made by this paragraph shall not bar consideration under section 2266(b)(3)(B) of title 28, United States Code, of an amendment to an application for a writ of habeas corpus that is pending on the date of enactment of this Act, if the amendment to the petition was adjudicated by the court prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(5) SPECIAL PENALTIES FOR ASSAULTING A FEDERAL PROSECUTOR, JUDGE, OR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 111 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 111. Assaulting or interfering with certain officers or employees

''(a) OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any person to—

''(A) assault or interfere with an officer or employee described in section 1114, while such officer or employee is engaged in, or on account of the performance of, official duties;

''(B) assault or interfere with an individual who formerly served as an officer or employee described in section 1114 on account of the performance of official duties; or

''(C) assault or interfere with an individual on account of the current or former status of the individual as an officer or employee described in section 1114.

''(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates paragraph (1), shall be—

''(A) fined under this title;

''(B)(i) in the case of an interference or a simple assault, imprisoned for not more than 1 year;

''(ii) in the case of an assault involving actual physical contact or the intent to commit any other felony, imprisoned for not more than 10 years;

''(iii) in the case of an assault resulting in bodily injury, imprisoned for not more than 20 years; or

''(iv) in the case of an assault resulting in substantial bodily injury (as that term is defined in section 113), or if a dangerous weapon was used or possessed during and in relation to the offense (including a weapon intended to cause death or danger but that fails to do so by reason of a defective component), imprisoned for not more than 30 years; or

''(C) fined under subparagraph (A) and imprisoned under subparagraph (B).

''(b) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND JUDGES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) SUBSTANTIAL BODILY INJURY.—If the victim of an assault punishable under this section is a Federal law enforcement officer or a United States judge (as those terms are defined in section 115) and the assault resulted in substantial bodily injury (as that term is defined in section 113), the offender shall be punished by a fine under this title and imprisonment for not less 5 years nor more than 30 years; and

''(B) SERIOUS BODILY INJURY.—If the victim of an assault punishable under this section is a Federal law enforcement officer or a United States judge (as those terms are defined in section 115) and the assault resulted in serious bodily injury (as that term is defined in section 2119(2)), or a dangerous weapon was used or possessed during and in relation to the offense, the offender shall be punished by a fine under this title and imprisonment for any term of years not less than 10 or for life.

''(2) IMPOSITION OF PUNISHMENT.—Each punishment for criminal conduct described in this subsection shall be in addition to any other punishment for other criminal conduct during the same criminal episode.''.

(B) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 7 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 111 and inserting the following:

''111. Assaulting or interfering with certain officers or employees.''.

(6) SPECIAL PENALTIES FOR RETALIATING AGAINST A FEDERAL PROSECUTOR, JUDGE, OR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER BY MURDERING OR ASSAULTING A FAMILY MEMBER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 115 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(i) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c)(1) If an offense punishable under this section is committed with the intent to impede, intimidate, or interfere with a Federal law enforcement officer or a United States judge while that officer or judge is engaged in the performance of official duties, with

the intent to retaliate against that officer or judge or a person who formerly served as such an officer or judge on account of the performance of official duties, or with the intent to retaliate against an individual on account of the current or former status of the individual as such an officer or judge, the offender shall be punished—

''(A) in the case of murder, attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, or manslaughter, as provided in section 1114(1);

''(B) in the case of kidnapping, attempted kidnapping, or conspiracy to kidnap, as provided in section 1201(a);

''(C) in the case of an assault resulting in bodily injury or involving the use or possession of a dangerous weapon during and in relation to the offense, as provided for a comparable offense against a Federal law enforcement officer or United States judge under section 111; and

''(D) in the case of any other assault or threat, by a fine under this title and imprisonment for not more than 10 years.

''(2) Each punishment for criminal conduct described in this subsection shall be in addition to any other punishment for other criminal conduct during the same criminal episode.''.

(B) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(i) Section 119(b)(4) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 115(c)(2)'' and inserting ''section 115''.

(ii) Section 2237(e)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''in section 115(c)'' and inserting ''in section 115''.

(iii) Section 5(a) of the Act entitled ''An Act to promote the development of Indian arts and crafts and to create a board to assist therein, and for other purposes'' (25 U.S.C. 305d) is amended by striking ''in section 115(c)'' and inserting ''in section 115''.

(d) SELF-DEFENSE RIGHTS FOR PROSECUTORS, JUDGES, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 203 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3053 the following:

''§ 3054. Authority of judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers to carry firearms

''Subject to such regulations as the Attorney General shall prescribe regarding training and proficiency in the use of firearms, any officer, agent, or employee of the United States, a State, or a political subdivision thereof, who is authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, or adjudication of any violation of law may carry firearms. Such authority to carry firearms shall extend, but not be limited to presence within any building or structure classified as a Federal facility or Federal court facility, as those terms are defined under section 930, and any grounds appurtenant to such a facility, where such possession is otherwise authorized by law and incident to the lawful performance of the official duties of that person.''.

(2) CARRYING OF CONCEALED FIREARMS BY QUALIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—Section 926B(e)(2) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''any magazine and'' after ''includes''.

(3) CARRYING OF CONCEALED FIREARMS BY QUALIFIED RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—Section 926C(e)(1)(B) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''any magazine and'' after ''includes''.

(4) SCHOOL ZONES.—Section 922(q)(2)(B)(vi) title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting '', a qualified law enforcement officer (as defined in section 926B(c)), or a qualified retired law enforcement officer (as defined in section 926C(c))'' before the semicolon.

(5) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall promulgate regulations allowing persons described in section 3054 of title 18, United States Code, to possess firearms in a manner described by that section. With respect to Federal justices, judges, bankruptcy judges, and magistrate judges, such regulations shall be prescribed after consultation with the Judicial Conference of the United States.

(6) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 203 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3053 the following:

''3054. Authority of judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers to carry firearms.''.

(e) LIMITATION ON DAMAGES INCURRED DURING COMMISSION OF A FELONY OR CRIME OF VIOLENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1979 of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1983) is amended by—

(A) striking ''except that in any action'' and all that follows through ''relief was unavailable.'' and inserting the following: ''except that—

''(1) in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in the judicial capacity of that officer, injunctive relief shall not be granted unless a declaratory decree was violated or declaratory relief was unavailable; and

''(2) in any action seeking redress for any deprivation that was incurred in the course of, or as a result of, or is related to, conduct by the injured party that, more likely than not, constituted a felony or a crime of violence (as that term is defined in section 16 of title 18, United States Code) (including any deprivation in the course of arrest or apprehension for, or the investigation, prosecution, or adjudication of, such an offense), a court may not award damages other than for necessary out-of-pocket expenditures and other monetary loss.''; and

(B) indenting the last sentence as an undesignated paragraph.

(2) ATTORNEY'S FEES.—Section 722(b) of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1988(b)) is amended by striking ''except that in any action'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''except that—

''(1) in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in the judicial capacity of that officer, such officer shall not be held liable for any costs, including attorneys fees, unless such action was clearly in excess of the jurisdiction of that officer; and

''(2) in any action seeking redress for any deprivation that was incurred in the course of, or as a result of, or is related to, conduct by the injured party that, more likely than not, constituted a felony or a crime of violence (as that term is defined in section 16 of title 18, United States Code) (including any deprivation in the course of arrest or apprehension for, or the investigation, prosecution, or adjudication of, such an offense), the court may not allow such party to recover attorney's fees.''.

(f) SELF-DEFENSE RIGHTS FOR FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL WORKERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 303 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 4049. Secure firearms storage for Federal correctional workers

''The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall ensure that each Federal penal or correctional institution provides a secure firearms storage area for use by all persons employed by the Bureau of Prisons at the institution who are authorized to carry a firearm, or allow such persons to store firearms in a vehicle lockbox approved by the Director.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 303 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''4049. Secure firearms storage for Federal correctional workers.''.

SA 722. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET ENHANCEMENT.

(a) CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.—The constitutional authority upon which this section rests is the power of the Congress to provide for the general welfare, to regulate commerce, and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution Federal powers, as enumerated in section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.

(b) PROTECTION FOR EMERGENCY AND RELATED SERVICES FURNISHED PURSUANT TO EMTALA.—Section 224(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 233(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ''An entity'' and inserting ''Subject to paragraph (6), an entity''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(6)(A) For purposes of this section—

''(i) an entity described in subparagraph (B) shall be considered to be an entity described in paragraph (4); and

''(ii) the provisions of this section shall apply to an entity described in subparagraph (B) in the same manner as such provisions apply to an entity described in paragraph (4), except that—

''(I) notwithstanding paragraph (1)(B), the deeming of any entity described in subparagraph (B), or of an officer, governing board member, employee, contractor, or on-call provider of such an entity, to be an employee of the Public Health Service for purposes of this section shall apply only with respect to items and services that are furnished to an individual pursuant to section 1867 of the Social Security Act and to post stabilization services (as defined in subparagraph (D)) furnished to such an individual;

''(II) nothing in paragraph (1)(D) shall be construed as preventing a physician or physician group described in subparagraph (B)(ii) from making the application referred to in such paragraph or as conditioning the deeming of a physician or physician group that makes such an application upon receipt by the Secretary of an application from the hospital or emergency department that employs or contracts with the physician or group, or enlists the physician or physician group as an on-call provider;

''(III) notwithstanding paragraph (3), this paragraph shall apply only with respect to causes of action arising from acts or omissions that occur on or after January 1, 2014;

''(IV) paragraph (5) shall not apply to a physician or physician group described in subparagraph (B)(ii);

''(V) the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary, shall make separate estimates under subsection (k)(1) with respect to entities described in subparagraph (B) and entities described in paragraph (4) (other

than those described in subparagraph (B)), and the Secretary shall establish separate funds under subsection (k)(2) with respect to such groups of entities, and any appropriations under this subsection for entities described in subparagraph (B) shall be separate from the amounts authorized by subsection (k)(2);

''(VI) notwithstanding subsection (k)(2), the amount of the fund established by the Secretary under such subsection with respect to entities described in subparagraph (B) may exceed a total of $10,000,000 for a fiscal year; and

''(VII) subsection (m) shall not apply to entities described in subparagraph (B).

''(B) An entity described in this subparagraph is—

''(i) a hospital or an emergency department to which section 1867 of the Social Security Act applies; and

''(ii) a physician or physician group that is employed by, is under contract with, or is an on-call provider of such hospital or emergency department, to furnish items and services to individuals under such section.

''(C) For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'on-call provider' means a physician or physician group that—

''(i) has full, temporary, or locum tenens staff privileges at a hospital or emergency department to which section 1867 of the Social Security Act applies; and

''(ii) is not employed by or under contract with such hospital or emergency department, but agrees to be ready and available to provide services pursuant to section 1867 of the Social Security Act or post-stabilization services to individuals being treated in the hospital or emergency department with or without compensation from the hospital or emergency department.

''(D) For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'post stabilization services' means, with respect to an individual who has been treated by an entity described in subparagraph (B) for purposes of complying with section 1867 of the Social Security Act, services that are—

''(i) related to the condition that was so treated; and

''(ii) provided after the individual is stabilized in order to maintain the stabilized condition or to improve or resolve the condition of the individual.

''(E)(i) Nothing in this paragraph (or in any other provision of this section as such provision applies to entities described in subparagraph (B) by operation of subparagraph (A)) shall be construed as authorizing or requiring the Secretary to make payments to such entities, the budget authority for which is not provided in advance by appropriation Acts.

''(ii) The Secretary shall limit the total amount of payments under this paragraph for a fiscal year to the total amount appropriated in advance by appropriation Acts for such purpose for such fiscal year. If the total amount of payments that would otherwise be made under this paragraph for a fiscal year exceeds such total amount appropriated, the Secretary shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that the total amount of payments under this paragraph for such fiscal year does not exceed such total amount appropriated.''.

SA 723. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 649, to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH CONCEALED CARRY PERMITS.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that background checks under the national instant criminal background check system have proven to produce false positive results for individuals with similar names.

(b) CONCEAL CARRY PERMITS.—Section 922(s) of title 18, United States Code, as redesignated and amended by this Act, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting ''is provided a covered conceal carry permit or license of such other person or'' after ''the licensee''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) In this subsection, the term 'covered conceal carry permit or license' means a permit or license issued by a State—

''(A) that authorizes an individual to carry a concealed firearm;

''(B) after conducting a criminal background check; and

''(C) not more than 5 years before the date of the applicable transfer.''.

SA 724. Mr. REID (for Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COWAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Reid of NV to the bill S. 649, to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE IV—DENYING FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES TO DANGEROUS TERRORISTS

SECTION 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act of 2013''.

SEC. 402. GRANTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THE AUTHORITY TO DENY THE SALE, DELIVERY, OR TRANSFER OF A FIREARM OR THE ISSUANCE OF A FIREARMS OR EXPLOSIVES LICENSE OR PERMIT TO DANGEROUS TERRORISTS.

(a) STANDARD FOR EXERCISING ATTORNEY GENERAL DISCRETION REGARDING TRANSFERRING FIREARMS OR ISSUING FIREARMS PERMITS TO DANGEROUS TERRORISTS.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting after section 922 the following:

''§ 922A. Attorney General's discretion to deny transfer of a firearm.

''The Attorney General may deny the transfer of a firearm under section 922(s)(1)(B)(ii) of this title if the Attorney General—

''(1) determines that the transferee is known (or appropriately suspected) to be or have been engaged in conduct constituting, in preparation for, in aid of, or related to terrorism, or providing material support or resources for terrorism; and

''(2) has a reasonable belief that the prospective transferee may use a firearm in connection with terrorism.

''§ 922B. Attorney General's discretion regarding applicants for firearm permits which would qualify for the exemption provided under section 922(s)(3).

''The Attorney General may determine that—

''(1) an applicant for a firearm permit which would qualify for an exemption under section 922(s) is known (or appropriately suspected) to be or have been engaged in conduct constituting, in preparation for, in aid of, or related to terrorism, or providing material support or resources for terrorism; and

''(2) the Attorney General has a reasonable belief that the applicant may use a firearm in connection with terrorism.'';

(2) in section 921(a), by adding at the end the following:

''(36) The term 'terrorism' includes international terrorism and domestic terrorism, as defined in section 2331 of this title.

''(37) The term 'material support or resources' has the meaning given the term in section 2339A of this title.

''(38) The term 'responsible person' means an individual who has the power, directly or indirectly, to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the applicant or licensee pertaining to firearms.''; and

(3) in the table of sections, by inserting after the item relating to section 922 the following:

''922A. Attorney General's discretion to deny transfer of a firearm.

''922B. Attorney General's discretion regarding applicants for firearm permits which would qualify for the exemption provided under section 922(s)(3).''.

(b) EFFECT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL DISCRETIONARY DENIAL THROUGH THE NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM (NICS) ON FIREARMS PERMITS.—Section 922(s) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B)(ii), by inserting ''or State law, or that the Attorney General has determined to deny the transfer of a firearm pursuant to section 922A of this title'' before the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting '', or if the Attorney General has not determined to deny the transfer of a firearm pursuant to section 922A of this title'' after ''or State law'';

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(II) by adding at the end the following:

''(III) was issued after a check of the system established pursuant to paragraph (1);'';

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

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) the State issuing the permit agrees to deny the permit application if such other person is the subject of a determination by the Attorney General pursuant to section 922B of this title;'';

(4) in paragraph (4), by inserting '', or if the Attorney General has not determined to deny the transfer of a firearm pursuant to section 922A of this title'' after ''or State law''; and

(5) in paragraph (5), by inserting '', or if the Attorney General has determined to deny the transfer of a firearm pursuant to section 922A of this title'' after ''or State law''.

(c) UNLAWFUL SALE OR DISPOSITION OF FIREARM BASED UPON ATTORNEY GENERAL DISCRETIONARY DENIAL.—Section 922(d) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (11), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(12) has been the subject of a determination by the Attorney General under section 922A, 922B, 923(d)(3), or 923(e) of this title.''.

(d) ATTORNEY GENERAL DISCRETIONARY DENIAL AS PROHIBITOR.—Section 922(g) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the comma at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

''(10) who has received actual notice of the Attorney General's determination made under section 922A, 922B, 923(d)(3) or 923(e) of this title,''.

(e) ATTORNEY GENERAL DISCRETIONARY DENIAL OF FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSES.—Section 923(d) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''Any'' and inserting ''Except as provided in paragraph (3), any''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) The Attorney General may deny a license application if the Attorney General determines that the applicant (including any responsible person) is known (or appropriately suspected) to be or have been engaged in conduct constituting, in preparation for, in aid of, or related to terrorism, or providing material support or resources for terrorism, and the Attorney General has a reasonable belief that the applicant may use a firearm in connection with terrorism.''.

(f) DISCRETIONARY REVOCATION OF FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSES.—Section 923(e) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(e)'';

(2) by striking ''revoke any license'' and inserting the following: ''revoke—

''(A) any license'';

(3) by striking ''. The Attorney General may, after notice and opportunity for hearing, revoke the license'' and inserting the following: '';

''(B) the license''; and

(4) by striking ''. The Secretary's action'' and inserting the following: ''; or

''(C) any license issued under this section if the Attorney General determines that the holder of such license (including any responsible person) is known (or appropriately suspected) to be or have been engaged in conduct constituting, in preparation for, in aid of, or related to terrorism or providing material support or resources for terrorism, and the Attorney General has a reasonable belief that the applicant may use a firearm in connection with terrorism.

''(2) The Attorney General's action''.

(g) ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ABILITY TO WITHHOLD INFORMATION IN FIREARMS LICENSE DENIAL AND REVOCATION SUIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 923(f)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''However, if the denial or revocation is pursuant to subsection (d)(3) or (e)(1)(C), any information upon which the Attorney General relied for this determination may be withheld from the petitioner, if the Attorney General determines that disclosure of the information would likely compromise national security.''.

(2) SUMMARIES.—Section 923(f)(3) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the third sentence the following: ''With respect to any information withheld from the aggrieved party under paragraph (1), the United States may submit, and the court may rely upon, summaries or redacted versions of documents containing information the disclosure of which the Attorney General has determined would likely compromise national security.''.

(h) ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ABILITY TO WITHHOLD INFORMATION IN RELIEF FROM DISABILITIES LAWSUITS.—Section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the third sentence the following: ''If the person is subject to a disability under section 922(g)(10) of this title, any information which the Attorney General relied on for this determination may be withheld from the applicant if the Attorney General determines that disclosure of the information would likely compromise national security. In responding to the petition, the United States may submit, and the court may rely upon, summaries or redacted versions of documents containing information the disclosure of which the Attorney General has determined would likely compromise national security.''.

(i) PENALTIES.—Section 924(k)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the comma at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) constitutes an act of terrorism, or providing material support or resources for terrorism,''.

(j) REMEDY FOR ERRONEOUS DENIAL OF FIREARM OR FIREARM PERMIT EXEMPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 925A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking ''**Remedy for erroneous denial of firearm**'' and inserting ''**Remedies**'';

(B) by striking ''Any person denied a firearm pursuant to subsection (s) or (t) of section 922'' and inserting the following:

''(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), any person denied a firearm pursuant to section 922(s) or a firearm permit pursuant to a determination made under section 922B''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) In any case in which the Attorney General has denied the transfer of a firearm to a prospective transferee pursuant to section 922A of this title or has made a determination regarding a firearm permit applicant pursuant to section 922B of this title, an action challenging the determination may be brought against the United States. The petition shall be filed not later than 60 days after the petitioner has received actual notice of the Attorney General's determination under section 922A or 922B of this title. The court shall sustain the Attorney General's determination upon a showing by the United States by a preponderance of evidence that the Attorney General's determination satisfied the requirements of section 922A or 922B, as the case may be. To make this showing, the United States may submit, and the court may rely upon, summaries or redacted versions of documents containing information the disclosure of which the Attorney General has determined would likely compromise national security. Upon request of the petitioner or the court's own motion, the court may review the full, undisclosed documents ex parte and in camera. The court shall determine whether the summaries or redacted versions, as the case may be, are fair and accurate representations of the underlying documents. The court shall not consider the full, undisclosed documents in deciding whether the Attorney General's determination satisfies the requirements of section 922A or 922B.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 925A and inserting the following:

''925A. Remedies.''.

(k) PROVISION OF GROUNDS UNDERLYING INELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION BY THE NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM.—Section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (18 U.S.C. 922 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) by inserting ''or the Attorney General has made a determination regarding an applicant for a firearm permit pursuant to section 922B of title 18, United States Code,'' after ''is ineligible to receive a firearm''; and

(B) by inserting ''except any information for which the Attorney General has determined that disclosure would likely compromise national security,'' after ''reasons to the individual,''; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) the first sentence—

(i) by inserting ''or if the Attorney General has made a determination pursuant to section 922A or 922B of title 18, United States Code,'' after ''or State law,''; and

(ii) by inserting '', except any information for which the Attorney General has determined that disclosure would likely compromise national security'' before the period at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: ''Any petition for review of information withheld by the Attorney General under this subsection shall be made in accordance with section 925A of title 18, United States Code.''.

(l) UNLAWFUL DISTRIBUTION OF EXPLOSIVES BASED UPON ATTORNEY GENERAL DISCRETIONARY DENIAL.—Section 842(d) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and inserting ''; or''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(10) has received actual notice of the Attorney General's determination made pursuant to subsection (j) or (d)(1)(B) of section 843 of this title.''.

(m) ATTORNEY GENERAL DISCRETIONARY DENIAL AS PROHIBITOR.—Section 842(i) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by inserting ''; or'' at the end; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

''(8) who has received actual notice of the Attorney General's determination made pursuant to subsection (j) or (d)(1)(B) of section 843 of this title,''.

(n) ATTORNEY GENERAL DISCRETIONARY DENIAL OF FEDERAL EXPLOSIVES LICENSES AND PERMITS.—Section 843 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ''Upon'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subsection (j), upon''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(j) The Attorney General may deny the issuance of a permit or license to an applicant if the Attorney General determines that the applicant or a responsible person or employee possessor thereof is known (or appropriately suspected) to be or have been engaged in conduct constituting, in preparation of, in aid of, or related to terrorism, or providing material support or resources for terrorism, and the Attorney General has a reasonable belief that the person may use explosives in connection with terrorism.''.

(o) ATTORNEY GENERAL DISCRETIONARY REVOCATION OF FEDERAL EXPLOSIVES LICENSES AND PERMITS.—Section 843(d) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(d)'';

(2) by striking ''if in the opinion'' and inserting the following: ''if—

''(A) in the opinion''; and

(3) by striking ''. The Secretary's action'' and inserting the following: ''; or

''(B) the Attorney General determines that the licensee or holder (or any responsible person or employee possessor thereof) is known (or appropriately suspected) to be or have been engaged in conduct constituting, in preparation for, in aid of, or related to terrorism, or providing material support or resources for terrorism, and that the Attorney General has a reasonable belief that the person may use explosives in connection with terrorism.

''(2) The Attorney General's action''.

(p) ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ABILITY TO WITHHOLD INFORMATION IN EXPLOSIVES LICENSE AND PERMIT DENIAL AND REVOCATION SUITS.—Section 843(e) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''However, if the denial or revocation is based upon an Attorney General determination under subsection (j) or (d)(1)(B), any information which the Attorney General relied on for this determination may be withheld from the petitioner if the Attorney General determines that disclosure of the information would likely compromise national security.''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following: ''In responding to any petition for review of a denial or revocation based upon an Attorney General determination under subsection (j) or (d)(1)(B), the United States may submit, and the court may rely upon, summaries or redacted versions of documents containing information the disclosure of which the Attorney General has determined would likely compromise national security.''.

(q) ABILITY TO WITHHOLD INFORMATION IN COMMUNICATIONS TO EMPLOYERS.—Section 843(h)(2) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or in subsection (j) of this section (on grounds of terrorism)'' after ''section 842(i)''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''or in subsection (j) of this section,'' after ''section 842(i),''; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting '', except that any information that the Attorney General relied on for a determination pursuant to subsection (j) may be withheld if the Attorney General concludes that disclosure of the information would likely compromise national security'' after ''determination''.

(r) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—Section 101(a)(43)(E)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(43)(E)(ii)) is amended by striking ''or (5)'' and inserting ''(5), or (10)''.

(s) GUIDELINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall issue guidelines describing the circumstances under which the Attorney General will exercise the authority and make determinations under subsections (d)(1)(B) and (j) of section 843 and sections 922A and 922B of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this title.

(2) CONTENTS.—The guidelines issued under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide accountability and a basis for monitoring to ensure that the intended goals for, and expected results of, the grant of authority under subsections (d)(1)(B) and (j) of section 843 and sections 922A and 922B of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this title, are being achieved; and

(B) ensure that terrorist watch list records are used in a manner that safeguards privacy and civil liberties protections, in accordance with requirements outlines in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 11 (dated August 27, 2004).

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a business meeting has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The business meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2013, at 9:45 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the business meeting is to consider the nomination of Dr. Ernest Moniz to be the Secretary of Energy.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224–7571 or Abigail Campbell at (202) 224–4905.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2013, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the U.S. Department of Energy's budget for fiscal year 2014.

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 may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510–6150, or by e-mail to lauren_goldschmidt @energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Abigail Campbell at (202) 224–4905 or Lauren Goldschmidt at (202) 224–5488.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 16, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 16, 2013, at 2:30 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The Committee will hold a hearing entitled, ''Aviation Safety: FAA's Progress on Key Safety Initiatives.''

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask for unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 16, 2013, at 10 a.m. in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing April 16, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 16, 2013, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Tax Fraud and Tax ID Theft: Moving Forward with Solutions.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 16, 2013, at 9:45 a.m., to hold an Africa Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled, ''Examining Ongoing Conflict in Eastern Congo.''

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 16, 2013, at 2:15 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Challenge of College Affordability: The Student Lens'' on April 16, 2013, at 10 a.m., in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 16, 2013, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY, AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition

Policy, and Consumer Rights, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on April 16, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Enforcement of the Antitrust Laws.''

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would ask for unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 16, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to S. Res. 99, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 99) expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 99) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE MEN AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 100, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 100) commending and congratulating the University of Louisville men's basketball for winning its third Division I National Collegiate Athletic Association championship, and the University of Louisville women's basketball team for being runner up in the 2013 Women's Division I National Collegiate Athletic Association Basketball Tournament.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 100) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 743

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that S. 743, introduced earlier today by Senator ENZI, is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 743) to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

RECESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:04 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 2:04 a.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. DURBIN).

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first before I get into the substance here tonight, on behalf of myself, Mr. MCCAIN, the Presiding Officer, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BENNET and Mr. FLAKE, we are introducing comprehensive immigration reform. Bottom line, a lot of work went into this bill, and I want to thank all of the staffs who have been up until now allowing us to introduce this bill as we promised in this legislative day. We are undergirded by the fact that Americans will be fair, balanced, and filled with common sense for legal immigrants and the 11 million here living in the shadows, as long as they believe we will not have future waves of illegal immigration. I believe our bill meets that test.

So I would like to thank everybody, including the great floor staff who waited very late tonight. I would like to thank my friend, colleague, and roommate, Senator DURBIN, for staying up this late, and Leon Fresco, Stephanie Martz and all of our staffs who worked so hard on this great legislation whose voyage begins now.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 2013; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and that following any leader remarks the Senate resume consideration of S. 649, the gun safety legislation, under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. SCHUMER. There will be a series of up to 9 rollcall votes tomorrow around 4 p.m. in relation to amendments to the gun safety bill.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 2:06 a.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 17, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. GEORGE ERWIN HOLLADAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. George ''Doc'' Holladay. He was a dear friend of mine who will greatly be missed. He passed away earlier this month at the age of 78. Doc practiced medicine as an ophthalmologist for 26 years in Denton before retiring in 1993.

After attending the Columbia Military Academy in Tennessee, Doc continued his education at the University of Tennessee and University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. He then served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam conflict as flight surgeon before opening his own practice.

In 1964, Doc married his wife Shirley Lynn Brink. The two generously founded scholarships at four different universities, including The University of North Texas music program and the Southwestern Medical School Department of Ophthalmology. As a Sigma Chi, Doc also helped start the fraternity at UNT.

Along with Doc's charitable contributions, he served on the Board of Directors for the Cumberland Children's Home, was a member of the Texas Medical Association, and became the president of the Denton School Board. He was a great contributor to the Republican Party of Denton County, and I am forever grateful for his unwavering support.

Doc's continual commitment to Denton County and the state of Texas have successfully strengthened many communities, and I know he surely will be missed. I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to Doc's family and friends.

JOSE PARRA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jose Parra for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jose Parra is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jose Parra is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jose Parra for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA SUTTON

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my congressional district.

I would like to recognize an exceptional woman, Sylvia Sutton of Burbank, California, who for many years, has been educating our community about the Holocaust and other human rights violations.

Sylvia received her B.A. in Psychology from UCLA and her MBA in Marketing and Program Management from West Coast University. Sylvia's early community efforts included volunteering on the David Starr Jordan Middle School Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and the William McKinley Elementary School PTA, where she received an Honorary Life Membership Award, and as a Girl Scout Leader.

Ms. Sutton's volunteer activities have included the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Burbank Branch, where she served as President, the UCLA Alumni Scholarship Committee, and the League of Women Voters, Glendale/Burbank. Currently, she is the liaison between the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council and the City of Burbank, the Coordinator and Presenter of the annual Burbank Days of Remembrance Commemoration of the Holocaust, and has been the presenter of Holocaust speakers in the eighth and tenth grade classrooms of every Burbank middle and high school since 1991. Sylvia is also a volunteer at the Skirball Cultural Center, as well as the Parliamentarian on the Burbank Coordinating Council. In addition, she works as the secretary for Temple Beth Emet of Burbank.

Sylvia has received a number of accolades for her extensive community service, including the Burbank City 1999 Outstanding Senior Volunteer Award, the 1998 Zonta Woman of the Year for Cultural Awareness Award, and the 1991 Burbank Human Relations Council Distinguished Service Award.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a truly remarkable woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Sylvia Sutton.

THE PASSING OF CARMEN WEINSTEIN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, Carmen Weinstein, the leader of Cairo's small remaining Jewish community died at her home. I had the privilege of meeting Ms. Weinstein during a visit to Egypt earlier this year.

She had a passion for preserving Jewish history and antiquities in Egypt and protecting the remaining synagogues. She told me of her dismay that the Jewish cemetery at Bassatine, where she herself will be buried, had been overrun by squatters and vandals.

Hers was a remarkable life, set against the backdrop of a great Jewish emigration out of Egypt more than 60 years ago.

Since her mother's passing, Ms. Weinstein had led a small community of mostly elderly Jewish women in Cairo. In fact, she was one of fewer than 100 Jews still living in Egypt.

In the words of her Washington Post obituary, ''Ms. Weinstein worked to remind people that Jews in Egypt were once part of the country's vibrant economy, cultural and political life.'' I feel fortunate to have met her.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 13, 2013]

CARMEN WEINSTEIN, JEWISH LEADER IN CAIRO, DIES AT 82

(By Aya Batrawy)

Carmen Weinstein, the leader of Egypt's dwindling Jewish community, known for her tireless work preserving synagogues and a once-sprawling Jewish cemetery, died April 13 at the age of 82.

A statement from the Jewish Community in Cairo confirmed her death in Cairo. She had been suffering from knee problems and poor blood circulation.

Ms. Weinstein helped urge Egyptian authorities to renovate at least four Cairo synagogues among the 15 that still exist in the city. Just a day before her death, she traveled to the Maadi suburb to inspect the renovation of a synagogue there.

Since 1978, she also worked to preserve the Bassatine cemetery, the only Jewish cemetery left in Cairo.

The transformation of Bassatine mirrors the dramatic changes Egypt has undergone as its population skyrocketed and poverty grew. Named in Arabic after its gardens, the cemetery is now a slum of tightly packed redbrick apartment buildings that house thousands of poor Egyptians. Parts of the Bassatine were turned into a garbage dump.

Ms. Weinstein was able to preserve a small area as a Jewish cemetery.

Egypt's once thriving Jewish community largely left more than 60 years ago at a time of hostilities between the country and Israel. Since the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, an estimated 65,000 Jews left Egypt for Europe, the West and Israel.

According to a friend of Ms. Weinstein's, Magda Haroun, only around 40 Egyptian Jews remain in the country, split between Cairo and the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, which once was a thriving multicultural and cosmopolitan hub.

Haroun said Ms. Weinstein's father had owned a large print shop in downtown Cairo, where Ms. Weinstein had worked for some 50 years after her father's death. The family's name remains on the shop, which now sells stationery.

Haroun said one of Ms. Weinstein's other achievements was in persuading Egypt's remaining Jews to come together and use Cairo's main downtown synagogue for prayer, after it had been closed for years.

''We were scattered all over Cairo, and she managed to regroup us and keep us together,'' Haroun said.

In her last community newsletter, Ms. Weinstein wrote that this year's Passover ceremony in late March was celebrated by about 50 people in Cairo's main synagogue, many of them diplomats.

Ms. Weinstein worked to remind people that Jews in Egypt were once part of the country's vibrant economy, cultural and political life.

She was a graduate of both Cairo University and the American University in Cairo, where she studied literature, according to a biography posted on the Jewish Community in Cairo's Web site. She spoke fluent French, English and Arabic.

Haroun said Ms. Weinstein often reminisced of the Egypt she knew growing up, when neighbors did not ask about one another's religion.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF QUINN BOYER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, to mourn the passing of Quinn Boyer. He still had much to do, but he led a full and extraordinary life that was devoted to others. Quinn's promising young life was cut short on April 4, 2013 at the age of 34.

Quinn grew up in Oakland and graduated from Sonoma State University, the Santa Rosa Fire Academy, and Foothill College's paramedic program.

In 2008, Quinn began his career as a paramedic in Santa Clara County. During his short time on the job, he saved countless lives. Quinn's colleagues described him as someone loved by everyone, an amazing paramedic and caregiver. He was a Big Brother and volunteer at the Order of Malta Clinic in Oakland. He was recently married and accepted into Stanford's physician's assistant program.

It is with sadness that we pay tribute to Quinn Boyer's life. His family, and indeed our country, will forever remember and cherish his kindness, service, and hope in a better future. We join with our communities in mourning his passing. While we know Quinn's family, friends, and colleagues feel his loss, we can draw comfort from his contributions.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JENNIFER ADAMS-BROOKS

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to mourn the passing of one of San Diego's great public servants, and my first Chief-of-Staff, Jennifer Adams-Brooks.

Like many other friends and colleagues, I was not aware of Jennifer's diagnosis. But that was no accident. It shows you exactly the type of person she was: someone who always thought about other people first.

Jennifer never stopped working to improve the San Diego community. I know she thrived in her executive leadership position on the San Diego Housing Commission, and was passionate about all her numerous volunteer efforts.

Among her many accomplishments, including starting her own consulting firm, Jennifer held the distinction of being the first African-American to serve as chair of the San Diego Foundation's Board of Governors in its 36-year history.

Throughout her entire life, Jennifer always remained highly active in local civic and community affairs. And that's how we happened to cross paths.

Jennifer got my office running when I first served in the California Assembly. And I can tell you she was just as impressive in person as on paper.

During that time, we shared many laughs and memories—even when we were up to our ears in work.

Looking back, I'm sure Jennifer would want us to always think of her with that indefatigable spirit—and to remember her as the consummate leader and community activist she most certainly was.

I will always treasure her loyalty and work ethic. And my thoughts go out to Leon, her husband, and the rest of her family and friends. I can only hope that many others will follow her lead and dedicate their lives to the service of others.

A TRIBUTE TO RAHLA HALL LINDSEY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize Rahla Hall Lindsey of La Cañada Flintridge, an extraordinary leader, educator and volunteer in her community.

Rahla earned her B.A. in Speech Communication, M.A. in Cross-Cultural Communication, Secondary Teaching Credential in Speech and English from California State University, Los Angeles and her Ph.D. in Organizational Communication from the University of Southern California (USC). Her diverse professional career has included being Vice-President, U.S. Region, for the AFS International Intercultural Programs, the administrator of Broadview nursing facility, a volunteer instructor at the Center for Nonprofit Management, the Executive Director of the YWCA of Glendale, a teacher at Elderhostel, and a professor at USC's School of Public Administration and School of Policy, Planning and Development. Currently she is the president and a consultant for RHall and Associates.

In her volunteer career, Ms. Lindsey broke barriers as the first female President of the Verdugo Hills Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and first female member of Rotary International's Glendale Chapter. She has served on numerous committees and boards, including California Literacy, Inc., the City of La Cañada Flintridge Foothill Boulevard Design Options Committee, Assistance League of Flintridge, Los Angeles 1984 Olympic Organizing Committee, La Cañada Flintridge Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and the U.S. Air Force Academy Parent Support Group. Currently, she is active in the Rotary Club of Crescenta–Cañada, Verdugo Hills Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Los Angeles County Bar Association as a volunteer lay arbitrator, First Church of Christ, Scientist, and a reader to second grade students at Richardson D. White Elementary School, where she is known to the children as ''Gramma Rahla.''

Rahla has received many well-deserved honors, including the 2001 James E. West Fellow and 2006 Silver Beaver Service Award from the Boy Scouts of America and the 2009 Continuing Service Award from Richardson D. White Elementary School.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a truly remarkable woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Rahla Hall Lindsey.

JUSTICE MITCHELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Justice Mitchell for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Justice Mitchell is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Justice Mitchell is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Justice Mitchell for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN MEMORY OF JESUS CARDENAS, SR.

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Jesus Cardenas, Sr., a great man whose life embodied the American Dream. After a battle with cancer, he passed away on March 5 at the age of 73.

Born on March 20, 1939, in the state of Jalisco, Mexico, Jesus came to this country at

the age of eighteen to work as a manual laborer under the Bracero Program. He spent long hours picking fruits and vegetables in fields from southern California to Washington for little pay and under harsh working conditions. Ever the entrepreneur, one day Jesus traded some tools for a pregnant pig, which he brought home to his wife Luz. From that beginning investment, Luz grew a small pig farm while Jesus continued to work in the fields. The couple began a small business by selling pork and poultry, as well as Luz's signature home-cooked food. Their steady efforts led them to open the first Cardenas Markets grocery store in Ontario, California in 1981.

Today, there are 29 Cardenas stores in cities throughout southern California, and in Las Vegas. In my district alone, there are 4 stores, which employ more than 500 people. Jesus extended the warmth and hospitality that made his grocery stores so popular to the communities they served. His business has established close to $250,000 in scholarships, including a program in my district that helps students who live close to Cardenas stores to attend the local community college, College of the Desert. Jesus himself did not have the luxury of much education, but that did not stop him from providing it to others.

Jesus Cardenas is a model American, who started from humble beginnings and created his own success with hard work and a strong sense of both personal and social responsibility. His life's work will live on through the many people his stores and philanthropy have touched, and as an inspiration to people everywhere who seek to achieve the American Dream.

A TRIBUTE TO PAULA DEVINE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

Today, I stand to laud the tireless efforts of Paula Devine of Glendale, California. Upon her retirement from a 33-year teaching career, Paula remains a vibrant member of the Glendale community, where she volunteers as a women's advocate.

Paula's accomplishments in the community are many. She has served on the City of Glendale Commission on the Status of Women for seven years, where she has been both Vice Chair and Chairperson. Through her unparalleled leadership, the Commission has not only gained great status in the community, but has also raised significant funds through fundraisers and grants to support their programs. With the support of her colleagues, Paula developed a program called "Commission Status Rescue," which provides annual funds to the Glendale Police Department for offering temporary emergency shelter to individuals who have been victims of domestic violence. Paula is a member of the Board of Directors of Glendale Healthy Kids and the Glendale Police Foundation, and a member of the Advisory Board of both the Glendale Adventist Medical Center and the Desi Geestman Foundation, which raises funds to help families deal with financial burdens while their children are receiving cancer treatment at the City of Hope in Duarte.

In addition to her leadership roles, Paula is a dedicated member and volunteer for organizations such as the Glendale Historical Society, Soroptimist of Glendale, Women's Civic League, and the Glendale Latino Association. Paula has been an influential member of the Bully Me Not Coalition and the Safe Family Task Force, and has worked on creating a Teen Dating Violence Curriculum in the Glendale secondary schools.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Paula Devine, for her exceptional service to the community.

COMMENDING JEANETTE GOBIN ON CELEBRATING HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and Happy Birthday wishes to Mrs. Jeanette Gobin, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Tuesday, April 30, 2013. On this day, she will be honored with a birthday celebration at Savannah Court in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Born in Ontario, Canada on April 30, 1913 to Arthur and Clara DesRoches, Ms. Gobin is the eldest of two children. After completing her education, Ms. Gobin got married and relocated to Detroit, Michigan with her husband. Ms. Gobin developed a love for traveling. She went out on the road with her husband who was a sales representative for a major tool and die company. After Ms. Gobin and her husband retired, they relocated to Rivera Beach, Florida in the late 1970's. When not traveling, Ms. Gobin volunteered her time at local hospitals helping others.

She is a devoted catholic and said: "My life is an open book. I have lived for 100 years, and have seen almost everything." When asked for her secret to living a long life, she said that it is to live life to the fullest, enjoying each day, learn how to laugh and most importantly help others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to an outstanding citizen and woman of faith, Ms. Jeanette Gobin, as she and her loved ones celebrate her 100th birthday.

HONORING LOU P. VINCENT

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Lou P. Vincent.

Lou dedicated her career to caring for patients and aiding them as best she could. A dedicated nurse, Lou worked for Dr. John Grise for 9 years and for Dr. Mark Yurchisin for 22 years.

Specifically, Lou helped deliver my three children: Caroline, Robby and Elizabeth. Lou's smile comforted me as my wife was prepped for each delivery and her comforting persona helped both of us through the process.

My family and I will forever be grateful for her service and thank her once again for helping us welcome our three amazing children into the world. It has been a pleasure knowing Lou and seeing her in the Bowling Green community. She will certainly be missed.

Lou was present on three of the best days of my life, and my wife and I will always consider her a part of our family.

KAREN BORQUEZ-DIAZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Karen Borquez-Diaz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Karen Borquez-Diaz is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Karen Borquez-Diaz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Karen Borquez-Diaz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE WASHINGTON BALALAIKA SOCIETY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Washington Balalaika Society. The Washington Balalaika Society is a Russian folk orchestra founded in 1988. They are a group of musicians dedicated to studying and performing the rich musical heritage of Russia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe on traditional instruments and in national costume. Today, it is one of the largest and most active of the Russian folk orchestras outside of Russia and performs often in the Northern Virginia—Greater Washington area.

The orchestra is celebrating both its 25th year, and also the 10th anniversary of its conductor, Svetlana Nikonova and her family, emigrating from St. Petersburg, Russia to the United States. In 2006, Ms. Nikonova was granted permanent residency in the United States as an "artist of extraordinary ability." Her family performs with the orchestra, her husband on the bayan (Russian accordion), her daughter on the flute and percussion and

her son, studying music composition at James Madison University, composes music for the orchestra.

The Society's initial membership of eight has grown to more than 55 musicians and it is now the largest of its kind in America, with musicians from in their teens to those in their 90s. It includes several orchestra musician ensembles that present educational and cultural outreach programs in schools, parks, retirement communities and for charitable events in the United States and Russia.

The Russian folk orchestra was founded in St. Petersburg, Russia in the late 1800's by Vasily Andreyev when he realized that the balalaika's unique and inimitable sound needed to receive greater recognition, moving this initial peasant class instrument to the concert stage. The orchestra is organized in instrumental sections similar to a symphony orchestra and under the direction of a conductor. Its principal instruments are the triangular-shaped balalaikas and oval-shaped domras and the ''shimmering'' sound is produced by the rapid plucking of the strings of the balalaikas, the domras, a gusli (table-harp) and supplemented with accordions, woodwinds and percussion.

It is mystical and enchanting musical sound is patterned after the traditional Russian folk orchestras. Moscow Channel 1 Television, the largest television station in Russia, filmed the orchestra's rehearsal at Rock Spring Church and concert at Kenmore Auditorium, both in my district, and a video-clip was shown on Russian television. It showed Moscow viewers a large and well-developed Russian folk orchestra in America.

''Alive at Twenty-Five, a Silver Anniversary Celebration,'' concerts will be presented on May 18 arid 19, featuring Alexander Tsygankov, Russia's premier domra soloist, and Andrei Saveliev, America's balalaika virtuoso. We're proud the Virginia concert will be held in my district at Yorktown High School, in Arlington.

The Washington Balalaika Society's goal is to expand awareness and appreciation of this musical art form by performing in a broad range of audiences in a variety of venues. It has performed at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall with the Paul Hill Chorale and The Chorale Arts Society, Carnegie Hall in New York, the Embassy of the Russian Federation, and the Smithsonian Institution. It has been the guest of the Andreyev Musical Foundation at concerts in New Jersey. Russian Soprano Olga Orlovskaya, great grand-daughter of the famous Russian basso, Feodor Chaliapan, is often a featured soloist.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to recognize the Balalaika Society, both for their cultural mission spreading news of this art form and the wonderful music they perform in Virginia and around the world.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Associations and the honorees of its 63rd Annual Awards Banquet.

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations is a coalition of civic and homeowners associations from across Fairfax County. Each year, the Federation honors a select few individuals for their extraordinary contributions to our community.

Five individuals are being recognized for their dedication and years of service to the residents of Fairfax County. As a former two-term President of the Federation, as well as the former president of my own civic association in Mantua, I understand that those who volunteer their time, energies, and talents to civic activities play a role in why Fairfax County is ranked as one of the best communities in the nation to live, work and raise a family. I am honored to recognize the following individuals for their service to the community:

2012 Lifetime Achievement Award: Katherine Hanley for nearly 40 years of tireless efforts at every level of public service ranging from her local homeowners association board, to Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, to Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Ms. Hanley's leadership has been pivotal in transforming Northern Virginia into a community that is envied and used as a model throughout the country. She has devoted herself to causes such as human services, homeless prevention, education, health care services, arts, education, and reduction of gang activity. She has also been a leader in the areas of transportation and the transformation of Tysons. Under her leadership as Chairman, Fairfax County was named ''Best Managed County''. Ms. Hanley was also named a ''Washingtonian of the Year'' in 2000 by Washingtonian Magazine; and in 2002, she received the ''Distinguished Service Award'' from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington.

2012 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year: Peter Murphy for his 30 years of service on the Fairfax County Planning Commission, 25 of which he has served as Chairman. During this time Mr. Murphy has been responsible for overseeing enormous growth and development and implementation of management policies and procedures. In recognition of his contributions, Mr. Murphy has received numerous awards including the Department of the Army Commander's Award (Medal) for Public Service (2009); the 2007 Lawrence V. Fowler Award, the 2006 Katherine K. Hanley Public Service Award from Leadership Fairfax, Inc.; and the Times Courier Citizen of the Year Award.

2012 Citation of Merit: Rose Chu for her decades of service in the areas of health care, senior citizen assistance, and issues of importance to the Asian community. Since 1987, Ms. Chu has served on the Fairfax County Health Care Advisory Board. Ms. Chu is also Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Community Advisory Committee for the Community Health Care Network which provides primary health care serves for 20,000 Northern Virginia residents. In addition, Ms. Chu is one of the founders of the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans of Virginia, CAPAVA, and currently serves as its Secretary.

2012 Citation of Merit: Phyllis Payne for her fervent work as an advocate for our children. Ms. Payne is a co–founder of Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal, SLEEP, which she represents on the Northern Virginia Healthy Kids Coalition and the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax. She is a founding member in the Fairfax Education Coalition and has served with PTA and PTSA/PTSO organizations. Ms. Payne was an at-large representative for the Fairfax County Public Schools, FCPS, School Health Advisory Committee, and a member of the FCPS Transportation Task Force. All children who have attended public school in Fairfax County have benefited from her efforts on their behalf.

2012 Special Gratitude Award: Kyle Talente for his dedication and contributions to Fairfax County's community revitalization efforts. Mr. Talente served on the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, SFDC, Board of Directors for eight years, the final three as President. After stepping down in 2012, he continued to serve the SFDC on the Advisory Committee. Mr. Talente has also served on the Fairfax County Community Revitalization and Reinvestment Advisory Group and on the Hopkins House Academy Budget and Personnel Policy Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these incredible individuals and in congratulating them on being honored by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. Civic engagement is the root of a community, and due to these individuals, Fairfax County residents can enjoy an excellent quality of life. The contributions and leadership of these honorees have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.

A TRIBUTE TO MEL CULPEPPER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an exceptional woman, Mel Culpepper of Los Angeles, who for many years has worked with non-profit organizations and has made a profound impact on the families in our community.

Ms. Culpepper has served as the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Hollywood, BGCH, since 2007, where she manages the Club's annual budget, spearheads fundraising efforts, and serves as the liaison to government and community agencies. During her time as Executive Director, Mel has introduced development strategies and cost-saving concepts that have greatly contributed to the success of the organization.

Prior to Ms. Culpepper's work for the BGCH, she worked as Director of Residential Treatment Services for Stanford Home for Children in Sacramento, where she managed the budget and developed new programs for children with mental illnesses. Prior to that, she served as the Executive Director of the Central YMCA of San Francisco.

Mel has contributed to our community by creating partnerships and relationships with other Hollywood businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals, which benefit the Club and its members and the community. For example, she created a partnership with the Hollywood Community Housing Corporation,

HCHC, and collaborated on a successful plan to shuttle HCHC children from their housing units to the BGCH for after-school programming. Today, the BGCH provides free annual BGCH membership, free year-round shuttling to and from HCHC facilities, and free hot lunches and snacks. In addition, these at–risk children receive tutoring, computer training, and homework assistance. Another partnership Mel created involved Ross Dress for Less, which provided clothes, shoes, and supplies to members of the Club for the 2010–2011 school year. Additionally, Mel partnered with Toyota of Hollywood for an annual holiday Toy Drive, and as a result of this partnership, Toyota donated a portion of their December sales to the BGCH.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Mel Culpepper, for her exceptional service to the community.

KENDRA DIMUCCI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kendra DiMucci for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kendra DiMucci is a 12th grader at Warren Tech North and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kendra DiMucci is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kendra DiMucci for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT PITTENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 103–105, I am not recorded because I was absent from the U.S House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

On rollcall No. 103. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 104. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 105. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ELLIOTT STEELE, VINCENT HOUSE, HONORED WITH AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Elliott Steele, the Executive Director of Vincent House, a remarkable organization in Pinellas Park, Florida, was recently honored by The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare with an Award of Excellence at its National Council Conference.

Specifically, Mr. Steele received the Reintegration Award for Achievement for his tireless work, and that of his wife Dianne, to found Vincent House, a clean and safe haven for people recovering from mental illness.

Vincent House helps adults living with severe and persistent mental illness achieve recovery through work partnerships within the community. The more than 600 individuals who have sought help there have been treated with the utmost dignity and respect by the staff and volunteers. As a result, they have built up in themselves a sense of new–found confidence, self–esteem, and real life social and work skills that have improved their quality of life, led to their independence, and helped them regain their pride in being able to find real–life work experiences in our community.

Vincent House was the outgrowth of the love, compassion and dedication the Steele's had for their daughter, who was diagnosed in 1993 with severe mental illness issues during her freshman year of college. The Steele's decided to devote themselves to finding a way to help those like their daughter who had lost hope and for which traditional treatments were not producing results. They each quit highly successful careers in 1999 to devote their full–time focus to the cause.

By 2003, they opened the doors on Vincent House in a small storefront in a Pinellas Park strip mall. The concept was based on programs established in several other communities where a community center or club house would create a place where those with mental illness could be surrounded in a loving and supportive environment by people who listened to their dreams and helped them reintegrate into the community through volunteer and work opportunities. Those who pass through the doors of Vincent House are not considered patients, they are considered members. And once they become a member, they are a member for life.

The Steeles were joined in their quest to help those with mental illness by Bob Dillinger, the Public Defender for Pinellas and Pasco Counties, who shares a passion for helping this underserved population. Together they found funding within the community to open Vincent House and to move into a larger, stand–alone facility two years later. It is a facility that has already almost doubled in size to meet the increasing demand for these services.

Mr. Speaker, having had the privilege to tour Vincent House and attend their annual Breakfast of Hope, I have seen and heard first–hand the success stories of those who have passed through its doors and are now proudly working in our community. Every one of those club members who walks through the door and one day walks out that door with a positive experience and a job is better than any award Elliott and Dianne Steele can receive. It is a sense of achievement that is shared by all of Vincent House's staff, volunteers and members of the board.

Vincent House is an excellent program that I believe can be replicated in communities throughout our nation. It is my hope that my colleagues in the House will take a look at Vincent House and share information about its success with their constituents back home. It is also my hope that my colleagues will say thank you to Elliott and Diane Steele for a job well done.

HONORING THE VALLEY CRIME STOPPERS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Valley Crime Stoppers for the tremendous efforts they have made to help crime victims in our Central Valley. During Crime Victims' Rights Week, we are reminded of the bravery of crime victims and we honor those who advocate on their behalf.

Valley Crime Stoppers has built strong relationships with the city of Fresno, local media, and law enforcement. After a robbery, drive-by shooting, or other crime is reported by the news, citizens are encouraged to call the police or Valley Crime Stoppers if they have any information concerning the incident. Victims and bystanders have a safe place to turn in Valley Crime Stoppers because it is an anonymous tip line. It is an unfortunate truth that victims are often fearful to share information with law enforcement because they have been threatened by their offender. Valley Crime Stoppers provides victims with an alternative, so they can tell their story without fear of retribution.

Educating and bringing awareness to residents are important missions of Valley Crime Stoppers. They have put together several campaigns that aim to lower crime in the Central Valley, including a television promotion that brings awareness to the very negative consequences of children being exposed to domestic violence. Another example of a Valley Crime Stoppers campaign is a poster that aims to keep neighborhoods safe by getting guns out of the hands of criminals. These campaigns, combined with other efforts made by Valley Crime Stoppers, have led to 9,598 arrests made and 461 guns recovered from the streets. Residents have been given the tools to act as change agents to keep the city of Fresno and the entire San Joaquin Valley safe. In addition to keeping citizens engaged, Valley Crime Stoppers pays individuals for tips that lead to a criminal arrest.

As Co-Chairman of the Victims' Rights Caucus, it is my honor to recognize the good work of Valley Crime Stoppers and to thank the board members at Valley Crime Stoppers for their support and activism. These individuals sincerely care about victims' rights and keeping our neighborhoods safe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Valley Crime Stoppers for their contribution to our Valley. Their advocacy for

crime victims has not gone unnoticed. Valley Crime Stoppers has truly made a difference in our Valley, and it will continue to do so for many decades to come.

RECOGNIZING W.T. WOODSON HIGH SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate W.T. Woodson High School on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. Since the school opened its doors in September of 1962, W.T. Woodson High School has been known for being one of the top public high schools, not only in Virginia but also in the nation. The school was named for Mr. Wilbert Tucker Woodson, who served as superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools from 1929 to 1961.

Woodson excels in every area including academics, athletics, music, and student clubs and activities. Year after year, Woodson is featured in the top 100 list of U. S. public schools in Newsweek and U. S. News & World Report, and it continually ranks near the top in Fairfax County in the numbers of National Merit Scholars. Academic awards have included grand prizes at the county Science Fair, and numerous scholarships. In 2011, teacher Sam Gee led his team to the first ever win on ''It's Academic.'' A recent study by the Organization for Economic Co–operation and Development found that Woodson's students outperform students in every country and region in the world except Shanghai–China in reading.

In the 1980s, Woodson received The Washington Post Athletic All-Around (all sports) Award. Athletics continues to be a part of the ''Woodson Way''—the school has won 177 District Titles, 65 Regional Titles, and 30 State Titles in all areas of athletic competition.

Music has also had a strong tradition at Woodson. The choral music department presents a mammoth production each February known as ''Dessert on Broadway.'' The Cavalier Band has won top honors in national competitions. The orchestra is renowned for its talented musicians. The choral group traveled to Vienna, Austria, and Paris, where students performed at Notre Dame. In 2011, The Chamber Ensemble had the honor of being chosen to perform at the White House. The Cavalier (yearbook), The Cavalcade (newspaper) and the P.A.G.E. Literary Magazine annually take top awards in state and national publications competitions.

Finally, Woodson's vision includes academic excellence for all members of the community. Woodson is now home to a center for students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and a center for students with emotional and learning disabilities. The building is one of the most used in Fairfax County, as it houses both Adult Education and Night School.

On a personal note, as the father of a Woodson graduate, I can speak firsthand to the high-quality educational experience and supportive atmosphere cultivated by the Woodson staff and community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise to join me in congratulating W. T. Woodson High School on its 50th Anniversary and in thanking the dedicated educators, administrators, and families for their shared commitment to our youth.

KATRINA CORDOVA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Katrina Cordova for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Katrina Cordova is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Katrina Cordova is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Katrina Cordova for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY GANT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an exceptional woman, Mary Gant, of La Crescenta, California, a true leader in the La Crescenta-Montrose and La Cañada Flintridge communities.

Mary was active in the Mountain Avenue Elementary School Parent Teacher Association, PTA, in La Crescenta, receiving their Honorary Service Award, and the Rosemont Middle School PTA in La Crescenta, serving as President, where she was honored with the PTA Continuing Service Award.

Well-known throughout the area for her energetic, friendly and positive attitude, Mary has organized many key events for various charitable organizations. She coordinated the silent auction for the La Cañada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce's annual meetings, was a Chamber Ambassador and serves on the city's Fiesta Days parade committee every year. A driving force in many Kiwanis Club of La Cañada projects, Mary co-founded the ''Wine and Gourmet Food Tasting'' event in coordination with the La Cañada Flintridge Educational Endowment Fund, and helped with the Kiwanis Club's Soap Box Derby event registration process for many years. Ms. Gant was also President of the La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association, served on the fund-raising committee for the Crescenta-Cañada Family YMCA and assists with the YMCA's Annual Prayer Breakfast.

Mary is devoted to her church, the La Crescenta Presbyterian Church. She served as a Sunday School Superintendent and teacher, was active in the Youth Program, is on the Personnel Committee and is an ordained Deacon and Elder.

Some of the awards Ms. Gant has received include the Kiwanis Club of La Cañada's Distinguished Service Award, the Gil Smith Award, and the La Cañadan of the Year Award. In addition she received the Chamber's Volunteer of the Year Award and the Les Tupper Community Service Award from the La Cañada Flintridge Coordinating Council.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a truly remarkable woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Mary Gant.

PESONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I was due to board a flight about the time of the Boston Marathon Bombing. The flight I was on was canceled and I took another flight later returning to Washington, DC. I unexpectedly missed rollcall votes 103, 104, and 105.

On rollcall vote 103, passage of H.R. 1162, GAO Improvement Act, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall vote 104, passage of H.R. 882, The Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2013, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall vote 105, passage of H.R. 249, Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act, I would have voted ''yes.''

IN HONOR OF ISRAEL'S 65TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2013

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my esteemed honor and privilege to recognize and commemorate the 65th anniversary of the State of Israel's independence. Sixty-five years ago, America became the first nation to recognize Israel, an event that symbolizes the closeness of the relationship between our two countries and our two peoples.

Since its founding in 1948, the Jewish state has faced many challenges, and America has been proud to be at Israel's side to meet these challenges. Our nation's ongoing commitment to Israel is unparalleled and I have been proud to spend my career in Congress working to promote the many economic, political, and cultural and security ties that bind our nations together.

On this day, Israel has much to celebrate and be proud of. Their nation and people have been leaders in the development of groundbreaking and transformative technology affecting millions of people around the globe.

Israelis have led the world in scientific research and advancements in medicine and have produced ten Nobel laureates in their short history. They have also built a world-class economy based in large part on their remarkable ability to educate their citizens and encourage freethinking and an entrepreneurial spirit

While the Middle East continues to face challenges, our nation is comforted that Israel stands as a stable model for democracy in the region. The United States also stands ready and willing to help our strongest ally continue to meet the many challenges it faces in the region while working to promote peace and freedom in Israel and the Middle East. I look forward to the day when Israel and her neighbors can enjoy a prosperous and secure peace and will continue to do all that I can to make that a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing all Israelis a happy independence day and affirming America's resolute commitment to the future success and stability of the State of Israel.

JOSEPH URENDA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joseph Urenda for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Joseph Urenda is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Joseph Urenda is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joseph Urenda for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE 22ND ANNUAL BEST OF RESTON AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 22nd Annual Best of Reston Awards for Community Service and the Robert E. Simon Lifetime Achievement Award. The Best of Reston Awards are the result of collaboration between Reston Interfaith and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and are presented to individuals, organizations and businesses that have put forth extraordinary effort in service to our community and improving the lives of others.

Founded in 1970, Reston Interfaith is a volunteer organization dedicated to providing social services to vulnerable individuals in Reston, Herndon, and the surrounding area. Its mission is to "promote self-sufficiency through direct support and advocacy for our neighbors in need of food, immediate shelter, affordable housing, quality child care, and other human services." Reston Interfaith has reached out to 250,000 neighbors-in-need, helping them overcome tough economic times in an already high cost-of-living region.

I am pleased to submit the names of the following recipients of the 2013 Best of Reston:

Individual Community Leader: Doug Bushée, founder of the CORE Foundation, which assists individuals and groups in raising money for nonprofits such as Reston Interfaith and the Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation. Doug has also served on the boards of the Reston Association and Leadership Fairfax, Inc. and has coached youth sports in the area.

Individual Community Leader: Ed Robichaud, for his years of volunteering with many diverse organizations including the Reston Museum, the Reston Bicycle Club, RA Bike Rodeo for children, Reston Community Orchestra, Travelers' Aid at Dulles Airport, and Wolf Trap.

Civic/Community Organization Leader: Friends of the Reston Regional Library, for 40 years of support of the public library in its efforts to improve its collections, service, and programs offered to patrons and for sponsoring book sales which generate nearly $100,000 annually for the library.

Civic/Community Organization Leader: YMCA Fairfax County—Reston, for its efforts in fostering the spiritual, mental, and physical development of youngsters, adults, families, and communities, including afterschool programs and summer camps for at-risk youth.

Small Business Leader: Mayflowers, a flower shop in Reston Town Center whose owner has donated floral designs to many charity events in support of worthy causes such as the National Institute of Health Children's Gala, IPAR, Camp Sunshine, Best of Reston, and Feed the Hungry.

Corporate Business Leader: John Marshall Bank, a community bank being honored for its encouragement of volunteerism and philanthropy. In 2012, the bank raised $30,000 for charity though its annual golf tournament, and bank employees donated hundreds of hours volunteering in the community. Recently the bank expanded its philanthropic efforts to include support for wounded warriors and holiday gifts to children of the incarcerated.

Vade Bolton-Ann Rodriguez Young Leaders—Entrusting our Community's Future Award: Amanda Anderé, who is the executive director the nonprofit FACETS, which helps low-income Fairfax County residents in need. Amanda also serves as a deacon at Reston's Martin Luther King Jr. Christian Church, a board member of Reston Association, an adjunct professor at George Mason University, and as Chair of the Steering Committee of Nonprofit NoVa.

Robert E. Simon Lifetime Achievement Award: William G. Bouie, for 25 years of serving the community in ways too numerous to list. Notable examples include serving as Chair of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, Chair of the Reston Community Center Board, President of the Friends of Reston, Vice Chair of the Board of the Initiative for Public Art—Reston, Reston YMCA Board, Vice Chair and Secretary of the Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts Associates Board, President of Reston Youth Baseball, assistant district administrator for Little League Baseball of Northern Virginia, and the United States Olympic Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Reston Interfaith and its 2013 honorees for their continued commitment to our community. I express my sincere gratitude to these individuals for contributing their time and energy to the betterment of our community.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TOM MACADAMS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Mr. Tom MacAdams. Throughout his life, Mr. MacAdams has been active in his community, founding a number of organizations in Brooklawn, New Jersey. Mr. MacAdams and his wife Marie have been married for 34 years and they have three children together, Shane, Colin, and Erin. Sadly, Mr. MacAdams has Frontotemporal Dementia, a neurodegenerative speech disorder, and was recently diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

Mr. MacAdams is a paragon of community service and a true leader in his community. To combat drug use, he created the Brooklawn Drug Alliance Committee. Mr. MacAdams also served on the Brooklawn council for 18 years, 16 of them as Municipal Chair. Along with his wife, Mr. MacAdams organized the Brooklawn Christmas Spirit, a group dedicated to providing food toys, and gift cards for families in need.

An avid sports fan, Mr. MacAdams created a number of leagues in his hometown. He founded the Lady Bugs Basketball League, a girl's league which played in his family's backyard for 7 years. Mr. MacAdams also established and coached the Brooklawn Bees basketball team, and founded and organized the Brooklawn Wiffleball Tournament.

Tom MacAdams is a role model for Brooklawn and all of South Jersey. I rise to honor Mr. MacAdams for his outstanding commitment to his community, and all the work he has done to improve Brooklawn, New Jersey. I wish him and his family the best.

A TRIBUTE TO GRACE YOO

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an exceptional woman, Grace Yoo of Los Angeles, California, whose tireless efforts have benefited her community and beyond. Grace received a B.A. in

political science from the University of California, Riverside, and is a graduate of Seton Hall University School of Law.

Ms. Yoo is the Executive Director of the Korean American Coalition in Los Angeles, KAC, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which represents the interests of the Korean American community in the Los Angeles area. She is very involved in working with a diverse set of communities throughout Los Angeles, where she helps mediate differences and fosters awareness of the needs of the Korean American community. Grace is a certified mediator, who works with leaders of every cultural background to resolve tension and conflict and bring about a more harmonious Los Angeles. Grace is also involved in international efforts to help refugees and through ''Topple Hunger in North Korea'', T.H.I.N.K., a KAC run program, she became deeply involved in the North Korea Child Welfare Act. This Act was signed into law on January 13, 2013, by President Obama. Prior to her career with KAC, Grace served as the Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

Along with being a successful career woman, Grace has been a selfless volunteer for several organizations since her high school days. Her volunteer work includes being active in several professional organizations to increase racial and ethnic diversity in the law and being a driver for SAFE RIDES. In 2008, Ms. Yoo was nominated by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to serve as a Los Angeles City Commissioner for the Department of Transportation. Currently, she serves as the President of the BOB Fund for Children.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Grace Yoo, for her exceptional service to the community.

KAMELIA VICK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kamelia Vick for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kamelia Vick is a 9th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kamelia Vick is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kamelia Vick for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2013 DULLES REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ''STARS OVER DULLES'' AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, the DRCC, for its ongoing dedication to local businesses and our community and to congratulate the 2013 ''Stars Over Dulles'' Award recipients.

This year, at the 18th Annual Stars Over Dulles Award Gala, the DRCC will honor those extraordinary businesses, non-profit organizations, and citizens in our region who enhance our economy and quality of life through their excellent vision and initiatives. The gala will also raise money for the USO Metropolitan Washington as well as two organizations which serve the homeless: Final Salute, Inc. whose mission is to provide homeless female veterans with safe and suitable housing, and the Fairfax County Public Schools Homeless Liaison Office which assists homeless students in the county. Finally, many wounded warriors will attend as special guests.

As the former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and now as a Member of Congress representing much of this community, I have been proud to partner with the DRCC on promoting the region's pro–business climate and celebrating the service so many individuals and businesses provide to our community.

I am pleased to join the DRCC in congratulating the following recipients of the 2013 Stars Over Dulles Awards:

Large Business of the Year: Cardinal Bank, Reston.

Mid–Sized Business of the Year: Exhibit Edge Inc., Chantilly.

Small Business of the Year: Xango, Oak Hill.

Small Non–Profit of the Year: Final Salute Inc., Haymarket.

Large Non–Profit of the Year: FACETS, Fairfax.

Business Citizens of the Year: Justin Exner, Vice President, Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp., Gainesville and Robert Kessler, President, Systems Furniture Gallery, Chantilly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2013 Stars Over Dulles Award recipients and in thanking these businesses, non-profits and individuals for their many contributions to our regions' economic success and quality of life. I also commend the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, its member businesses, and the sponsors of this event for their support of at–risk veterans and children in our community.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST GEORGE ALAN INGALLS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to our country are exceptional. Today, the City of Norco will recognize and honor Army Specialist George Alan Ingalls for his ultimate sacrifice and proclaim today George Alan Ingalls Day.

George was a Norco resident who died in Vietnam on April 16, 1967. On that day, he threw himself onto a grenade to save the lives of the members of his squad. For his gallantry and self-devotion to his unit, George posthumously received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In his youth, George was active in local sports, and attended Norco Junior High and later Corona High School. He also served as President of the youth group at the Community Church of Norco.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like George, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The goodness George brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made will always be remembered.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $16,801,307,487,216.56. We've added $6,174,430,438,303.48 to our debt in 4 years. This is $6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING ANNE ALTMAN FOR A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR SALES EXCELLENCE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Fairfax County resident Anne Altman, who is being honored with the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Institute for Excellence in Sales & Business Development, IES&BD. The IES&BD was created to demonstrate excellence in business sales and development and to help organizations maximize their efforts. The IES&BD Excellence in Sales & Business Development Awards recognize Greater Washington teams and organizations who demonstrate exemplary performance through leadership, risk taking, innovation, vision, and customer development.

Anne Altman is General Manager, IBM Global Public Sector based in Herndon, Virginia. Her portfolio spans global government, including U.S. federal government, state and local agencies, as well as education, health care, life sciences and pharmaceutical clients. Ms. Altman's career at IBM has spanned three

decades, and she previously served as General Manager for IBM's Public Sector with responsibilities for global government, state and local agencies, as well as education and health care.

Ms. Altman is a recipient of the prestigious Eagle Award, one of the highest honors issued to technology partners serving the Federal market. In addition, her many other accolades in the IT sector include: Federal Computer Week's Top Federal 100, Washingtonian Magazine Top Tech Titans, Washington's 100 Most Powerful Women, the AFFIRM Leadership Award for Industry, the CIO Council's Azimuth Award for the Industry Executive of the Year, and a Lifetime Achievement Heroines award from the March of Dimes and the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

She is a recognized authority on federal IT matters and has testified on behalf of IBM before congressional committees on a range of topics including national security, technology in the military and intelligence communities, "smarter" government, intelligent transportation, cloud computing, business analytics software, and the role of innovation to drive economic growth and government R&D. Her work has been featured in leading industry and national news publications, including The Washington Post, Associated Press, Federal Computer Week, Business Week, The New York Times, Washington Technology, Government Computer News, InformationWeek, among others. Ms. Altman also has contributed to key government–related review boards for organizations such as the National Academy of Public Administration, the National Science Academy and the Private Sector Council.

Ms. Altman also has established a strong record of community engagement, serving on the executive committees of the Northern Virginia Technology Council, National Symphony Orchestra, and National Kidney Foundation. She also serves on the executive council for the Dean of George Mason University's School of Management.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Anne Altman as the IES&BD's 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient and for her many contributions to the federal IT procurement field and our community.

KATIA MERAZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Katia Meraz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Katia Meraz is a 9th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Katia Meraz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Katia Meraz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF DEADLY TORNADOS IN NORTH CAROLINA

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the lives of those we lost in the largest tornado outbreak in the history of North Carolina. April 16th marks two years since those devastating natural disasters took 24 precious lives in my state and injured 133 others. Today is also for applauding the rebuilding efforts of the communities that were affected and the courageous storm survivors.

According to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, 28 tornadoes swept across central and eastern North Carolina due to tornadoes that were part of the same thunderstorm system. Then-Governor Beverly Perdue declared a state of emergency due to the more than $20 million in damages sustained across 30 counties. This destructive force of nature ravaged thousands of homes and businesses and truly tested the strength of North Carolinians.

The worse-hit county in the state, Bertie, located in the First Congressional District and home to 21,000 people accounted for 10 deaths and 50 people who were seriously injured.

I applaud the heroism of those who risked their lives to help others find safety during the height of the storm. During tough times Americans have always banded together to assist one another. It is this patriotic spirit that we must always remember during times of peace as well. Whether natural disasters or acts of terrorism we must remember that what makes us strong as a nation is that above all else we are Americans, no matter our race, ethnicity, religion or political affiliation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the lives of the victims and the communities impacted in my district by this powerful storm. Let us never forget the communities that experienced the loss of loved ones and may we continue to support the rebuilding efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ICE HOCKEY TEAM

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary accomplishment of the Western Washington University Vikings Ice Hockey team, which defended their national title at the National Association of Intercollegiate Hockey Championship on March 17.

Under the leadership of Head Coach John Dougan, the Vikings had a regular season record of 23 wins, four ties, four losses and a four-and-one record in the tournament. Western showed great heart and perseverance. After losing the first game of the tournament, they fought their way to the national championship.

Led by the strong play of Western goalie and the tournament's most valuable player Tyler Zetting, the Vikings concluded the tournament and defense of their national title with a two-to-one overtime win against top-ranked Le Moyne College.

We are proud of this team in Bellingham and across Northwest Washington and we look forward to their future successes on and off the rink.

KLARISSA VICK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Klarissa Vick for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Klarissa Vick is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Klarissa Vick is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Klarissa Vick for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF OAKTON-VIENNA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the volunteers of the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna and to thank them for their many contributions to the Northern Virginia community. Organized in 1997, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna is a nonprofit that provides services to help older adults continue living independently, and it offers programs that supply opportunities for enrichment, learning, and socialization.

The center works to support older residents who want to age in place in their homes and to engage them in social activities. Every year, approximately 200 volunteers for the Shepherd's Center serve as medical drivers, companion drivers, friendly callers and visitors, health and wellness counselors, fundraisers, and grant writers. These volunteers run programs such as Lunch n' Life, Adventures in Learning, trips and outings, special events, and caregivers' support groups. Services are

available free of charge to anyone age 50 or older who resides in the local community.

The Shepherd's Center has also been recognized as "One of the Best" 2012–13 by the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington and the 2012 Nonprofit of the Year award from the Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce. The services and programs offered by this extraordinary organization help to ensure that our seniors stay connected to the community through promotion of active lifestyles, ongoing social integration, and availability of resources for older residents to use their experience, training, and skills in significant roles in society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Shepherd Center of Oakton-Vienna for the services which enable older adults in our community to age in place and enjoy their golden years with dignity and independence. I thank the many volunteers who generously dedicate their time and efforts to the welfare of our neighbors. The value of their contributions cannot be overstated and are deserving of our highest praise.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. ARMINE G. HACOPIAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

Today, I rise to commend Dr. Armine G. Hacopian of Glendale, California, whose tireless efforts have benefited her community and beyond. Dr. Hacopian moved to the United States at the age of sixteen. It was evident that she was committed to receiving a higher education, and keeping the promise she made to her ailing father, an Armenian Genocide survivor, who did not have the opportunity to receive a formal education. Her father continuously reminded his children, including Armine, about the importance of learning, and Armine attended Alhambra High School, went on to receive a B.A. in Art Education, two M.A.s in Art Education and Supervision and Administrative Services from Cal State University, Los Angeles, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership.

Armine's unparalleled commitment to education has benefited many. In 2001, Armine was elected to the Glendale Community College Board of Trustees, where she is currently serving as the Board President. Through her hard work, dedication, and support of her co–trustees, the Glendale Community College–Garfield Campus construction plan received an additional two million dollars in funding. In addition, she was instrumental in helping pass a $98 million dollar bond measure for capital improvements at Glendale Community College.

For the past two decades, Armine has assisted many girls and women who have been victims of rape and domestic abuse with finding safe homes. Many of these women eventually landed on the path of a successful career, and to this very day, keep in touch with Armine to inform her of their new accomplishments.

Armine has also served as department chair, counselor, teacher and as coordinator of the Even Start Family Literacy program, through which she was able to work closely with Head Start and provide parenting classes. She was also an ESL, English as a Second Language, specialist, where she helped teachers improve their skills as they worked with students whose primary language was not English. Armine is also a consultant in the areas of sexual harassment prevention, career transitions and communication and conflict management.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Dr. Armine G. Hacopian, for her exceptional service to the community.

JOHNNY WIGHTMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Johnny Wightman for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Johnny Wightman is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Johnny Wightman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Johnny Wightman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2657-S2696

Measures Introduced: Fourteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 731–744, and S. Res. 98–100. **Pages S2683-84**

Measures Passed:

Honoring British Prime Minister Baroness Margaret Thatcher: Senate agreed to S. Res. 98, honoring the life, legacy, and example of British Prime Minister Baroness Margaret Thatcher. **Page S2670**

Public Service Recognition Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 99, expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week. **Page S2696**

Congratulating the University of Louisville Men's and Women's Basketball Teams: Senate agreed to S. Res. 100, commending and congratulating the University of Louisville men's basketball team for winning its third Division I National Collegiate Athletic Association championship, and the University of Louisville women's basketball team for being runner up in the 2013 Women's Division I National Collegiate Athletic Association Basketball Tournament. **Page S2696**

Measures Considered:

Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of S. 649, to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S2663–65, S2666–70, S2670–76, S2676–79**

Pending:

Manchin Amendment No. 715, to protect Second Amendment rights, ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and provide a responsible and consistent background check process. **Page S2663**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that the following amendments be in order to be called up: Grassley substitute amendment consistent with the summary which is at the desk; Leahy/Collins Amendment No. 713; Cornyn Amendment No. 719; Feinstein Amendment No. 711; Burr Amendment No. 720; Lautenberg/Blumenthal Amendment No. 714; Barrasso Amendment No. 717; and Harkin/Alexander amendment relative to mental health, the text of which is at the desk; that following Leader remarks on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, the time until 4:00 p.m. be equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees, to debate the amendments concurrently; that at 4 p.m., Senate vote on or in relation to Manchin Amendment No. 715 (listed above); that upon disposition of Manchin Amendment No. 715, Senate vote on or in relation to the remaining pending amendments in the order listed; that all of the amendments be subject to a 60 affirmative vote threshold; that no other amendments or motions to commit be in order to any of these amendments or the bill prior to the votes; that there be two minutes equally divided prior to each vote and all after the first vote be ten minute votes. **Page S2679**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, April 17, 2013. **Page S2696**

Messages from the House: **Page S2682**

Measures Referred: **Page S2682**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S2682**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S2682, S2696**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2682–83**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2683**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2684–86**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2786–88**

Additional Statements: **Page S2682**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2689–95**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S2695**

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Pages S2705–96

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 and adjourned at 2:06 a.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, until 9:30 a.m. on the same day. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2696.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the situation in Afghanistan, after receiving testimony from General Joseph F. Dunford, Commander, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, Department of Defense.

BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget and revenue request for fiscal year 2014, after receiving testimony from Jacob J. Lew, Secretary of the Treasury.

AVIATION SAFETY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security concluded a hearing to examine aviation safety, focusing on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) progress on key safety initiatives, including FAA's aircraft certification process and use of data to enhance safety and improve aviation oversight, after receiving testimony from Michael P. Huerta, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, and Jeffrey B. Guzzetti, Assistant Inspector General for Aviation and Special Programs, both of the Department of Transportation; Deborah A.P. Hersman, Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board; and Gerald L. Dillingham, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office.

FOREST SERVICE BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2014 for the Forest Service, after receiving testimony from Tom Tidwell, Chief, and Barbara Cooper, Acting Director, Strategic Planning, Budget, and Accountability, both of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

WATER AND POWER BILLS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power concluded a hearing to examine S. 211, to amend certain definitions contained in the Provo River Project Transfer Act for purposes of clarifying certain property descriptions, S. 284, a bill to transfer certain facilities, easements, and rights-of-way to Fort Sumner Irrigation District, New Mexico, S. 510, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain interests in Federal land acquired for the Scofield Project in Carbon County, Utah S. 659, to reauthorize the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, S.J. Res. 12, to consent to certain amendments enacted by the legislature of the State of Hawaii to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Act, 1920 H.R. 316, to reinstate and transfer certain hydroelectric licenses and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects, S. 684, to amend the Mni Wiconi Project Act of 1988 to facilitate completion of the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply System, S. 693, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the City of Hermiston, Oregon, water recycling and reuse project, and S. 715, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to use designated funding to pay for construction of authorized rural water projects, after receiving testimony from Senator Baucus; Robert Quint, Senior Advisor, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; and Jon Katz, Deputy Associate General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.

TAX FRAUD AND TAX IDENTITY THEFT

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine tax fraud and tax identity theft, focusing on moving forward with solutions, after receiving testimony from Steven T. Miller, Acting Commissioner, and Nina E. Olson, National Taxpayer Advocate, both of the Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury; Marianna LaCanfora, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Retirement and Disability Policy, Social Security Administration; and Jeffrey A. Porter, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Huntington, West Virginia.

CONFLICT IN EASTERN CONGO

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on African Affairs concluded a hearing to examine ongoing conflict in Eastern Congo, after receiving testimony from John Prendergast, The Enough Project, Mvemba Phezo Dizolele, Eastern Congo Initiative, and Federico Borello, Humanity United, all of Washington, D.C.; and Reverend Muhigirwa Rusembuka Ferdinand, Arrupe Research and Training Center, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 657, to eliminate conditions in foreign prisons and other detention facilities that do not meet primary indicators of health, sanitation, and safety;

S. Res. 90, standing with the people of Kenya following their national and local elections on March 4, 2013, and urging a peaceful and credible resolution of electoral disputes in the courts, with amendments;

S. Res. 65, strongly supporting the full implementation of United States and international sanctions on Iran and urging the President to continue to strengthen enforcement of sanctions legislation, with an amendment;

The nomination of Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be United States Governor of the International Monetary Fund, United States Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, United States Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank, and United States Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; and

A promotion list in the Foreign Service.

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine college affordability, after receiving testimony from Ethan Senack, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, Washington, D.C.; Sara Goldrick-Rab, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Derrica Donelson, Nashville, Tennessee; and Vivica Brooks, Bowie, Maryland.

ANTITRUST LAWS ENFORCEMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded an oversight hearing to examine the enforcement of the antitrust laws, after receiving testimony from William J. Baer, Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice; and Edith Ramirez, Chairwoman, Federal Trade Commission.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 14 public bills, H.R. 1576–1589; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 162–163, 165, were introduced. **Pages H2065–66**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H2066**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1163, to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to revise requirements relating to Federal information security, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–40) and

H. Res. 164, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 624) 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. Rept. 113–41). **Page H2065**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Webster to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2029**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:41 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H2033**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Rothfus, wherein he resigned from both the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Homeland Security. **Page H2033**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 162, electing a Member to a standing committee of the House of Representatives. **Page H2033**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2013: H.R. 1163, to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to revise requirements relating to Federal information security, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 416 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 106; **Pages H2037–42, H2053–54**

Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2013: H.R. 756, amended, to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical standards, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 402 yeas to 16 nays, Roll No. 107; and **Pages H2042–48, H2054**

Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of

2013: H.R. 967, amended, to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 406 yeas to 11 nays, Roll No. 108.

Pages H2048–53, H2054–55

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 163, electing a Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H2055**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:35 p.m. and reconvened at 6:01 p.m. **Page H2063**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2053–54, H2054, and H2054–55. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—PUBLIC AND OUTSIDE WITNESSES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies held a hearing for public and outside witnesses. Testimony was heard from public and outside witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—USDA BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the USDA Budget. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Agriculture officials: Thomas Vilsack, Secretary; Joseph Glauber, Chief Economist; and Michael Young, Budget Officer.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Overview. Testimony was heard from Chuck Hagel, Secretary, Department of Defense; General Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, United States Army; and Robert Hale, Undersecretary, Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS—UNITED STATES COAST GUARD FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on United States Coast Guard Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request. Testimony was heard from Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., Commandant United States Coast Guard.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing on the Department of Labor Budget. Testimony was heard from Seth D. Harris, Acting Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Department of Labor.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FISCAL YEAR 2014 REQUEST

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development held a hearing on Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2014 Request. Testimony was heard from Ray LaHood, Secretary, Department of Transportation.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of the Navy. Testimony was heard from General James F. Amos, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps, U.S. Marine Corps; Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy; Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy.

READINESS POSTURE OF THE U.S. ARMY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled ''The Readiness Posture of the U.S. Army''. Testimony was heard from Brigadier General Walter E. Fountain, Acting Deputy Director, U.S. Army National Guard; Lieutenant General James L. Huggins, Jr., Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, U.S. Army; Lieutenant General Raymond V. Mason, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, U.S. Army, Major General Luis R. Visot, Deputy Commanding General for Operations, U.S. Army Reserve.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities held a hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for Department of Defense Science and Technology Programs''. Testimony was heard from RADM Matthew Klunder, Chief of Naval Research, U.S. Department of the Navy; Mary Miller, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology, U.S. Army; Arati Prabhakar, Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency; Alan Shaffer, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering; David Walker, Deputy Assistant Secretary of

the Air Force for Science, Technology and Engineering, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Acquisition.

THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2014 REVENUE AND ECONOMIC POLICY PROPOSALS

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The President's Fiscal Year 2014 Revenue and Economic Policy Proposals''. Testimony was heard from Jacob J. Lew, Secretary, Department of the Treasury.

KEEPING COLLEGE WITHIN REACH: THE ROLE OF FEDERAL STUDENT AID PROGRAMS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training held a hearing entitled ''Keeping College Within Reach: The Role of Federal Student Aid Programs''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CONTINUING INVESTIGATION INTO THE FUNGAL MENINGITIS OUTBREAK AND WHETHER IT COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''A Continuing Investigation into the Fungal Meningitis Outbreak and Whether It Could Have Been Prevented''. Testimony was heard from Margaret A. Hamburg, MD, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power held a markup on H.R. 3, the ''Northern Route Approval Act''. The bill was forwarded, without amendment.

EXAMINING COMMUNITY BANK REGULATORY BURDENS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled ''Examining Community Bank Regulatory Burdens''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DOES DOD-FRANK AUTHORIZE THE GOVERNMENT TO BREAK UP FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS?

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Who is Too Big to Fail: Does Dodd-Frank Authorize the Government to Break Up Financial Institutions?''. Testimony was heard from Scott G. Alvarez, General Counsel, Federal Reserve Board of Governors; Richard J. Osterman, Jr., Acting General Counsel, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and James Wigand, Director, Office of Complex Financial Institutions, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

CHINA'S RAPID POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ADVANCES IN CENTRAL ASIA AND RUSSIA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats held a hearing entitled ''China's Rapid Political and Economic Advances in Central Asia and Russia''. Testimony was heard from Stephen J. Blank, Research Professor of National Security Affairs, U.S. Army War College; and public witnesses.

KENYA'S 2013 ELECTIONS: AN EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE MODEL

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations held a hearing entitled ''Kenya's 2013 Elections: An Effective Assistance Model?''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISMANAGEMENT AT THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Mismanagement at the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ABUSIVE PATENT LITIGATION: THE ISSUES IMPACTING AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS AND JOB CREATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION AND BEYOND

Committee on the Judiciary; Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet held a hearing entitled ''Abusive Patent Litigation: The Issues Impacting American Competitiveness and Job Creation at the International Trade Commission and Beyond''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation held a hearing on the following measures: H.R. 250, to amend the Antiquities Act of 1906 to place additional requirements on the establishment of national monuments under that Act, and for other purposes; H.R. 382, the ''Preserve Land Freedom for Americans Act''; H.R. 432, to prohibit the further extension or establishment of national monuments in Nevada except by express authorization of Congress; H.R. 758, the ''Utah Land Sovereignty Act''; H.R. 1512, the

''New Mexico Land Sovereignty Act''; H.R. 1434, the ''Montana Land Sovereignty Act''; H.R. 1439, the ''Idaho Land Sovereignty Act''; H.R. 1459, the ''Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act''; H.R. 855, the ''San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2013''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Labrador, Stewart, Daines, Gosar, Chaffetz, Foxx, and Doggett; John Jones, Commissioner, Carbon County, UT; Molly Ward, Mayor, City of Hampton, VA; and a public witness.

NORTHERN ROUTE APPROVAL ACT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on H.R. 3, the ''Northern Route Approval Act''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION; FOUR POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS; AND U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY'S WATER PROGRAM PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2014 SPENDING PRIORITIES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Proposed Fiscal Year 2014 Spending, Priorities and the Missions of the Bureau of Reclamation; the Four Power Marketing Administrations; and the U.S. Geological Survey's Water Program''. Testimony was heard from Michael L. Connor, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation; Bill Drummond, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration, Mark Gabriel, Administrator, Western Area Power Administration; Christopher Turner, Acting Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration; Kenneth Legg, Administrator, Southeastern Power Administration; and Jerad Bales, Acting Associate Director for the Water Mission Area, U.S. Geological Survey.

ASSESSING THE FEDERAL EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE THE SEQUESTER'S IMPACT ON ACCESS TO OUR NATION'S CAPITAL AND NATIONAL TREASURES

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Open to Visitors? Assessing the Federal Efforts to Minimize the Sequester's Impact on Access to Our Nation's Capital and National Treasures''. Testimony was heard from David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration; Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director, National Park Service; and G. Wayne Clough; Secretary, Smithsonian Institution.

CYBER INTELLIGENCE SHARING AND PROTECTION ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 624, the ''Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act''. The Committee granted, by voice vote, a structure rule for H.R. 624. The rule provides for one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–7 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment in a nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Rogers (MI), and Representatives Ruppersberger, Barton, Schiff, Schakowsky, Franks (AZ), Jackson Lee, Polis, and Johnson (GA).

ASSESSING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF WIND ENERGY INCENTIVES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Oversight and Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled ''Assessing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Wind Energy Incentives''. Testimony was heard from Frank Rusco, Director, Natural Resources and the Environment, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

FOUNDATIONS FOR A NEW WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled ''The Foundations for a New Water Resources Development Act''. Testimony was heard from Harry Simmons, Mayor, Caswell Beach, NC; and public witnesses.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE U.S. COAST GUARD AND RELATED MARINE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2014 budget request for the U.S. Coast Guard and related marine transportation programs. Testimony was heard from Admiral Robert Papp, Commandant, United States Coast Guard; Master Chief Michael Leavitt, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, United States Coast Guard; David Matsuda, Administrator, Maritime Administration; and Mario Cordero, Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on the following measures: H.R. 569, the ''Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2013''; H.R. 570, the ''American Heroes COLA Act''; H.R. 602, the ''Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act''; H.R. 671, the ''Ruth Moore Act of 2013''; H.R. 679, the ''Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act''; H.R. 733, the ''Access to Veterans Benefits Improvement Act''; H.R. 894, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the supervision of fiduciaries of veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and H.R. 1405, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include an appeals form in any notice of decision issued for the denial of a benefit sought. Testimony was heard from Representatives Johnson (OH), Pingree, and Walz; David R. McLenachen, Director, Pension and Fiduciary Service, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

IMPLEMENTATION OF 2012 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REFORMS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Human Resources held a hearing on the Implementation of 2012 Unemployment Insurance Reforms. Testimony was heard from Bill Starks, Director, Unemployment Insurance Division, Utah Department of Workforce Services; Tommy Williams, Texas State Senator; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D277)*

S. 716, to modify the requirements under the STOCK Act regarding online access to certain financial disclosure statements and related forms. Signed on April 15, 2013. (Public Law 113–7)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2014 for the National Guard and Reserve, 9 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2014 for the Department of Education, 10 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a briefing on the situation in Syria, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2 p.m., SR–232A.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine nuclear forces and policies in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development, to hold hearings to examine helping homeowners harmed by foreclosures, focusing on ensuring accountability and transparency in foreclosure reviews, part 2, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: business meeting to consider the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the future of passenger rail, focusing on what's next for the Northeast Corridor, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2014, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2014 for the Department of Homeland Security; to be immediately followed by a

business meeting to consider the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2014 for the Small Business Administration, 10 a.m., SR–428A.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, continued hearing for public and outside witnesses, 9:30 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies, hearing on USDA Research, Education, and Economic Budget, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on Customs and Border Protection Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, hearing on Department of Housing and Urban Development Fiscal Year 2014 Request, 10 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science and Related Agencies, hearing on Federal Bureau of Prisons, 10:30 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, hearing on Department of State Fiscal Year 2014 Budget, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Recent Developments in Afghanistan'', 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2014 Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Combat Aviation Programs'', 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for U.S. Special Operations Command and U.S. Special Operations Forces'', 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1406, the ''Working Families Flexibility Act of 2013'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1549, the ''Helping Sick Americans Now Act; H.R. 1580, to affirm the policy of the United States regarding Internet governance; and H.R. 3, the ''Northern Route Approval Act'', 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Examining the SEC's Failure to Implement the JOBS Act and its Impact on Economic Growth'', 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Securing U.S. Interests Abroad: The FY 2014 Foreign Affairs Budget'', 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, meeting to Authorize the Chairman to issue a subpoena to the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''State Lands vs. Federal Lands Oil and Gas Production: What State Regulators are Doing Right'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Options to Bring the Postal Service Back from Insolvency'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, hearing entitled ''Contracting to Feed U.S. Troops in Afghanistan: How did the Defense Department end up in Multi-Billion Dollar Billing Dispute?'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''A Review of President's FY 2014 Budget Request for Science Agencies'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Research, hearing entitled ''An Overview of the National Science Foundation Budget for Fiscal Year 2014'', 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Health Care Law: Implementation and Small Businesses'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''GAO Review: Are Additional Federal Courthouses Justified?'', 10:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of S. 649, Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act, with a series of up to 9 roll call votes at approximately 4 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, April 17

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Begin consideration of H.R. 624—Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (Subject to a Rule).

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