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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. HULTGREN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 26, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY M. HULTGREN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You have blessed us with all good gifts, and with thankful hearts we express our gratitude. You have created us with opportunities to serve other people in their need, to share together in respect and affection, and to be faithful in the responsibilities we have been given.

In this moment of prayer, please grant to the Members of this people's House the gifts of wisdom and discernment, that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

As the Members return to their districts, may their constituents meet them with respect, honesty, and if need be, challenge that will serve as an encouragement to the work they do for our Nation.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

PROTECTING OUR CREDIT

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, the Democratic whip charged that the Full Faith and Credit Act places America's credit at risk of default. As Churchill said:

It would not be possible to state the opposite of the truth with greater precision.

Quite the contrary, this measure guarantees that whatever political storms are raging in Washington, America's debt will always be paid in full and on time. I would remind him that if the full faith and credit of the United States is ever compromised, all programs are jeopardized. This bill protects the public credit so that the public credit can protect seniors and disabled veterans and all of our other obligations.

No one wants to see a stalemate that would delay any payment. That would be unprecedented, disruptive, and dangerous. But the worst and most lasting damage of such an event would be to imperil our Nation's credit. This bill simply ensures that even in the worst-case scenario, that will never happen.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN BOB MICHEL

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Bob Michel, a man who served central Illinois in this Chamber for close to 4 decades and who continues to be a longtime friend of my family's and a role model to so many.

Congressman Michel was born and raised in Peoria, graduated from Bradley University, and was a decorated war hero in World War II. After coming home, Bob Michel became involved in public service and ended up serving 38 years in this House of Representatives, eventually rising to the House minority leader.

I'm a Democrat and Congressman Michel happens to be a Republican. But

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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I'm proud to say that he earned a reputation as someone who worked across the aisle, striving to find common-sense, bipartisan solutions to the issues of the day.

Congressman Michel celebrated his 90th birthday last month, and he continues to be an inspiration for all who are more interested in working together to get results than trying to score cheap political shots.

Central Illinois has a long tradition of public servants who made a career out of reaching across party lines. Former Republican Senator Everett Dirksen of Pekin, in my district also, played a key role in the passage of the 1964 civil rights bill, while former Republican Congressman Ray LaHood of Peoria has worked across the aisle to improve the Nation's roads, bridges, and rail lines as Secretary of Transportation under the Obama administration.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all Members of this body will join me in pledging to work together to put the people we represent first, and I would like to wish Congressman Michel a happy 90th birthday.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL DONALD HOOD

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, retired United States Army Reserve Lieutenant Colonel Donald Hood passed away on December 30, 2012. He served our Nation with distinction, first on Active Duty in the United States Army and later in the Army Reserve.

Lieutenant Colonel Hood began his military service with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he became the first parachute-qualified, combat-ready optometrist in the United States Army.

From 1970 to 1972, Lieutenant Colonel Hood served in Southeast Asia during the war in Vietnam as the Army's chief of eye services at the Diplomatic Medical Mission in Bangkok, Thailand.

In 1972, he left Active Duty and continued serving his country in the United States Army Reserve as the chief of optometry for the 5502 United States Army Reserve Hospital in Aurora, Colorado, until his retirement in 1990.

Lieutenant Colonel Hood is survived by his wife, Patricia; his daughter, Chelsey Russell; his son, Cayman; and his granddaughter, Hayden Russell.

ACROSS-THE-BOARD BUDGET CUTS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, later today, the House will vote to restore funding to the Nation's air traffic control system to better protect the traveling public and to restore order to a

vital sector of our economy by shifting unused funds.

Two lessons are hopefully now learned:

Across-the-board budget cuts are abysmally stupid. Cut a program that's vital to the health, safety and the economy, and what about this unused money over here? Oh, we can't move that, so we took care of that.

Second, there are some here who believe the Federal Government doesn't need to and should not invest in facilitating the movement of goods and freight and people in this country. It should devolve to the States.

Well, this is an object lesson in how vital these Federal programs are to the Nation's airspace. And next year, when the Highway Trust Fund goes below zero and we cut spending by \$50 billion on highways and transit, we will have another crisis. Let's hope we don't have to see a million layoffs and total disruption across the country before we fix that one. Fix that one before it happens.

□ 1010

NATIONAL PARK WEEK

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate National Park Week.

Our national parks are truly one of America's greatest natural resources, drawing nearly 279 million visitors and families who go to camp, hike, fish, and explore each year. Minnesota, my home State, is home to several national parks as well, with lakes and rivers and waterways.

In just a few years, our national parks will celebrate their 100th birthday. In preparation for this centennial, I have introduced legislation, H.R. 627, to allow the U.S. Mint to issue a National Park commemorative coin, with all of the proceeds going to help our national parks and our National Park Foundation. The bill has strong bipartisan support, and it is one more way that we can provide additional resources for our national parks.

Protecting and preserving these beautiful spaces—our national parks, monuments, and Civil War battlefields—for future generations is important. Our National Park Week is a perfect time to reignite this interest for individual community efforts in order to ensure that our national parks remain and retain their place as the most beautiful in the world.

A NEW ACHIEVEMENT IN MATHEMATICS

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce a new achievement in mathematics.

We learned about square roots in middle school. In the 15th century, mathematicians discovered the square roots of negative numbers. These "imaginary numbers" form the basis of much science and engineering, which are applied for practical uses, like the design of airplane wings.

In the 1920s, Paul Dirac constructed the square roots of "differential operators" in the development of quantum mechanics, which is the basis of much high-tech science.

In the 1970s, another type of square root, called "matrix factorization," which is important in physics, was discovered by David Eisenbud. This month, Daniel Murfet, a postdoc at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, announced new ways of linking matrix factorizations together, which will have numerous applications.

Mr. Murfet's work was funded by the National Science Foundation, and illustrates the importance of our Nation's continuing investment in the research and education of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE

(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, last night, a random telephone poll of my constituents was conducted in five Hill Country counties in the 21st District of Texas.

Here are the results:

Eighty-eight percent feel that the border should be secured before other immigration reforms take effect; 84 percent favor a system that would require employers to hire legal workers; 96 percent think that the Federal Government should balance its budget; and 85 percent believe the American people are taxed too much.

These are sincerely held views by hardworking, law-abiding, tax-paying good Americans. Congress would do well to heed their advice.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to take note of a major milestone in human history. This past week, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere passed 400 parts per million.

I say a "milestone in human history" because this level of carbon dioxide has never been seen in human history. In fact, this level has not been achieved for millions of years.

I also say a "milestone in human history" because it is human activity—the way we produce and use energy—that is responsible for this high concentration; and it is of historic importance because, as scientists have made

clear, this great concentration of greenhouse gas is changing our very climate in ways that are dangerous and costly in dollars and lives. If we fail to change our ways, fail to change how we generate and use energy, then we will face worse and worse—blistering wildfires, withering droughts, flooding events, super hurricanes.

As the Earth goes barreling past 400 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, let's take action now, this year, this Congress, to address climate change. Let's show that this is a turning point, not just a marker of inaction and environmental degradation.

PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO REFUSE

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, 8 months from now, the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate will begin to punish Americans with a tax simply because they refuse to purchase health care. The mandate sets a dangerous new precedent.

If Congress has the power to tax our decision to not purchase health insurance, what else can a future Congress tax?

The Supreme Court has opened Pandora's box and has allowed future Congresses to tax Americans for failing to purchase any number of conceivable goods or services—basically, whatever Congress deems necessary.

That's why I introduced House Joint Resolution 28, the Right to Refuse Amendment, which would effectively reverse the mandate taxes and permanently prevent Congress from forcing Americans to choose between a purchase and a tax. The amendment is short and simple: Congress shall make no law that imposes a tax on a failure to purchase goods or services.

If my colleagues believe the Court got it wrong and if they believe in limited government, then I urge my colleagues to cosponsor House Joint Resolution 28.

THE NEXT TAMERLAN

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the terrorist attack on the Boston Marathon and in learning that their next target was Times Square in New York City, I hope my colleagues who oppose gun safety laws will reconsider.

We have learned that Tamerlan, the terrorist, was on the terror watch list for 18 months. Many of our colleagues say that someone should have done something to prevent the terrorist from killing; but strangely, making the next Tamerlan undergo a background check on the Internet or at a gun show to buy a gun is not one of them.

The pro-gun lobby insists that the next terrorists should still be able to

buy all of the assault weapons they want and all of the 100-round magazines they need—no problem, no background check necessary. The next terrorist, or the next Tamerlan, thinks they are absolutely right; but 90 percent of Americans disagree, and I hope my colleagues will reconsider gun safety legislation.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 853. An act to provide the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer certain funds to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 111-5, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appoints the following individual to the Health Information Technology Policy Committee:

Dr. Scott Gottlieb of Connecticut.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 3166 of Public Law 112-239, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, announces the appointment of the following individual to be a member of the Congressional Advisory Panel on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise:

Michael R. Anastasio of New Mexico.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the re-appointment of Steve Zink, of Nevada, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

RESPONSIBLE HELIUM ADMINISTRATION AND STEWARDSHIP ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 527.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 178 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 527.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1018

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 527) to amend the Helium Act to com-

plete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, April 25, 2013, all time for general debate had expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-9. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 527

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 "Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" and inserting a period; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) FEDERAL HELIUM RESERVE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'Federal Helium Reserve' means the Bureau of Land Management Cliffside Gas Field and supporting infrastructure.

"(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'Federal Helium Reserve' includes—

"(i) the Cliffside Gas Field helium storage reservoir; and

"(ii) all associated infrastructure owned, leased, or managed under contract by the Secretary for storage, transportation, withdrawal, purification, or management of helium.

"(5) QUALIFYING DOMESTIC HELIUM TRANSACTION.—The term 'qualifying domestic helium transaction'—

"(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means any new or newly renegotiated agreement for the purchase or sale of at least 15,000,000 standard cubic feet of crude helium or bulk liquid helium delivered in the United States in the most recent full fiscal year; and

"(B) does not include any purchase of crude helium from the Secretary.

"(6) TOLLING AGREEMENT.—The term 'tolling agreement' means an agreement between a helium refiner and another party under which the helium refiner agrees to process the other person's helium at an agreed upon price."

SEC. 3. SALE AND AUCTION OF CRUDE HELIUM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167d) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. SALE OF HELIUM.

"(a) PHASE A: FINALIZING DEBT PAYOFF.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall offer for sale crude helium for Federal, medical, research, scientific, and commercial uses in such quantities, at such times, and under such conditions as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this subsection with minimum market disruption.

“(2) MINIMUM QUANTITY.—The Secretary shall offer for sale during each fiscal year under paragraph (1) a quantity of crude helium equivalent to the quantity of crude helium produced from the Federal Helium Reserve during fiscal year 2012.

“(3) IN-KIND PURCHASE BY FEDERAL AGENCIES AND GRANTEEES.—Federal agencies, and holders of 1 or more Federal research grants, may purchase refined helium under this subsection for Federal, medical, research and scientific uses from persons who have entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an equivalent quantity of crude helium from the Secretary.

“(4) PRICES AND DETERMINATIONS.—Sales of crude helium by the Secretary under this subsection shall be at prices established by the Secretary that shall not be less than the price in the last sale of crude helium from the Federal Helium Reserve before the date of enactment of the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act, except that any sale to a person referred to in paragraph (3) for a purchase authorized by that paragraph shall be at a price specified by the Secretary.

“(5) DURATION.—This subsection applies during the period—

“(A) beginning on the date of enactment of the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act; and

“(B) ending on the expiration of the one-year period following such date of enactment.

“(b) PHASE B: MAXIMIZING TOTAL RECOVERY OF HELIUM AND INCREASING RETURNS TO THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer for sale at auction, as described in subsection (d), crude helium for medical, research, scientific, and commercial uses in such quantities, at such times, and under such conditions as the Secretary determines necessary—

“(A) to maximize total recovery and conservation of helium from the Federal Helium Reserve;

“(B) to manage crude helium sales according to the ability of the Secretary to extract and produce helium from the Federal Helium Reserve;

“(C) to respond to helium market supply and demand and minimize market disruption; and

“(D) to give priority to meeting the helium demand of Federal users through purchases under paragraph (2).

“(2) IN-KIND PURCHASE BY FEDERAL AGENCIES AND GRANTEEES.—Any Federal agency, and any holder of 1 or more Federal research grants, may purchase refined helium for Federal, medical, research, and scientific uses from an eligible person. The Secretary shall then provide an equivalent volume of crude helium to the eligible person as if the eligible person was the successful bidder for the helium at auction. Provision of helium by the Secretary under this paragraph shall not be considered a sale of helium by the Secretary at auction. The Secretary shall provide such helium at the minimum price established by the Secretary for the most recent auction held under this subsection or such other price as may be specified by the Secretary.

“(3) ELIGIBLE PERSON.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘eligible person’ means a helium distributor who is registered as such with the Secretary.

“(4) DURATION.—This subsection applies during the period—

“(A) beginning on the expiration of the period described in subsection (a)(5)(B); and

“(B) ending on the date on which the volume of recoverable crude helium at the Federal Helium Reserve (other than privately owned quantities of crude helium stored temporarily at the Federal Helium Reserve under section 5 and this section) is 3,000,000,000 standard cubic feet.

“(5) MAXIMUM ANNUAL SALES.—Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (d), for each fiscal year, the Secretary may not offer or provide for sale under this subsection a total volume of crude helium that exceeds the lesser of—

“(A) the projected maximum total production capacity of the Federal Helium Reserve during that fiscal year; and

“(B) the maximum refining capacity of persons connected by pipeline to the Federal Helium Reserve during that fiscal year.

“(c) PHASE C: ACCESS FOR FEDERAL USERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may offer for sale crude helium for Federal uses (including medical, research, and scientific uses) in such quantities, at such times, and under such conditions as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this subsection.

“(2) PURCHASE BY FEDERAL AGENCIES AND GRANTEEES.—Federal agencies, and holders of 1 or more Federal research grants related to helium or the use of helium, may purchase refined helium under this subsection for Federal uses (including medical, research, and scientific uses) from persons who have entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an equivalent quantity of crude helium from the Secretary.

“(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection applies beginning on the day after the date described in subsection (b)(4)(B).

“(d) AUCTION AND MINIMUM PRICES DETERMINATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Sales of crude helium by the Secretary in auctions under subsection (b) shall be conducted under the conditions described in this section and at no less than the minimum price established by the Secretary.

“(2) AUCTION.—The Secretary shall conduct such auctions of crude helium as soon as practical but no later than beginning 180 days after the first day of the period described in subsection (b)(4), under the following conditions:

“(A) 60 percent of the volume of crude helium made available in each auction shall be made available to entities that can show the Secretary they have either adequate refining capacity or tolling agreements for refining in place, in accordance with the conditions set forth in paragraph (3).

“(B) 20 percent of the volume of crude helium made available in each auction shall be made available to any bidder, in accordance with the conditions set forth in paragraph (3).

“(C) In each auction after the first auction under this subsection after the date of the enactment of the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act, the Secretary shall make available an additional volume of crude helium, in an amount equivalent to the amount made available under subparagraph (B) that the Secretary certifies can be refined, through tolling agreements or otherwise. Of such additional volume, a person may not acquire in the auction a volume in excess of the volume they demonstrate to the Secretary they have the ability to refine through either refining capacity or tolling agreements.

“(D) The Secretary shall conduct such auctions at such times as the Secretary deter-

mines necessary to ensure a reliable supply of helium and a fair return to taxpayers, but no less frequently than 2 times each fiscal year.

“(E) For purposes of the first auction under this subsection after the date of the enactment of the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act, the Secretary may revise the percentage under subparagraph (A) so as to make available for auction 100 percent of the volume of crude helium intended to be offered.

“(F) The Secretary may adjust the percentages and amount specified in subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively, in any auction if the Secretary determines the adjustment is necessary to—

“(i) respond to market supply and demand and minimize market disruption; or

“(ii) increase participation in helium auctions.

“(G) The Secretary may conduct an auction no more frequently than once each fiscal year of an amount of helium equal to up to 10 percent of the volume of crude helium to be made available at auction during the following fiscal year. Such amount of crude helium shall be made available to any bidder, in accordance with the conditions set forth in paragraph (3). Notwithstanding paragraph (3)(C), for crude helium sold in such an auction the Secretary shall begin charging a storage fee under clause (i) of that paragraph beginning 1 year after the date of such auction, and shall begin charging increasing storage fees under clause (ii) of that paragraph beginning 270 days after beginning charging storage fees under clause (i) of that paragraph.

“(3) AUCTION CONDITIONS.—

“(A) BIDDING METHOD.—The Secretary shall conduct each auction by sealed bid for predetermined volume lots, unless the Secretary determines that an alternative bidding method may result in more revenue to the Federal Government or may increase participation in the auction.

“(B) BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS AND LIMITS.—In carrying out an auction under subsection (b), the Secretary—

“(i) may accept bids only from persons the Secretary determines are seeking to purchase helium for their own use, for refining, or for delivery to users; and

“(ii) may not award to a person more than 30 percent of the total volume of crude helium offered in that auction, except that the Secretary may adjust such limitation based on the number of bidders in the auction.

“(C) STORAGE FEES.—In each auction the Secretary—

“(i) shall begin charging each winning bidder a storage fee for crude helium purchased by the bidder that remains in the Federal Helium Reserve, beginning on the date the Secretary receives payment of the purchase price for the helium; and

“(ii) beginning 270 days after the date of the auction, shall charge increasing storage fees that will encourage the withdrawal of the helium no later than 2 years after the date of the auction.

“(4) DETERMINATION OF MINIMUM SALE PRICE.—The Secretary shall make a determination of the minimum sale price for sales described in paragraph (1) using—

“(A) a confidential survey of qualifying domestic helium transactions to which any holder of a contract with the Secretary for the acceptance, storage, and redelivery of crude helium in the Cliffside Gas Field helium storage reservoir is a party;

“(B) current market crude helium prices as represented by the sale price at any auction held by the Secretary in the preceding 2 years;

“(C) the volume-weighted average cost among helium refiners, producers, and liquefiers, in dollars per thousand cubic feet, of converting gaseous crude helium into bulk liquid helium;

“(D) the additional layer of cost and profit associated with the sale or resale of bulk liquid helium; and

“(E) the sale price for crude helium offered in the most recent auction under paragraph (2)(G).

“(5) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) require all persons that are parties to a contract with the Secretary for the acceptance, storage, and redelivery of crude helium to disclose, on a strictly confidential basis in dollars per thousand cubic feet, the weighted average price of all crude helium and bulk liquid helium purchased, sold, or processed by the persons in all qualifying domestic helium transactions during the fiscal year;

“(B) appoint a qualified independent third party to perform data collection and analysis for the purposes of the survey under paragraph (4)(A); and

“(C) adopt such administrative policies and procedures as the Secretary considers necessary and reasonable to ensure robust protection of the confidentiality of data submitted by private persons.

“(6) CHANGES IN MINIMUM PRICE.—If the Secretary believes that the minimum price as determined by the survey under paragraph (4)(A) may not be reflective of the current market value of helium, or if a higher minimum price may result in greater conservation of the Federal crude helium resource, the Secretary may change the minimum price charged for crude helium sold under this section by up to 10 percent of the price determined under paragraph (4). If at any sale in which the minimum price is increased under this paragraph all crude helium offered is sold at the increased price, the Secretary shall consider that increased price to be the minimum price determined under paragraph (4) for all future sales of crude helium under this section unless that price is further changed in accordance with this paragraph.

“(7) ENSURING FAIR AND NONDISCRIMINATORY ACTS AND PRACTICES.—The Secretary may issue such rules and regulations with respect to ensure bidding, transfer, and refining of helium produced from or held in the Federal Helium Reserve as may be necessary to ensure fair and nondiscriminatory acts and practices.

“(8) AUCTION RECORDS.—

“(A) FURNISHING RECORDS.—Every person participating in auctions of helium from the Federal Helium Reserve shall furnish to the Secretary on request such records of transactions in helium auctions as the Secretary may require to reconstruct bidding or trading in the course of a particular inquiry or investigation being conducted by the Secretary for enforcement or surveillance purposes. In requiring information pursuant to this paragraph, the Secretary shall specify the information required, the period for which it is required, and the time and date on which the information must be furnished.

“(B) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may issue rules to require persons participating in helium auctions to file such reports as the Secretary determines to be necessary for purposes of this Act.

“(C) RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS.—Rules under this subsection may require specified persons to make and keep for prescribed periods such records as the Secretary determines are necessary or appropriate to ensure that such persons can comply with reporting requirements under this subsection.

“(D) LIMITATION ON DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-

sion of law, the Secretary shall not be compelled to disclose any proprietary information required to be kept or reported under this subsection. Nothing in this subsection authorizes the Secretary to withhold information from Congress, prevents the Secretary from complying with a request for information from any other Federal department or agency requesting information for purposes within the scope of its jurisdiction, or prevents the Secretary from complying with an order of a court of the United States in an action brought by the United States or by the Secretary.

“(e) HELIUM PRODUCTION FUND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—All amounts received under this Act shall be credited to the Helium Production Fund, which shall be available without fiscal year limitation for purposes considered necessary by the Secretary to carry out this subsection.

“(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Amounts in the Helium Production Fund may be used by the Secretary to conduct helium auctions and otherwise administer this Act.

“(3) REPAYMENT AMOUNTS.—During the period described in subsection (a)(4), amounts in the Helium Production Fund in excess of amounts the Secretary considers necessary to conduct helium auctions and otherwise administer this Act shall be paid to the general fund of the Treasury and credited against all amounts required to be repaid to the United States under this Act as of October 1, 1995.

“(4) CAPITAL INVESTMENTS AND MAINTENANCE.—Amounts in the Helium Production Fund in excess of amounts the Secretary considers necessary to carry out paragraphs (1) through (3) may be used to fund the following capital investments in upgrades and maintenance at the Federal Helium reserve:

“(A) Wellhead maintenance at the Cliffside Gas Field helium storage reservoir.

“(B) Capital investments in maintenance and upgrades of facilities that pressurize the Cliffside Gas Field helium storage reservoir.

“(C) Capital investments in maintenance and upgrades of equipment related to the storage, withdrawal, transportation, purification, and sale of crude helium at the Cliffside Gas Field helium storage reservoir.

“(D) Any other scheduled or unscheduled maintenance of the Cliffside Gas Field helium storage reservoir and helium pipeline.

“(5) EXCESS FUNDS.—Amounts in the Helium Production Fund in excess of amounts the Secretary considers necessary to carry out paragraphs (1) through (4) shall be paid to the general fund of the Treasury.

“(f) EXTRACTION OF HELIUM FROM DEPOSITS ON FEDERAL LAND.—All amounts received by the Secretary from the sale or disposition of crude helium on Federal land shall be paid to the general fund of the Treasury and credited against all amounts required to be repaid to the United States under this Act as of October 1, 1995.

“(g) MAINTENANCE OF HELIUM SUPPLY.—The Secretary shall ensure that there is no disruption in the supply of helium from the Federal Helium Reserve during the transition between phases of helium sales under subsections (a), (b), and (c).”

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing all expenditures by the Bureau of Land Management for operation and maintenance of the Federal Helium Reserve (as that term is defined in the amendment made by section 2(3)), investments made by the Bureau for such reserve, and scheduled or unscheduled maintenance of such reserve or its infrastructure to be conducted by the Bureau.

SEC. 4. BLM TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS TO FACILITATE MARKET AND SUPPLY CHAIN INFORMATION.

The Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167 et seq.) is further amended by redesignating sections 15 and 17 as sections 17 and 18, and by inserting after section 14 the following:

“SEC. 15. PIPELINE ACCESS.

“(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, shall make available on the Internet the current refining capacity on the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline, including—

“(1) refinery capacity and future capacity estimates;

“(2) ownership of federally auctioned helium held in the Federal Helium Reserve;

“(3) volume of helium delivered to individual buyers through such pipeline;

“(4) for each helium refiner—

“(A) the number of tolling agreements entered into before October 1, 2013; and

“(B) for each fiscal year thereafter—

“(i) the number of tolling agreements entered into;

“(ii) the number of tolling requests received; and

“(iii) the total volume of helium refined under each tolling agreement entered into;

“(5) pipeline pressure constraints; and

“(6) other factors that will increase transparency for persons interested in entering refining contracts with existing refiners.

“(b) NEW REFINING CAPACITY.—The Secretary shall take any applications for new refining capacity on the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline. To create more competition, any new refining capacity added to the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline system shall be granted access to crude helium that is equal to the access provided to existing refining facilities.

“(c) ACCESS BY PURCHASERS OF HELIUM.—The Secretary shall manage Federal Helium Reserve pipeline access in a competitive manner to ensure that all persons purchasing helium have equal access to timing and delivery of the helium, subject to the capacity of the system.

“(d) SCHEDULING DELIVERIES.—The Secretary shall, to the greatest extent practicable, make the scheduling of crude helium deliveries through the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline open and transparent to all purchasers of helium through the auction process, and to the public if the Secretary believes that it is in the national interest.

“(e) SCHEDULING PRIORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In scheduling crude helium deliveries through the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline the Secretary shall grant pipeline access in the following order of priority:

“(A) Helium held in the Reserve as a result of a purchase under subsection (b)(2).

“(B) Helium sold at auction being delivered to fulfill a tolling agreement.

“(C) Other helium sold at auction.

“(D) Helium held in the Reserve as a result of a crude helium exchange resulting from any temporary shutdown of the Reserve or of a refinery on the Reserve pipeline.

“(E) Helium held in inventory in the Reserve before the date of enactment of the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act.

“(2) In scheduling such deliveries of helium described in each of subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall grant pipeline access based on the following order of priority:

“(A) The price paid to the United States for the helium, giving higher priority to helium for which a greater price was paid.

“(B) The date the helium was purchased from the Secretary, giving higher priority to helium purchased on an earlier date.

“(C) Any other factor the Secretary considers appropriate to prioritize delivery.

“SEC. 16. BLM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO FACILITATE SUPPLY CHAIN INFORMATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to provide the market with appropriate and timely information affecting the helium resource, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management shall establish, no later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act, a real-time reporting process, including reporting over the Internet, to provide data that will affect the helium industry, including such effects for all persons in such industry from crude helium suppliers to end users.

“(b) INCLUDED INFORMATION.—Information provided under this section shall include the following:

“(1) Annual maintenance schedules and quarterly updates thereof, which shall be available on the Internet, to the extent practicable, and shall include the following:

“(A) The date and duration of planned shutdowns of the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline.

“(B) The nature of work to be undertaken, whether routine, extended, or extraordinary.

“(C) The anticipated impact on the helium supply.

“(D) The efforts to minimize any impact on the supply chain.

“(E) Any concerns regarding maintenance of the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline, pressure of such pipeline, or deviation from normal operation of such pipeline.

“(2) For each unplanned outage, the following:

“(A) The beginning of the outage.

“(B) The expected duration of outage.

“(C) A description of the problem.

“(D) The estimated impact on helium supply.

“(E) A plan to correct problems, an estimate of the potential timeframe for correction, and the likelihood of plan success within the timeframe.

“(F) Efforts to minimize negative impacts on the helium supply chain.

“(G) Updates on repair status and the anticipated online date.

“(3) Minutes of meetings between the Bureau of Land Management and the Cliffside Refiners Limited Partnership, including—

“(A) publication of the minutes of each meeting between the Bureau of Land Management and the Cliffside Refiners Limited Partnership, including attendees and their affiliations, on the Internet site of the Bureau within 1 week after the meeting; and

“(B) indication in the minutes of any action taken that could affect the supply or operating status related to the Federal helium program.

“(4) Current predictions of the lifespan of the Federal Helium Reserve, including how much longer such crude helium supply will be available based on current and forecasted demand and the projected maximum production capacity of the Federal Helium Reserve for the following fiscal year.”

SEC. 5. HELIUM RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND HELIUM-3 SEPARATION.

(a) HELIUM GAS RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) in coordination with appropriate heads of State geological surveys—

(A) complete a national helium gas assessment that identifies and quantifies the quantity of helium, including the isotope helium-3, in each reservoir, including assessments of the constituent gases found in each helium resource, such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and natural gas; and

(B) make available the modern seismic and geophysical log data for characterization of the Bush Dome Reservoir;

(2) in coordination with appropriate international agencies and the global geology community, complete a global helium gas assessment that identifies and quantifies the quantity of the helium, including the isotope helium-3, in each reservoir;

(3) in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, complete—

(A) an assessment of trends in global demand for helium, including the isotope helium-3;

(B) a 10-year forecast of domestic demand for helium across all sectors, including scientific and medical research, commercial, manufacturing, space technologies, cryogenics, and national defense; and

(C) an inventory of medical, research, scientific, industrial, commercial, and other uses of helium in the United States, including Federal and commercial helium uses, that identifies the nature of the helium use, the amounts required, the technical and commercial viability of helium recapture and recycling in that use, and the availability of material substitutes wherever possible; and

(4) submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing the results of the assessments required under this subsection.

(b) HELIUM-3 SEPARATION.—

(1) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall cooperate with the Secretary of Energy, or a designee of the Secretary of Energy, on any assessment or research relating to the extraction and refining of the isotope helium-3 from crude helium at the Federal Helium Reserve (as that term is defined in the amendments made by section 2) or along the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline system, including—

(A) gas analysis;

(B) infrastructure studies; and

(C) cooperation with private helium refiners.

(2) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall assess the feasibility of establishing a facility to separate the isotope helium-3 from crude helium at—

(A) the Federal Helium Reserve; or

(B) an existing helium separation or purification facility connected to the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline system.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that contains a description of the results of the assessments conducted under this subsection.

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 113-47. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. COLLINS OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 113-47.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 18, line 14, after “FUNDS” insert “AND DEFICIT REDUCTION”.

Page 18, line 18, before the period insert “and used to reduce the annual Federal budget deficit”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 178, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

□ 1020

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I offer this amendment to ensure that any excess funds as a result of this bipartisan bill are used to reduce the annual Federal budget deficit.

I am pleased that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have proposed a commonsense bill that speaks to the heart of the free-market system.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates, as a result of this bill, \$340 million will be returned to the Federal Government. This amendment ensures that every penny of savings will go toward deficit reduction, furthering the goal of this House to create jobs and encourage economic growth.

This body has made significant strides in putting our country back on a path to fiscal prosperity. Passing a budget that will seek to balance in 10 years is no small achievement, but there is still more that we can do. This bill is just one example of savings that we can achieve by allowing innovation and private industry to do what it does best.

The underlying bill completes the privatization of the Federal Helium Reserve in a competitive market fashion, respecting hard-earned taxpayer dollars while ensuring the stability of the helium market. As we have seen in the current helium market, innovation thrives when government gets out of the way of private industry.

By applying free-market principles, this bill will spur cutting-edge research, development, and production of helium while bringing transparency and responsibility to how taxpayers' dollars are spent.

In my home State of Georgia, this legislation draws broad support from job creators such as GE Energy, IBM, Kodak, Philips, Siemens, and Texas Instruments.

I thank the gentleman from Washington and the gentleman from Massachusetts for their leadership on this issue. This legislation is a perfect example of how good policy knows no party line.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for bringing this amendment to the floor, and I intend to support it. With our fiscal situation in this country, this is a good addition to the amendment; and I thank the gentleman for bringing it forward.

Mr. HOLT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. I appreciate the gentleman's amendment, which reiterates language that is in the underlying bill, and we have no objection to it on the minority side. I applaud the gentleman for bringing it forward.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chair, at this point, I'm pleased to yield 2 minutes to my friend from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT), the cosponsor of this amendment.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman from Georgia for allowing me a few minutes to speak on this issue.

I rise today in support of the Collins-Scott amendment, which requires that any funds received from the sale of helium will be used to pay down our country's debt.

I'm sure many of my colleagues would agree when I say our country's deficit is one of the top problems that we face. In fact, if we continue on this path, by the time my 13-year-old son is a freshman in college, this country will be paying more interest on the debt than we spend on national defense.

I understand this problem cannot be solved with one swift move; however, if we are not able to make reasonable changes to policies and allow additional revenue to reduce our debt, our children and grandchildren will not be given the chance to continue this country's greatness.

Due to the importance of protecting our children and grandchildren, we should support this amendment. It puts us one step closer to addressing our country's biggest problem. For this reason, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. This is a commonsense amendment that will only enhance the benefits achieved by the underlying bill and by ensuring we privatize deficit reduction and effectively utilize the savings the bill creates.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any Member wish to claim 5 minutes in opposition?

Seeing none, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. DENT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 113-47.

Mr. DENT. I seek to offer an amendment and address the House.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 19, after line 17, insert the following:
(C) EXISTING CONTRACTS NOT AFFECTED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to affect any covered contract between the Bureau of Land Management and any person that owns—

(A) helium stored in the Federal Helium Reserve (as that term is used in those amendments); or

(B) a helium enrichment unit that is part of the Federal Helium Reserve.

(2) COVERED CONTRACT.—In this subsection the term "covered contract" means a contract relating to the operation of the Federal Helium Reserve, that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 178, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, our amendment, the Dent-Higgins-Esty amendment, ensures the continued supply of helium for end users while requiring the BLM, Bureau of Land Management, to honor existing contracts for the supply and delivery of this vital resource. Most importantly, the amendment protects American manufacturers who use helium from the uncertainty of a disrupted helium supply. It's absolutely essential.

Some of my colleagues have repeatedly stated that helium has been given away by BLM at rock-bottom prices to "a monopoly of refiners." Respectfully, the current price structure says otherwise.

Since BLM began selling off helium under this program, during most years far less than all the helium available to be purchased was purchased. In fact, during some years, no helium was purchased at all.

If the price were really so low, wouldn't all the available helium have been purchased? Instead, the BLM price set for the purchase of crude helium has been higher than the crude price for helium purchased elsewhere in the United States. Further, there is absolutely no bar to the taxpayer getting much more revenue from helium sales today. BLM can impose higher prices for helium right now. In fact, over the past 3 years, BLM has raised its prices by 30 percent.

When the Congress in 1996 decided to privatize helium in the BLM reserve, a few companies stepped up and spent tens of millions of dollars to build a helium enrichment unit, which the BLM operates, a highly unusual public-private partnership. If there are only a few companies who refine helium out of the BLM reserve today, it is because they, and not their competitors, chose to make investments that have benefited our Nation's manufacturers and society generally.

Our amendment does not seek to preserve a so-called "monopoly" over our Federal helium supply. Instead, our amendment seeks to uphold these existing contract and property rights while ensuring a continued supply of

helium for domestic manufacturers. In fact, many welders, the Welders Association, Welders Distributors Association, strongly support this amendment because they are deeply concerned. I'm just going to quickly read what they said. They are deeply concerned about "the effect of the remedies fashioned in H.R. 527 on the stability of the existing market for helium particularly as they affect the ability to meet contractual obligations for product supply."

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment.

While it is being sold as an attempt to protect contract and property rights, it does none of these things because there are no rights that are violated by this bill.

What the amendment actually does is undermine the free-market competition that is embodied in H.R. 527 that will ensure a fair return to taxpayers on the Federal helium that is in the repository.

This amendment seeks to guarantee a special carve-out for primarily three companies and thus block competition. For over a decade, these three companies have profited from helium handouts at low market prices that were granted to them by BLM. All of that ends, Mr. Chairman, in October of this year. These handouts end because the contracts say that when the money is paid back that the Federal Government has invested, these contracts end.

So this amendment does not protect existing valid contracts because they expire in October. What the amendment actually would do is revise the expiring special handouts of these three companies. The amendment would shut down competition from other bidders who may be willing to bid for a higher price of the helium.

I have a letter from three companies who jointly express strong opposition because it would prevent them in the future from bidding on this helium. And to be clear, there are no helium distributors or manufacturers of helium who are advocating for this amendment. It is just the three refiners.

To repeat, H.R. 527 does not alter or end existing contracts. In the actual clauses of these contracts, it specifically stated that the contracts are contingent upon BLM continuing to have authorization to run the reserves. That ends in October.

BLM has been selling helium at below-market prices, and I'll point that out later. But what this amendment really attempts to do is to end what should not be done.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. At this time, I would like to yield 1 minute to my colleague from New York (Mr. HIGGINS).

□ 1030

Mr. HIGGINS. I thank my friend and colleague for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Congressman CHARLIE DENT and Congresswoman ESTY for working together on this bipartisan amendment. Our amendment would ensure that the Bureau of Land Management implements free market reforms while respecting its contractual obligations. High-tech manufacturing, MRIs, nuclear power reactors, and a host of critical national defense applications require helium.

Congress asked American companies to partner with the Federal Government to build the infrastructure needed to extract, store, and refine and bring to market this valuable domestic resource. Now that the infrastructure is built out, this legislation seeks to break our contracts with those partners. This is unfair and unnecessary.

Our amendment simply affirms that the Bureau of Land Management will honor its existing contracts that are set forth to expire over the next couple of years. I urge a "yes" vote on this bipartisan amendment to demonstrate that we can reform our helium policy in a way that respects the agreements and contracts we've made.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), a cosponsor of H.R. 527.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman of the committee again for bringing forward this bipartisan legislation, and I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

The Federal Helium Reserve is in rapid decline. It is being exhausted. At the current drawdown rate, in 5 or 6 or 7 years the helium in the reserve will be largely depleted.

The amendment by Mr. DENT seeks to run out the clock on this legislation to allow the existing regime to stand and prevent the reforms that H.R. 527 would bring forward. H.R. 527 does not alter or end the contracts that the refiners have with the Bureau of Land Management, but if we do nothing and allow the gentleman's amendment to go forward, under existing law and terms of those contracts, the entire helium program would come to an end in October of 2013—this year.

The amendment would delay the implementation of the reforms in the bill until 2018 at which time it is likely there would be little helium left to distribute to anyone, to the hospitals and the doctors who need it, to the electronics manufacturers who need it, to the scientists and researchers who need it. This amendment would gut the bipartisan reforms of the bill, and it should be defeated.

Although the gentleman claims he wants to prevent disruption in the supply, by preventing this legislation, he

would in fact do just that. He would create disruptions in the supply.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment to H.R. 527, the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act. I would like to thank Representative DENT and Representative HIGGINS for working together on this bipartisan amendment.

Our amendment is rather straightforward. It is about fairness and honoring contracts. At a time in our Nation's history when we are examining public-private partnerships to rebuild our infrastructure and create jobs, what kind of signal would we be sending to the private sector? What kind of certainty are we providing to the private sector that even if you have a valid contract that expires in 2015, the Federal Government will throw it out and change the rules?

We can pass a bill to prevent a global helium shortage by allowing the remainder of the helium from the reserve to be sold, but we should not ignore the contracts that BLM has already signed. I urge a "yes" vote on this bipartisan amendment.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 45 seconds remaining. The gentleman from Washington has 1¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Do I have the right to close?

The Acting CHAIR. Yes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I just want to quickly address a few of the issues.

My friend, Mr. HOLT, said that these reservoirs will be depleted. I agree. The issue is who's going to invest in an enrichment and refining facility at a reservoir that's going to be depleted in 5 years. Nobody's going to make that investment. That's really what's at issue here.

The prices of helium have gone up. BLM can charge more. Our amendment is about respecting preexisting contracts and about protecting property rights while ensuring continued supply of helium to American manufacturers.

Without this amendment, there will be a real disruption of supply for helium because they won't be contractually able to release that helium. They will be under no obligation to release it, so I think that is the greatest threat. This amendment protects the helium supply. As has been mentioned, MRIs, computer chips, and fiber optics all need this. American manufacturing needs this. Support this amendment. Vote for a helium supply. And again, vote to support our welders.

I yield back the balance of my time.

GASES AND WELDING
DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION,
Doral, FL, April 25, 2013.

Hon. CHARLIE DENT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. DENT: The Gases and Welding Distributors Association ("GAWDA") offers

its support to your proposed amendment to H.R. 527, legislation to reauthorize the sale of the Federal Helium Reserve.

GAWDA is a national trade association representing the interests of some 500 companies that distribute compressed and liquefied gases and related welding equipment, and includes some 300 additional companies that supply products or services to the gases and welding industry. GAWDA distributor members sell a variety of products, including helium, oxygen, argon, nitrogen and carbon dioxide, as well as specialty gases and mixtures, to customers involved in manufacturing, construction, welding, research, health care, and biomedical engineering.

Most GAWDA members are small businesses. Approximately 85 percent of GAWDA distributors have less than \$10 million in annual gross revenue, so they have limited leverage in negotiating supply agreements for products. In the vast majority of cases, GAWDA distributors will contract exclusively with a single manufacturer (or in the case of helium, a refiner) for a comprehensive menu of gas products. The contract generally will provide all of the distributor's needs for all of those gases.

In addition, the distributor will generally contract with its customers in an exclusive "requirements" arrangement to supply all of the customer's needs for a variety of gases as well. A small distributor might have a couple of dozen contracts to supply helium and other gases to customers, while a large distributor might have several hundred or more of these requirements contracts.

The GAWDA distributor will typically purchase bulk helium in gaseous form from a refiner; the distributor will then repackage the helium into compressed gas cylinders and deliver them to customers for their use.

GAWDA distributors are concerned, however, about the effect of the remedies fashioned in H.R. 527 on the stability of the existing market for helium, particularly as they affect the ability to meet contractual obligations for product supply.

A periodic auction mechanism would set up a spot market for helium. If an established refiner is not able to secure all of the crude helium that it requires to meet the supply obligations set out in its contracts, then some distributor customers will receive less than their contractual allotments of helium, or perhaps none at all. The distributor will be forced to seek other sources of supply, presumably only if a force majeure clause in the agreement allows the distributor to obtain replacement product from another supplier.

In turn, if the distributor defaults, the distributor's customers might be forced to seek alternative supplies of helium for at least part of their needs for that period, and to pay above market prices to the winning auction bidder(s) to ensure a continuous supply of product. This also raises questions of the effect on the contractual obligations to sell and purchase the other gases in the contracts.

This same scenario will play out each time an auction is held, several times a year. Refiners, distributors and end users will not know which parties will have adequate supplies of helium to meet existing contractual demands. This will generate legal questions about contract default, partial product allocations, mitigation of damages, and obligations to cure, as well as commercial questions about which parties may be able to meet supply obligations on a consistent basis. The distributor will have to resolve these issues with each customer for that auction period; when another auction takes place, and different sales volumes of helium are awarded by BLM to new bidders, the distributors will have to go through the same

legal and commercial exercise to ensure that each of their customers will receive enough product to meet its requirements.

An unreliable product stream for helium will make it difficult for any distributor to entertain long-term, exclusive supply arrangements with customers that foster stable commercial relations and support economic growth.

Your amendment would protect those existing agreements between the Bureau of Land Management and refiners for a sufficient period to allow refiners and distributors to develop alternative arrangements and to access new supplies of crude helium. That approach will help to ensure a reliable supply of this critical product to all end users.

Thank you for your assistance with this issue.

Best Regards,

RICHARD P. SCHWEITZER,
General Counsel.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself the balance of my time.

The assertion is made that this violates contracts. I want to be very specific: current law says that when the debt is paid back, the contracts that are entered into expire. Therefore, we are not violating any contracts because on October 1 that will happen.

Secondly, the pricing mechanism. I pointed out in opening remarks that the three refiners are the ones that are benefiting, and this chart shows how. This is what they are paying, the blue line. That's the bottom line. The red line is the market price. The yellow in between is what the refiners are accruing as far as profits are concerned. We're simply saying the market ought to dictate who gets that benefit, and that's precisely what H.R. 527 does. So this amendment simply prolongs the yellow, if you will, on this chart longer, and only three companies benefit by that. I don't think that's good for the taxpayers because the taxpayers are the ones that are failing or getting the low end of the deal with that yellow line.

So while I understand where the gentleman is coming from, and I respect him for bringing this issue to the floor—it is good to have a debate on it—no contracts are violated under current law. I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 113-47.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 27, strike “and” at line 6, and after line 6 insert the following (and redesignate the subsequent paragraph accordingly):

(4) complete an assessment of options for ensuring a domestic helium supply in the future, including—

(A) an analysis of how the Federal Helium Reserve has influenced domestic and global helium supply and prices historically; and

(B) an assessment of options for how the Federal Helium Reserve could promote the long term availability and security of domestic helium supplies; and

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 178, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment is quite simple. It would expand the study section of the act to provide an assessment of how the eventual closure of the Federal Helium Reserve would influence the availability of this critical resource in the future.

Let me take just a moment to say a little bit about why this is important. Helium is the second-lightest gas in existence. It remains liquid down to absolute zero. It is chemically very inert. It is hardly soluble in water or other fluids. It can be made into a quantum superfluid that flows without any viscous resistance at all. These are unique properties that make helium invaluable, necessary, irreplaceable for uses in magnetic resonance imaging in doctors' offices and hospitals, for fabricating electronic devices, for all sorts of research, whether it be in quantum computing or superfluids in any number of other areas.

Why is this a policy issue worthy of the consideration of the U.S. Congress? Well, because this invaluable, irreplaceable element is very rare on Earth. It is in fact the second most common element in the universe, but it has long since risen up through the atmosphere of the Earth and vanished into space. And small amounts of helium are created moment by moment deep in the Earth through radioactive decay caught in natural gas reserves, along with methane and the other things that we call natural gas. But it is rare, and it is difficult to separate, and yet we need it.

Farsighted legislators three-quarters of a century ago began stockpiling helium. They thought it would be used for dirigibles and blimps. They weren't sure what else it would be used for, but they understood helium had some very special properties.

□ 1040

It was a good investment for taxpayers. It was a very good investment for taxpayers that this stockpile was created.

Now the stockpile is running low because of decisions by Congress in past

years. It's important that, as we make the decisions and the changes that we make with this legislation, we not fail to recognize possible future uses, possible future demands, and possible failure of the market to provide an adequate supply of helium to meet those demands.

I know there is an ideology that's prevalent around here for any commodity, for any human need, that the market will provide. In fact, it doesn't always. And in this case, in the helium over the decades, it would not have, had it not been for the Federal Reserve. So it is important that we stop and take a look at the implications for the future.

And so my amendment would simply expand the study section that already exists in this legislation to make sure that we look at possible future uses, likely future supplies, and making sure that we are prepared to have an adequate supply of this valuable resource into the future. It should be a non-controversial amendment. I hope it will be unopposed, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I want to start by saying that the development of this legislation has truly been a bipartisan effort. I want to thank my colleague from New Jersey, who has been a leader in helping us bring this legislation to the floor.

One of the main goals of H.R. 527 is to stop the imminent shutdown of the Federal helium program this October by establishing a new program to complete the privatization of the helium reserve. However, this action remains only a Band-Aid to our long-term helium supply.

Helium, like many other resources, is something that requires significant investment and development to bring to market. While this bill will keep the helium flowing from the reserve, the future of the reserve is limited to only a handful of years. So the gentleman's amendment is really a question of what do we do next, and that's a good question.

The idea that, when the reserve closes, America could be left at the mercy of Qatar or Russia for securing our domestic helium is not a prospect that we relish any more than being dependent on China for rare Earth materials. And yet no one thinks that the solution is for the government to jump back into the helium business. Instead, we need to continue our focus on this issue to prevent resource scarcity that could threaten our manufacturing and national security.

While I understand there have been some initial conversations, I want to make it clear that this is not the last time that the committee will focus on the issue of helium. It is my intention that the committee examine other areas where we may be able to expand helium supply or promote additional steps for conservation.

The report directed to be developed in this bill will help guide our effort forward, and the gentleman's amendment will add additional important questions to help provide us a path forward. But it is up to us to act and continue to focus on what is a critical national security and economic security concern: a secure, stable supply of helium.

So I look forward to continuing to work with the gentleman from New Jersey as we seek these solutions, and I think his amendment adds to that prospect.

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR.
THORNBERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 113–47.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I offer the amendment made in order under the rule.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

**SEC. ____ . ADDITIONAL CONNECTIONS TO THE
FEDERAL HELIUM RESERVE.**

The Secretary of the Interior may allow any person not connected to the Federal Helium Reserve, as that term is defined under section 2 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167), as amended by this Act, to connect to the Federal Helium Reserve for the purpose of storing helium, subject to such storage fees as may be required by the Secretary. Withdrawal of such helium shall be governed by that Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 178, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, let me first commend and express my appreciation to Chairman HASTINGS and Mr. HOLT and others who have worked on this legislation. Indeed, we have come a long way from the days when helium was essentially a government-run monopoly to this legislation, which helps bring in more market forces, more competition, more free enterprise, and, I think, will help move toward developing more supplies of helium in the future, as was just discussed on the last amendment.

It is in exactly that spirit that I offer this amendment which seeks to affirm

the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to allow others who are not currently connected to the helium repository to connect to it and to store their helium there, assuming, of course, they've got to pay their own way. So whatever costs are incurred with allowing others to connect and to store, those costs have to be met by the individuals, not by the taxpayer.

But by doing that, I think we do at least take a step towards encouraging more helium supplies to be developed. And the side benefit is, as these other helium supplies are stored in the repository, that helps keep the pressure up in the dome so that, ultimately, more helium, government helium and private helium, can be extracted.

So I think this is perfectly in keeping with the theme of the bill. It moves in the right direction to encourage the expansion of more helium supplies, and I hope that the Members will consider it favorably.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. THORNBERRY. I yield to the chairman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for bringing this amendment to the floor. He made the observation in his debate that this is something that we were talking about in the previous debate, because we're going to have to have more helium; and market forces, I believe, are one way to do that, and I think his amendment addresses that.

I support the amendment.

Mr. THORNBERRY. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HOLT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. THORNBERRY. I will be happy to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. I thank my friend from Texas, and I think the gentleman's amendment is a good one. It will clarify that producers of helium may connect to the Federal helium reserve to store helium. And by seeking to provide incentives for additional production and storage, I think his amendment will provide a public service.

I think, as the gentleman has said, we should examine ways that we can use the reserve to maximize the American supply of helium in the decades ahead. So I support him in this, and I urge all of my colleagues to do so.

Mr. THORNBERRY. I thank both gentlemen, Mr. Chairman.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENT) having assumed the chair, Mr. HULTGREN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Com-

mittee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 527) to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE**

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2013.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Under clause 2(g) of Rule II of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I herewith designate Robert Reeves, Deputy Clerk, to sign any and all papers and do all other acts for me under the name of the Clerk of the House that he would be authorized to do by virtue of this designation, except such as are provided by statute, in case of my temporary absence or disability.

This designation shall remain in effect for the 113th Congress or until modified by me. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

**REDUCING FLIGHT DELAYS ACT
OF 2013**

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1765) to provide the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer certain funds to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1765

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 "Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER CERTAIN FUNDS TO PREVENT REDUCED OPERATIONS AND STAFFING OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding division G of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113–6), any other provision of law, or a sequestration order issued or to be issued by the President pursuant to section 251A(7)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a(7)(A)), the Secretary of Transportation may transfer during fiscal year 2013 an amount equal to the amount specified in subsection (c) to the appropriations account providing for the operations of the Federal Aviation Administration, for any activity or activities funded by that account, from—

(1) the amount made available for obligation in that fiscal year as discretionary grants-in-aid for airports pursuant to section 47117(f) of title 49, United States Code; or

(2) any other program or account of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(b) AVAILABILITY AND OBLIGATION OF TRANSFERRED AMOUNTS.—An amount transferred under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) be available immediately for obligation and expenditure as directly appropriated budget authority; and

(2) be deemed as obligated for grants-in-aid for airports under part B of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, for purposes of complying with the limitation on incurring obligations during that fiscal year under the heading “GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORTS” under title I of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (division C of Public Law 112-55; 125 Stat. 647), and made applicable to fiscal year 2013 by division F of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6).

(c) AMOUNT SPECIFIED.—The amount specified in this subsection is the amount, not to exceed \$253,000,000, that the Secretary of Transportation determines to be necessary to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration during fiscal year 2013 to ensure a safe and efficient air transportation system; and provided that none of the funds transferred under this subsection may be obligated unless the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least 5 days in advance of such transfer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the consideration of H.R. 1765.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I come today with H.R. 1765, a bill to provide up to \$253 million from the Airport Improvement Program—or any other account in the FAA—to the Operations Account. The purpose of this transfer authority is to restore reliable and safe service in the commercial air traffic system by reducing or eliminating employee furlough days.

I think we all agree the FAA and the administration has handled the sequester poorly. The FAA has negotiated in bad faith with the FAA employees, the airlines, the flying public, and the Congress. And the administration has played shameful politics with sequestration at the cost to hardworking American families. As I have often said, this is simply no way to run a government.

But the Congress is stepping in to correct the problems created by the administration's inaction. We're taking this step because of the gross mismanagement of this important func-

tion for the safety of all Americans who fly and on behalf of the commerce that depends on a reliable air system. We are taking this action to end the administration's political games that threaten our passenger rights and safety.

The fact that we're here today trying to solve this problem is as a result of the sequester. I remind you that the President brought the sequester to the table. And in an effort to avoid the arbitrary \$1.2 trillion of cuts mandated by the Budget Control Act, twice the majority in this House has passed commonsense legislation that would have replaced the sequestration with targeted spending cuts of an equal dollar amount.

□ 1100

Unfortunately, the Senate never considered either of these bills, and thus the sequestration was triggered.

Further, this situation goes to show that we need to return to regular order and consider appropriation bills in their entirety and not rely on continuing resolutions to fund the government.

Under a CR, there is no way for us to prioritize cuts or protect programs related to the safety of the American public. It also goes to show that we must have a long-term, comprehensive solution to our budget challenges, one that solves the sequester and provides sustainability and stability in the Federal budget.

Mr. Speaker, I put the administration, the Secretary, and the agency on alert that we are watching. We have questions, and we want answers about how you're using these funds and how you're going to be managing the rest of our Department. Like I said at the FAA hearing this last Wednesday, the safety of our air space cannot be subjected to political posturing.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I will tell my dear friend, Chairman LATHAM, that we agree on one thing, and this is the notion that this is not a good way to run a government. But I have to remind him and remind all my colleagues that about 1½ years ago we were in this House, in this Chamber, talking about the budget—the Budget Control Act, as I remember. So about 1½ years ago we had a vote.

I did not support the legislation because I felt that sequestration was a bad idea; but the House passed the bill, the Senate passed the bill, and the President signed it. So, for me, it's very difficult to lay blame on any one party because this was done in a bipartisan manner. It is very difficult for me to lay blame on one Chamber because both Chambers passed the bill. And it's

very difficult for me to blame the administration for signing it because this was an action taken in the House, the Senate, and signed by the President. I thought it was a bad idea, but the majority felt it was a better idea, and they went forward.

Now, I have to tell you that Administrator Huerta was before our subcommittee this week. He detailed the cuts that he had to make based on the rules and regulations of the various laws that deal with sequestration. That is why 149 contract towers were recommended to be shut—but they remained open because of a lawsuit—and that is why we had to furlough the FAA air traffic controllers.

In his testimony, Administrator Huerta reminded us that in February of this year a letter was sent by Secretary LaHood to the leadership, including me and Chairman LATHAM, that the sequestration was going to cause problems in the efficiency of the air traffic control system because there would be a furlough of air traffic controllers in order to meet the cuts that were required by sequestration. That was done in February.

In March, when sequestration was invoked, the FAA had to then implement a plan to see what it had to do to meet the number of cuts it had to make, but not to take away the safety of our air traffic control system, knowing that its efficiency would be diminished. And so today, we are here bringing a fix to this situation. Furloughs have been taken; 10 percent of the employees are furloughed. And that has resulted, to the passengers' inconvenience, in delays or canceled flights.

The problem is—and I agree with my chairman—that this solution is not a good solution because there are other agencies that have to make their cuts and are in a crisis themselves. So, hopefully, when we come back from our district work period, there won't be another agency, another crisis that we have to start shifting money from one account to save another account.

Mr. Speaker, the solution is a comprehensive removal of the sequestration. That will only come about, in my belief and in my opinion, if the House, with its budget, and the Senate, with its budget, will conference and work out the details that it needs to work out to have a comprehensive solution, not just to our budget, but also to sequestration. That needs to be done in order that we're not dealing with issue by issue, crisis by crisis.

So I agree with my chairman that this is not a good way to run a government, but this morning I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Last Sunday, the Federal Aviation Administration began to impose the furloughs that were required as a result of sequestration.

The FAA has had to cut a total of \$637 million from its annual budget; \$485 million of that amount had to be cut from its operations account.

However, the deep cuts required by sequestration still forced the FAA to shut down nearly

150 contract towers and furlough each of the agency's employees for one day a pay period for the remainder of the fiscal year. That meant that every affected employee would lose as much as 11 days of pay.

The FAA operates seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. It should have surprised no one that removing 10 percent of the workforce on any given day was going to have serious impacts on our air traffic control system.

Without a complete workforce on hand, the FAA had to take measures to slow down the efficiency of the air traffic control system in order to ensure that safety of the system was not ever compromised.

Since last Sunday when the furloughs began, there have been nearly 3,500 delayed flights due to staffing reductions. As a result, thousands of passengers have been inconvenienced by long delays or cancelled flights. As my colleagues will recall, Secretary La Hood warned us of these impacts back in February.

The bill before us provides additional flexibility to the Federal Aviation Administration to help avoid the furloughs required by sequestration. Specifically, it takes carryover discretionary funds from the airport grant program and allows those funds to be used for FAA operations.

This bill is drafted as a one-time fix for one year. It does not eliminate a penny of the \$637 million in cuts that the FAA has to make because of sequestration. It simply shifts where the cuts will be taken.

At a time when we need to maintain our infrastructure, we should not make a practice of reducing capital programs to address operational shortfalls.

The bill before us does nothing to address the sequestration cuts that the FAA will have to make in Fiscal Year 2014 and beyond.

We need to find a comprehensive solution to sequestration. The American people deserve better.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Iowa has 17 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Arizona has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON).

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately for this administration, the term "sequestration" has become synonymous with "fear."

I've been extremely disappointed that the FAA chose to close the contract control towers at 149 airports across this country, including my home town of Concord, North Carolina. This airport is the third busiest airport in North Carolina. It was named by the Government Accounting Office as an Airport of National Significance because it is a reliever airport for Charlotte-Douglas, which is the sixth busiest airport in the world.

The decision to close these towers at a savings of \$50 million is hard to understand when you consider the fact that the FAA requested \$15.1 billion for fiscal year 2013 and through sequester it's actually receiving \$15.9 billion—an actual increase over the amount of

money the FAA said they needed to operate. So I can only conclude that their goal here is to try to make sequester cuts as painful as possible for the American people.

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

Mr. LATHAM. I yield the gentleman 30 seconds.

Mr. HUDSON. I thank the gentleman for the time.

I will just conclude by saying I support this bill because it ends the political games by giving the Secretary the flexibility that he needs to keep these contract towers open. So I would encourage the Secretary to do that for the safety and for the economy of our local communities.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in opposition to this piece of legislation.

The Editorial Board of USA Today was scathing yesterday in its assessment of where the blame for this sequester should lie, and I quote:

No Members of Congress should be surprised at the havoc wrought by the sequester. After all, they caused it, and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood repeatedly warned them about its sentences.

But flight delays are just the tip of the iceberg visible above the water line for most Americans. As time goes on without a big, balanced deficit solution to replace the sequester, more of that iceberg will surface. More Americans will be negatively affected.

While I want to end these delays for passengers in Maryland and across the country, I will oppose this bill because it fails to address the whole impact of the sequester.

Let me share just a handful of examples of how the sequester will affect Americans:

Education: Head Start—70,000 children will be kicked out of Head Start. Nothing in this bill deals with them.

□ 1110

Furloughs to cause delays in processing retirement disability claims. Nothing in this bill deals with them.

Nutrition for Vulnerable Populations—4 million fewer Meals on Wheels for seniors; 600,000 people dropped off WIC. Nothing in here for them.

Housing—125,000 fewer HUD rental assistance vouchers. Nothing in here for them.

Unemployment Insurance—emergency unemployment insurance cut 11 percent for 2 million out-of-work Americans. Nothing in here for them.

FDA—2,100 fewer food safety inspections, an 18 percent cut; longer waits to approve new drugs. Nothing in here for them. Nothing in here for them.

Defense and Homeland Security—furloughs equivalent to 1,000 fewer Federal agents, FBI, Border, et cetera, on the job; one-third of combat air units are grounded. Nothing in here for them.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HOYER. IRS—89,000 agency-wide furloughs up to 7 days, including taxpayer-assistance centers. Nothing in here for them. They serve 89,000 taxpayers trying to find help.

We ought not to be mitigating the sequester's effect on just one segment when children, the sick, our military, and many other groups who will be impacted by this irresponsible policy are left unhelped. Instead of dressing this serious wound with a small Band-Aid, let's get to work on a real solution. Let's go to conference, let's get a big deal, let's deal with all the adverse consequences of sequester, not just those that affect the powerful air travelers of America. We ought to help them, but we ought to help everybody else as well.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

It's fascinating that the administration that insisted on the sequestration—

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LATHAM. The gentleman just spoke.

Supported the sequestration. And so now to come and make a statement is quite fascinating.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED).

Mr. REED. I would like to thank the gentleman from Iowa for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the underlying bill.

Before I make my comments, I would just ask my colleague, a good friend of mine from Maryland, we have an opportunity today to send a signal to America that we have a bicameral, a Senate-passed bill, and here in the House we are considering a bill that will address an issue that needs to be addressed on behalf of American citizens. Let us start here on a bipartisan fashion to solve the problems for hard-working taxpayers and worry about D.C. over those concerns of the people back home.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the underlying bill because I have heard from my constituents, in particular, the city of Ithaca in upstate New York, where a contract tower is going to be closed. And what this bill does is it restores that funding on a commonsense basis where that contract tower—my sincere hope and belief—will be preserved and go forward. That will preserve the safety of my air-traveling public out of that airport and also the local economic opportunity that it represents for the city of Ithaca.

I'm proud to stand here today and say, because of bipartisan efforts, we worked together to solve this issue. Let's pass this bill and move forward.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me inform my friend from Iowa that he absolutely misstates my position. I have been against the sequester every year I was on the Appropriations Committee for 23 years, these across-the-board cuts. I opposed your Cut, Cap, and Balance bill, which you supported, which had sequester as the alternative.

The President is against sequester, the Senate budget is against sequester, and you would not allow us to offer an amendment four times, which would have precluded sequester, not only for air travel, but for those Head Start children, for those senior citizens, for basic biomedical research.

So I tell my friend, if you are going to state the facts, state them correctly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, hypocrisy is reaching new heights today in this body. Many of the same Members who said "bring it on" as sequestration loomed, who relished forcing the President to make across-the-board cuts, are now in a rush to apply another Band-Aid to this artificially created crisis.

Speaker BOEHNER said the sequestration bill included 98 percent of what Republicans wanted. But Republicans spurned a budget agreement, valuing their antitax ideology more than defense or any other cuts. As a result, sequestration fell. Now they claim: Oh, it doesn't need to hurt very much. And when the cuts bite, then they say the President must be doing this just to make a political point!

So sequestration apparently wasn't supposed to be about air traffic control? The Read the Bill Caucus needs to read the bill. It was about air traffic control, and today we are going to apply a much needed Band-Aid.

Maybe tomorrow we can have a bill applying to cancer research. Then the next day let's have a bill about cancer treatments. Then the next day let's apply a Band-Aid to Head Start. Then let's have one about tuition assistance to our military personnel. Then let's have one about the Border Patrol. And, by the way, if and when we apply these Band-Aids, we need to realize we're often shifting cuts to equally important areas that aren't in the news at the moment or that don't have powerful lobbies working on their behalf.

My colleagues, I want to address these crises as much as any Member. I want to contain the damage, but damage control is not a budget policy. Sequestration is a self-inflicted wound, unworthy of those who profess to govern. It's hypocritical and misleading, having imposed indiscriminate cuts on the administration, to pretend that the President could fix this problem with a flick of the wrist.

Sequestration is a disaster. It needs to be reversed. It needs to be replaced

by a comprehensive budget plan that includes tax expenditures and entitlements, which after all are the real drivers of the deficit.

Mr. LATHAM. I would now like to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to pass this measure to stop President Obama's needless furlough of air traffic controllers. Further, this legislation empowers the FAA to restore funding to 150 towers operated by private contractors around the country.

The FAA furloughs have received most of the media attention this week, but we shouldn't overlook the role these contractor-operated towers play in our Nation's aviation infrastructure in communities like Texarkana, Arkansas. These airports handle almost 30 percent of all aviation traffic, providing vital relief to some of our most congested airports.

The importance of these towers can't be overstated, which is why earlier this year I introduced legislation with 59 bipartisan cosponsors to restore the funding for these towers. I am confident the FAA will use the authority of this bill not only to end the needless furloughs, but also to restore funding for these essential contractor-operated air traffic control towers.

Again, I want to thank my colleagues for their support for this measure.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, before I yield time, I would like to remind my colleague that this bill passed the House, the Senate, and was signed by the President. That was what brought us sequestration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to our Democratic leader from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This is really a very unusual morning. We are here because of the refusal of the Republicans to come to the table for a conference. What is a conference? A conference is a public open meeting where differences between the House budget bill and the Senate budget bill can be reconciled. It is done with transparency and in full public view. Each side proud of our priorities, we have the American people be the judge of what is their statement of values.

Afraid of that public scrutiny, the Republicans have refused to appoint conferees for a conference—conferees for a conference. We call upon the Speaker to appoint conferees so that we can have that public airing, that transparent view, of something very important.

The Republican leadership has said in the House and the Senate they want the regular order. What is the regular order?

□ 1120

The regular order is the House passes a bill; the Senate passes a bill; you go to conference. Now, afraid that their

views may be rejected by the American people, they don't want to go to conference. That's why we are here this morning for sequestration.

What is sequestration?

Sequestration is a mindless, across-the-board cutting of what we are now recognizing—and the Republicans are recognizing—as something that should not be cut. It affects the efficiency and the safety of our airports. That's very important. Yet, as our distinguished Democratic whip, Mr. HOYER, has pointed out, there is much more that needs to be addressed instead of using this as a vehicle.

One of the distinguished chairmen said earlier that the safety of our airports should not be subject to political debate. Neither should the education of our children, the nutrition for our seniors—4 million Meals on Wheels, tens of thousands of children thrown off Head Start. Our defense—mindless across-the-board cuts in our defense, and what that means for our national security and for the workers in our national security sector—the list goes on and on. Investments in our future—biomedical research, cut by this.

So I suppose, if this is an example of governance, that the Republicans will next come up with something else and will say we should exempt that. Why don't we just get rid of the problem? Why don't we just get rid of the problem and go to conference?

Some of the press said to me, Does this hurt your leverage in going to conference?

I said, No. This is an opportunity because it demonstrates to the American people how unwise this course of action is and how much better it would be to find solutions, to get results in the regular order—respectful of everyone's point of view but recognizing that decisions made here will have an impact, not only in the lives of the children and in the lives of their teachers and in the lives of all consumers, but on our economy as well.

This should be a clarion call. It's almost ludicrous to hear my Republican colleagues get up there and talk about their individual airports. Most of us have airports. We understand what this issue is about.

Why don't you understand that there is a great deal at stake, including the efficiency and the safety of our airports as well as the education of our children?

How can we sit there and say 4 million Meals on Wheels for seniors, gone? But that's not important. Over 70,000 children off Head Start. But that's not important.

What is important is for the Republicans to hold a hard line about the public debate about the budget that a conference would provide. The Members will vote the way they're going to vote on this, but recognize that this is not the way Congress should be meeting the needs of the American people. Let's go to conference.

Mr. Speaker, appoint conferees so we can end this mindless sequestration.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

Mr. LATHAM. I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

Mr. DENT. I do support this legislation.

In our T-HUD subcommittee hearing on Wednesday, FAA Administrator Huerta admitted that he saw no administrative flexibility to help the flying public, so we're giving him that flexibility now with this bill.

The FAA blind-sided the airlines, the airports, the unions, and the flying public by failing to properly notify them specifically about the implementation of the sequester. They only notified them about 1 week ago about the specifics. That's outrageous. That's mismanagement.

This bill fixes the problem at the FAA by keeping air traffic controllers working and the towers operating. This legislation provides the flexibility the FAA needs, and it should have been asked for by the administration. Again, it's a classic case of mismanagement, and I am pleased to support the legislation.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the ranking member of the authorizing committee, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL).

Mr. RAHALL. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

I rise in support of H.R. 1765.

As the flight delays mounted this week due to the furlough and as many Republicans claim that the FAA had the flexibility to avoid this disruption and that politics were at play, gee, that's kind of like calling the kettle black.

Just last month, in March, many of these same Members recognized the across-the-board nature of the sequester when a provision was included in the transportation bill to avoid the furlough of meat inspectors who would otherwise have been furloughed. Nothing has changed in the sequester law since last month. My good friend, Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, is an honorable man, and I take issue with those who have alleged that he is playing politics with the sequester.

Now, to those who have expressed concern over the piecemeal approach in addressing the chilling effects of the sequester, I share your concerns. I share the concerns of others who are being burdened by the sequester, such as a child thrown out of the Head Start or seniors depending on Meals on Wheels.

But let me be clear: the rash of delays that we witnessed this week as the sequester began to take effect is not just an inconvenience to business

or vacation travelers; we are talking about emergency medical services that transport patients with time-sensitive medical emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1765, which I view as an emergency measure to address the effect of the sequester on the integrity of our aviation transportation system.

As the flight delays mounted this week due to the furlough of about 1,500 air traffic controllers a day—40% of the workforce—many Republicans claimed that the FAA had the flexibility to avoid this disruption and that politics were at play.

That is like calling the kettle black.

Just last month, in March, many of these same Members recognized the across-the-board nature of the sequester when a provision was included in the appropriations bill to avoid the furlough of meat inspectors who would otherwise have been furloughed.

Nothing has changed in the sequester law since last month. My good friend, the Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, is an honorable man. I take issue with those who have alleged that he is playing politics with the sequester.

Neither he nor the Administrator of the FAA are guilty of nothing more, and nothing less, than the hand that Congress forced on them.

Now, to those on my side of the aisle, who have expressed concerns over a piecemeal approach to addressing the chilling effects of the sequester, I share your concerns.

I share your concerns for others who are being burdened by the sequester, such as the child thrown out of Head Start or seniors depending on Meals on Wheels.

But let me be clear. The rash of flight delays we have witnessed this week as the sequester began to take effect is not just an inconvenience to business or vacation travelers.

There is an even more serious concern here, and while it is one that has not manifested yet, if the present situation continues unabated it could potentially have lethal results.

Aircraft provide emergency medical services that transport patients with time-sensitive medical emergencies, organs, blood products and pediatric patients.

Time-sensitive drugs and emergency aid cannot afford to be delayed because of the air traffic control system. These medical air services need to be able to operate without delay 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

I urge support of the pending measure.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank the gentleman.

I rise in support of H.R. 1765 so that we can stop this needless pain on the American traveling public and our economy.

The administration and the FAA have refused for months to provide us with a plan to work with the airline industry in order to figure out how this could be implemented without all of this pain to the traveling public and to our economy.

I'd like to remind my colleagues that this industry provides \$1 trillion to our economy, so it's extremely important

to the hardworking men and women of America that our airlines and our folks are getting where they need to be on time and without delay. This is very, very damaging to the economy.

Again, I believe this has been mismanaged, and I believe that this bill will force the administration to stop these needless furloughs so that we can continue making sure that the airline industry is functioning in order to keep our economy growing stronger and to allay the safety concerns of the traveling public.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Before we start patting each other on the back for this bill, I think it's important that we recognize that we are not fixing the bigger problems that the sequester has created.

Earlier this month, The Bellingham Herald reported that Head Start students in my district will have to begin finding their own way to school as bus service is being cut because of the sequester. Perhaps now we can ask these 4-year-olds to ride their tricycles to class or, because of this bill, maybe book a flight.

Children in military families at NAS Whidbey Island are going to go to schools where budgets are being cut because of reductions in Impact Aid mandated by sequestration, but we're not doing anything to help those kids today. We are not helping seniors in Arlington, Washington, who are getting Meals on Wheels no longer delivered to them.

This is not just my district. Every Member of this House represents a district whose kids and seniors are being hurt thanks to our failure to clean up the mess we caused. This lands somewhere short of a profile in courage. This is a Band-Aid, and sequestration needs triple bypass surgery. Sequestration is a little bit like the person who kicks a boulder and then blames the boulder for his broken toe. Congress created this problem. We need to fix it.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you to the gentleman from Iowa.

I'd like to first thank the Senate for sending this piece of legislation over to us to provide a fix, a fix that isn't necessary to provide, but the administration through a lack of leadership is proving that we have to do this now.

We are here today because this administration has decided to put politics over passengers. From the very beginning of sequestration, this administration and its departments have claimed that they did not have the flexibility to avoid cuts that would affect Americans the most. The proposed tower closings and the FAA furloughs that were announced this week, they're not just wrong—they are irresponsible and indefensible.

The bottom line is the FAA already has the flexibility that we are granting them today, yet they are unwilling to take advantage of that.

So, today, we are here because it is time to put an end to the excuses and political gimmicks, and we owe it to the American people to govern like statesmen by passing this bill in order to get the FAA to implement spending cuts responsibly in order to protect the traveling public.

Mr. President, I urge you: tell your administration to grow up.

□ 1130

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

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

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, we're here this morning because Americans are understandably upset at sitting and waiting at airport gates. But there are other Americans who are sitting and waiting.

There are moms sitting and waiting at home to enroll their children in Head Start; after this bill, they'll still be waiting.

There are pilots in our Air Force and Navy sitting and waiting to fly their training missions. One-third of our planes are grounded. After this bill, they'll still be sitting and they'll still be waiting.

There are senior citizens who need to go to chemotherapy at outpatient clinics around this country, but because of the cutbacks of sequestration, their doctors aren't seeing them. After this bill, they'll still be sitting; they'll still be waiting.

This Congress has done too much sitting and too much waiting when it comes to sequestration. The Senate has passed a budget that ends sequestration. There's an opportunity to sit at a conference, negotiate and pass that budget.

Instead of sitting and waiting, let's start working and negotiating and pass the Senate budget.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), the former chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. MICA. I thank the gentleman.

Why are we here? We're here because of a colossal failure of leadership in the ability to manage resources.

First of all, I can tell you that there are plenty of air traffic controllers. Just go online and get this report, "Plan for the Future." Some of our airports have far more air traffic controllers than we need. In fact, air traffic control for the last 10 years is down 27 percent, and we still have close to 15,000 air traffic controllers.

This legislation does provide a fig leaf for the administration who said they don't have the authority. I can tell you, they had the authority and the ability to move people and re-

sources around, so that gives us the opportunity to get the flying public flying again.

Again, we have the resources, they had the money, and here we're giving them the final fig leaf that they have asked for and they say they need to get this done.

I can tell you that if Ronald Reagan were President, we would not be in this mess.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, after the vote on this today, Members of this House are going to run for the airports. They're all going to be flying home on airplanes. And, yes, they will make it easier for Members of Congress to get through those lines, and they'll pat themselves on the back and say, "Job well done."

Well, obviously we should address the issue at the airports, but we need to address the other issues right now and not make it easier for Members of Congress to fly home for a week away when it should be a week right here making sure we do not see the negative impact of the sequester grind on for those kids in Head Start, for the seniors on Meals on Wheels, for folks who are doing important lifesaving research.

Look, Mr. Speaker, four times this year we have offered a proposal to replace the entire sequester, to achieve the same deficit reduction without the kind of damage that's been done, and four times we haven't even had a chance to vote on the floor of this House. Now we're simply asking to go to conference. Our Republican colleagues complain that the Senate didn't pass the budget, but they've got one.

Let's go to conference rather than go home.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN).

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank Mr. LATHAM for offering this bill. It's high time that the FAA, Mr. Speaker, have the flexibility that they need to have on closures of any air traffic control towers.

It is my hope that St. Cloud, Minnesota, and Anoka-Blaine airports do remain open. They're vital and they're much needed. We're looking at approximately 189 airports.

But I want to speak to something else. We were listening to Representative HOYER and Representative PELOSI be extremely passionate about the loss that we'll see for children through Head Start, for senior citizens on Meals on Wheels, for children who will be dealing with various other food nutrition programs. That breaks everyone's hearts.

But I want to remind the people of this country that it was former-Speaker PELOSI, Representative HOYER, Senator REID, and President Obama who

signed the sequestration bill, and it was Press Secretary Jay Carney who admitted that the sequestration was President Obama's idea.

There are numerous Republicans that voted against the sequestration because we knew all of these calamities were in the future. So it reminds me of the Shakespeare line: Thou doth protest too much.

Didn't you know this was going to happen? We knew it. That's why we voted against this bill. And it seems like the higher the level of passion, it equals the conscience that we are seeing of those who voted the wrong way on this bill for the first time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, before I yield time to my friend, I have to remind my colleague that I voted against that bill, and the bill passed because there was a majority of Republicans who supported it. So we just can't blame one House or one Senate or the President, because all of us share the blame in one way or the other.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. The Republicans offered their bill. It was called "Cut, Cap, and Balance." They voted on that bill before we ever got to sequester. In Cut, Cap, and Balance, your alternative, if you didn't reach your numbers, was sequester. Sequester was your policy.

And in the CR that you had Mr. ROGERS bring to the floor, which I voted against when it went from here to there, as did every Democrat, it said it was going to be subject to the sequester or nothing.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 1765, the Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013.

I don't want anybody to be mistaken about why I support this bill. I want Mrs. BACHMANN to understand that we know that she has led the Tea Party and the right wing on all of these issues and that she led on the discussion on sequestration. It was a bad policy and it should not have been adopted by either side of the aisle; however, that is the order of the day, and we need to bring the budget to the floor and have a conference committee so we can adopt some of what was adopted on the Senate side to get rid of the sequestration.

Meanwhile, the FAA plans to furlough the vast majority of the FAA's nearly 47,000 employees, including nearly 15,000 air traffic controllers, for approximately 1 day during each 2-week period in order to comply with sequestration.

The furloughs have already begun. They started on April 21, 2013. So we're going to be backed up in these airports, and it is time for us to understand that this is an emergency. Let's get it over with by passing this bill today.

□ 1140

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona has 2½ minutes. The gentleman from Iowa has 7½ minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I will ask my chairman, do you want to even out the time? I will reserve my time if you like.

Mr. LATHAM. Does the gentleman have two more speakers? I just have one more. I was going to suggest that you go ahead with your speaker. Now I'll have one, you'll have one, and then we can close.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I thank the gentleman.

I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. This is a hostage-taking, and I know that the American people are watching the blame game. But the blame game falls clearly on this side of the aisle. My Republican friends held this place hostage: we won't pay the debt ceiling; we won't pay our debts.

Now we're losing 2 million jobs, 4,800 Head Start programs. And I believe in air traffic controllers, but we're holding them hostage. What about the person who cannot afford an airline ticket? And so I'm saying today that it is important that we stand for the millions of dollars that we are losing for homeland security. Is it time to take millions from military families?

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 900, a one-sentence bill, that would repeal the section of the Budget Control Act of 2011 to get rid of the sequester, go to budget conference, have conferees, have a budget, get rid of the sequester. Bring it up now.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 900.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Iowa yield for that purpose?

Mr. LATHAM. Yes.

What was the question if I may?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Iowa yield for that purpose?

Mr. LATHAM. No.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me just say this. We have to save the traveling public, but I ask the question about 5,000 children in Texas that will lose Head Start, or the millions of seniors, or our military families that will lose support because we've got the sequester, all on the shoulders of those that believe that the way we run the Federal Government is by slash and burn. Where are our hearts? Help the American people.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of rhetoric today that

sequestration is the problem. I would like to remind you that sequestration, that President Obama proposed, was the only solution we could agree on to the real problem: the fact that this government is spending close to \$1.50 for every \$1 that it brings in. That being said, sequestration came into effect, and we're now having to deal with it.

It was our intent all along to find cuts. We couldn't get agreement from the other side to find the cuts. And now, even though sequestration is painful, it is working. We see in this bill that we're able to take the FAA, get the cuts that need to be made to their budget made without affecting flight delays and without furloughing people. It is my contention that this can happen all through the government and throughout all agencies.

If these agencies and the President had come back to this Congress saying, "We can do these cuts this way; let us do it," I imagine almost every one of those would have passed on unanimous consent. They certainly probably would have passed on suspension like this one.

I urge my colleagues to take this first step to solve the problem with the FAA, and I look forward to working with other government agencies in the Obama administration to find the cuts we need and to spare the American people the pain that's intentionally being inflicted because some people don't want to cut a dime out of the American budget.

You know, the American people know instinctively there's waste, fraud, and abuse in this government and that there are savings to be had. And we're going to find it, and we're going to try to do it in the best possible way.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Congress did not foresee the controllers' crisis. They will not foresee the next one. We have not solved the controllers' crisis with money. It was not about money. It was not about cuts. It was solved the old-fashioned way. They simply moved money around. This is exactly what was done with appropriations that are not having this crisis.

We can solve this if we have a meeting of both sides of the aisle on the budget. What would happen at that meeting would probably be not to cut a thing, but simply to allow agencies the flexibility to move money around, precisely as has been done with the controllers' crisis. Not 1 cent was changed, just the flexibility, the common sense that we now need to put to every single appropriation.

Mr. LATHAM. Might I inquire of the gentleman from Arizona, you have 30 seconds left. If you would like to go ahead and close, I will reserve at this time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I rise to ask my colleagues to support this bill. It is a one-time fix in a crisis we are having today with our air traffic system. But I join my colleagues, as well as probably my chairman, in asking the House leadership, both the Republican leadership and the Democratic leadership, to please work on a comprehensive solution to the sequester in order that we can bring regular order and get the type of government that the American people deserve.

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

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

I want to associate myself with what my good friend and ranking member on the subcommittee, Mr. PASTOR, just said. We've got to find a solution, come to an agreement. This is a horrible way to run a government, with sequester. When you take a meat-ax approach to departments, there's no common sense. And that's why we need to get back to regular order around here and actually do appropriations bills. We would avoid these types of potentially catastrophic situations that we find ourselves in.

Mr. Speaker, I would just ask everyone to understand that the Senate sent this over last night. It is now an H.R. bill, our bill. The Senate will approve it as soon as we pass it in the House here. It is very important that we do this for the American people, the traveling public, for safety of the system, to make sure that our commerce continues. So I would ask everyone to support this bill.

And let's fix the big problem, and that's come to a budget agreement.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, is there no one in this chamber who is embarrassed? Or perhaps the question should be: Is no one in this chamber not embarrassed?

The Senate panics and passes a bill to correct the failures of a small part of the abominable consequences of the "sequester" or sequestration.

We are now funding the failures of what we did earlier. With red faces and guilty looks, we vote on a quick correction of one important, but small, consequence—furloughs at the FAA amongst controllers—and now we sneak out of town, believing that we have made the travelling public safe.

Have we? Baloney! A really huge problem still remains unaddressed. The budget is a giant mess. Many other perils to our society, to our safety, and to the wellbeing of our people are quietly ignored as we sneak out of Washington to go home for speeches, campaigning and schmoozing with our people.

How many of us will describe our real failures we leave unaddressed? Dangers at the borders, cuts and furloughs to Custom & Border Protection, the Department of Homeland Security, and other security agencies—all unaddressed.

Food and Drug Administration—cut, sequestered, and unable to protect our people's health and safety.

Roads, highways, and bridges—all in danger.

Law enforcement at risk and with cuts, sequesters, and all that goes with those events to fester in our absence.

Education—our schools, colleges, universities, and research facilities are all affected with uncertainty.

Business, investments, and job creation all delayed because we can't—or won't—address our budget problems.

Almost nothing in government, or the economy, is able to prosper or carry out its responsibilities because we cannot, or will not, address the budget problems of this Nation, using the sequester as a substitute for courage, responsibility, and just good, honest work with compromise and cooperation.

This Republic has prospered for over 200 years because this Congress—the House and Senate—and our political parties worked together in the public's interest.

Apparently—No more!

We now go home, one small matter dealt with.

How many more are not dealt with? And what will be the consequences?

As we sneak home shame-facedly it may be that we ourselves will be safe from these failures.

Perhaps we will even be safe politically for a while, but we do not deserve to be; and we won't be when people figure out how poorly we do the Nation's business.

We have much to do. This country believes that we should do so, and it will demand that we do so.

Let us buckle down.

Let us do the job we are paid to do. We have a vital responsibility.

Let us carry it out.

Let us get busy and do the Nation's business—now.

Our responsibility is more important than our ideology.

I am ashamed. Is the rest of this body ashamed?

And what will we do about it?

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I am unable to be in Washington, DC today to cast a vote on H.R. 1765, The Reducing Flight Delays Act.

When House Republicans refused to compromise on tax and spending issues and raising the statutory debt limit, the Budget Control Act of 2011 was enacted in order to avert a fiscal crisis. The BCA provided for automatic reductions to most federal discretionary spending, referred to as "sequestration," if no agreement on deficit reduction could be reached. Policy analysts, economic experts and the American people agreed that the automatic spending cuts would be so damaging, and were such bad policy, that Congress would be compelled to act to avoid them. I did not believe that these cuts were the right course of action, and so I voted against the BCA.

Unfortunately (but predictably), Congress was unable to reach agreement on a deficit reduction plan, and sequestration went into effect on March 1, 2013. As we are now experiencing, sequestration requires agencies to reduce non-defense discretionary spending by 5.3 percent in Fiscal Year 2013. It does not provide any guidance on how each agency should go about implementing these cuts, it simply reduces spending across the board, impacting all federal programs.

On March 22, 2013, after carefully weighing competing national security interests, public

safety concerns, impacts on interstate transportation, communication, banking and financial networks, and the status of the most critical diversionary airports, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced it would close 149 Federal Contract Tower program towers by June 15, 2013. The FAA has also begun to implement a series of furloughs of all of its employees, including its 15,000 air traffic controllers, which has resulted in flight delays nationwide.

As someone who flies across the Continental United States twice each week, I share the frustrations and concerns that many Americans have about the flight delays due to furloughs and the closure of these towers. The nation's air traffic control system is essential for public safety, business, and the regulation of national air traffic, and I support this legislative effort to ensure that it is able to function normally.

But the measure the House is voting on today is just applying an inadequate Band-Aid to the gaping wound that sequestration has inflicted on our nation. The flight delays due to furloughs and closure of contract towers are some of the first highly visible impacts of sequestration, but they highlight the fact that the federal government performs many essential services that Americans depend on, and enacting indiscriminate cuts to federal funding undoubtedly has a negative impact on the government's ability to provide those services.

I remain committed to working with my colleagues in Congress and across the government to protect Americans from the worst impacts of sequestration and to undo it altogether.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1765 is a poor substitute for real Congressional leadership and pragmatic solutions for the millions of Americans impacted by the sequester. Using sequestration, Republicans in the House are holding the American public hostage, extracting carve-outs that serve their own interests while shamefully ignoring the people who will be impacted by the billions in remaining cuts.

While I support putting all of our air traffic controllers back on the job so that air transit is as safe and reliable as possible, this bill leaves everyone else to suffer the devastating consequences of the sequester cuts. Sequestration unduly constrains the ability of Congress to deal effectively with America's economic, fiscal, and job creation troubles. I support restoring funding for our air traffic control officers, but this bill does nothing to relieve the anguish of those Americans who cannot afford to buy an airline ticket.

As a Senior Member of the House Homeland Security Committee I find it outrageous that in Texas, approximately 52,000 civilian Department of Defense employees would be furloughed. The sequester, which the Republicans did nothing to prevent, would undermine the significant progress the Department of Homeland Security has made over the past ten years and would negatively affect our ability to carry out their vital mission.

Sequestration will eventually roll back border security, increase wait times at our Nation's land ports of entry and airports, affect aviation and maritime safety and security, leave critical infrastructure vulnerable to attacks, hamper disaster response time and significantly scale back cyber security infrastructure protections that have been developed in recent years.

Republicans forced Congress to adopt sequestration as a backstop by playing a political game of chicken when it came to raising the debt ceiling to pay our debts. While we understand and share the concern of our Republican colleagues with respect to deficit spending, now is not the time to put ideology over pragmatism, and the arbitrary cuts imposed by the sequester are not the answer.

Instead of forcing the average American to pay the price for a dysfunctional Washington, give the leaders of both parties the time needed to reach some consensus on budget issues.

Republicans, particularly Members of the Tea Party, need to understand that allowing the sequester to continue is worst way to go about achieving a long-term debt reduction. Cutting two million jobs nationwide and slowing the growth of our gross domestic product by half a percent will barely make a dent in our debt, but it will result in widespread misery.

Moreover, it jeopardizes the economic progress that we have worked hard to achieve, and even threatens to throw us back into a recession. My state of Texas is greatly affected by sequestration. These cuts will have a devastating and widespread impact on local communities.

Texas will lose approximately \$67.8 million for primary and secondary education, putting around 930 teacher and aide jobs at risk. In addition, about 172,000 fewer students would be served and approximately 280 fewer schools would receive funding.

Texas will lose approximately \$51 million for about 620 teachers, aides, and staff who help children with disabilities.

Head Start and Early Head Start services would be eliminated for approximately 4,800 children in Texas, reducing access to critical early education.

In Texas, approximately 52,000 civilian Department of Defense employees would be furloughed, reducing gross pay by around \$274.8 million in total.

Texas will lose about \$1,103,000 in Justice Assistance Grants that support law enforcement, prosecution and courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, and crime victim and witness initiatives.

Around 83,750 fewer Texans will get the help and skills they need to find employment as Texas will lose about \$2,263,000 for job search assistance, referral, and placement, meaning.

Up to 2,300 disadvantaged and vulnerable children could lose access to child care, which is also essential for working parents to hold down a job.

In Texas around 9,730 fewer children will receive vaccines for diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, whooping cough, influenza, and Hepatitis B due to reduced funding for vaccinations.

Violence Against Women Grants: Texas could lose up to \$543,000 to provide services to victims of domestic violence, resulting in up to 2,100 fewer victims being served.

Texas will lose approximately \$2,402,000 to help upgrade its ability to respond to public health threats including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events.

In addition, Texas will lose about \$6,750,000 in grants to help prevent and treat

substance abuse, resulting in around 2,800 fewer admissions to substance abuse programs. And the Texas State Department of Public Health will lose about \$1,146,000 resulting in around 28,600 fewer HIV tests.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 900, the "Cancel the Sequester Act of 2013" be brought to the floor for a vote.

This one-sentence bill would end this national nightmare by repealing the section of the Budget Control Act of 2011 that imposed sequestration and its senseless, job-destroying cuts. If Congress cannot or will not come together in bipartisan agreement on a budget, I believe we have a duty to avert these catastrophic cuts by repealing them.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation to give the FAA and DOT flexibility to use unobligated funds to ensure the safety of our nation's air transportation system. Specifically I rise to affirm the intent of this legislation that grants the Secretary of Transportation the ability to use unobligated balances of the Airport Improvement Program account to prevent the closure of 149 contract air traffic control towers and halt the furloughs of air traffic controllers.

Our nation's air transportation system is a comprehensive network of intertwined departments, one of which is the air traffic control towers who guide our pilots safely between airports. I want to be very clear, maintaining service at all contract air traffic control towers is intrinsic to the authority given in this legislation to ensure a safe and efficient air transportation system.

Many Members of Congress have expressed grave concerns over the closure of contract towers and furloughs of air traffic controllers, both of which contribute to the overall safety of our nation's air transportation system. I should also clearly state that the inaction of the Department of Transportation to request sequester reprogramming authority and maintain some level of service at all contract towers has led to this legislation. The safety and efficiency of our skies have been put at risk and it has become incumbent upon the Congress to direct this authority to the Secretary of Transportation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation we will consider today that will provide the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer funds to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration. It has now been almost two months since the sequestration cuts were enacted, and we are in new and unprecedented territory. This week alone, approximately 2,800 flights were delayed daily because of the Republican majority's refusal to address the effects of the sequester sensibly.

This bill would allow the Department of Transportation to shift \$253 million in funds to the FAA's operations account to prevent the worst of these drastic cuts. This is simply a safety issue for the millions of passengers who travel our skies. Over the past five days, we have seen our national airspace system seriously compromised by the furloughs of air traffic controllers and other aviation safety professionals. In addition to the very serious safety concerns, the inconvenience of passengers, and the loss of wages to these federal workers, these delays have slowed commerce at a time when we should be doing everything we can to nurture our domestic economy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that now that the actual effects of sequestration are painfully clear, Republican Members of Congress will come back to the table, and we can work on a bipartisan, common sense approach to ending sequestration.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation to give the Federal Aviation Administration, FAA, and Department of Transportation, DOT, flexibility to use unobligated funds to ensure the safety of our nation's air transportation system and American travelers. Specifically I rise to affirm the intent of this legislation that grants the Secretary of Transportation the ability to use unobligated balances of the Airport Improvement Program account to prevent the closure of 149 contract air traffic control towers and halt the furloughs of air traffic controllers.

Maintaining service at all contract air traffic control towers is inherent to the authority given in this legislation to ensure a safe and efficient air transportation system. Over the past seven weeks, Congress has seen a swell of reaction to the FAA's decision to furlough and lay off hundreds of air traffic controllers across the country. In my district in New York, it was announced that the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport control tower would be closed. Since this announcement, residents, local businesses, and employees at the airport have flooded my office with feedback that this closure will have serious safety and long-term economic impacts in the region.

Many Members of Congress as well as industry representatives who utilize our nation's general aviation system have expressed grave concerns over the closure of contract towers and furloughs of air traffic controllers, both of which contribute to the overall safety of our nation's air transportation system. The inaction of the Department of Transportation to request sequester reprogramming authority and maintain some level of service at all contract towers is unacceptable and has led to the need for this legislation. The safety and efficiency of our skies have been put at risk and it has become incumbent upon the Congress to direct this authority to the Secretary of Transportation.

I look forward to working with the FAA and DOT to ensure that the Ithaca Tompkins control tower, as well as the other 148 towers across the country, remain up and running to ensure our skies are safe.

Mr. RADEL. Mr. Speaker, the President warned Americans would feel the pain of sequestration. What he failed to mention was his White House would play politics to guarantee pain was felt. House Republicans told the President to prioritize and find places to cut American families would not feel. He refused. This is why I am proud to support the Reducing Flight Delays Act, correcting the gross incompetence happening at the White House to ensure Southwest Floridians see shorter wait times at airports.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, while today's action to stop FAA furloughs will reduce delays, 149 of the nation's contract control towers are still at risk of closure on June 15th. These towers are not only essential for passengers: they're essential for flight training, public safety, and small business.

South Florida's North Perry Airport, which I represent in Congress, is one of the key pilot training facilities in the Southeast and an important backstop for the region's international

airports. Without further action, this airport may be forced to close this summer.

I rise today to affirm that the intent of the Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013 grants Secretary LaHood the authority to use unobligated balances of the Airport Improvement Program account to prevent the closure of the 149 contract air traffic control towers, including North Perry Airport. I call on Secretary LaHood to exercise this option to save these essential facilities.

Now, it's up to Congress to pass a comprehensive bill to stop the sequester.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today's vote may be the first of many to undo the painful and unfair impact of sequestration on our food safety system, housing services, public schools, Head Start programs, our transportation programs, and a host of other vital government services. However, I fear that a piecemeal approach would represent a continuation of the incredibly broken process in Washington, DC. Even though I will vote for today's measure, it will be an embarrassment if this is the only action we take to reduce these cuts.

I voted against the Budget Control Act for a reason; sequestration was intended to be painful. Picking and choosing programs to restore, instead of reforming our budget overall and raising revenue, shirks our fundamental responsibility as members of Congress. We must address the big picture: we need to cut programs that are irrelevant or even harmful, such as the nuclear arsenal and agricultural subsidy. We need new revenues that address the inequities in the tax code. It will require a comprehensive approach but will result in a sustainable budget future.

By all means protect the vital operation of the FAA. More importantly, restore the hundreds of vital programs crippled by sequestration by replacing them with strategic cuts and new revenues that will strengthen our economy and country. This should be our number one priority.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation to provide the U.S. Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer certain funds to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration. While it is imperative that the U.S. Congress consider and pass legislation to replace the entirety of the sequester, this legislation will help ensure the safety and efficiency of our nation's air transportation system.

Specifically, I rise to affirm the intent of this legislation that grants the Secretary of Transportation the ability to use unobligated balances of the Airport Improvement Program account to halt the furloughs of air traffic controllers, to maintain the midnight air traffic control tower shift at airports across the country including Fresno-Yosemite International Airport, and to prevent the closure of 149 contract air traffic control towers including Castle Airport's contract air traffic control tower. Maintaining service at all contract and non-contract air traffic control towers is central to the authority provided in this bill to ensure the safety of our air transportation system.

Many Members of Congress have expressed concerns over the closure of contract towers, reduced service at non-contract towers, and furloughs of air traffic controllers, all of which contribute to the overall safety of our nation's air transportation system. The safety

and efficiency of our skies have been put at risk and it has become incumbent upon the Congress to direct this authority to the Secretary of Transportation.

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am frustrated at the House of Representatives' failure to pass a realistic budget to stop the irresponsible across-the-board cuts that have caused more than 4,000 flight delays impacting hundreds of thousands of passengers over the past week. I voted against the sequester because it was a bad policy then and it is a bad policy now.

Families in Michigan and across the country should not be penalized for dysfunction in Congress. Today, I am proud to have voted to end the crippling delays in our nation's airspace and support the jobs of 15,000 air traffic controllers who work hard to keep us safe all across this country.

This bill gives the Secretary of Transportation the authority and flexibility to move funds within the FAA to minimize the disruption to our air transportation system. Although I am happy that our air traffic controllers can finally get back to work protecting our skies, this bill does nothing to solve the continuing negative impacts to women, senior citizens, small businesses and our children's education.

It is time for us to take the responsible course of action to end this sequestration, find common-ground, and reach a final agreement on a bi-partisan budget that allows us to put teachers back to work in our schools, to give kids a jumpstart on education through Head Start, to help get people back to work, and to continue NIH research on critical diseases such as Alzheimers and heart disease.

I call upon my colleagues to come back to the table and pass a bi-partisan, comprehensive budget agreement to replace the sequester.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1765 to provide the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer funds to prevent further disruptions resulting from Federal Aviation Administration furloughs. If enacted, this bill will end the air traffic control furloughs that have congested commercial aviation traffic over the last week.

Currently, the FAA is furloughing almost 10 percent of its air traffic controller workforce on a daily basis. Since the furloughs began on Sunday through Wednesday this week, the number of air travel delays has totaled 8,804 compared to 2,795 for the same time last week. These delays inconvenience passengers and cause serious economic disruptions throughout the entire country.

H.R. 1765 will provide the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility he needs to fix this problem without adding to the FAA's budget. The additional flexibility in this bill will also give the Secretary the ability to restore the FAA's Contract Tower Program.

It is Congress' intent that the Secretary of Transportation will use the added flexibility to stop the closure of the 149 identified contract towers across the country. As I and those in my District can attest, these contract towers, such as the ones in Albany and in Macon, play an important role in serving as a link between rural communities and the larger aviation network.

This bill should be approved to prevent both the FAA furloughs and the closure of these contract towers. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important aviation bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1765.

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. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 361, nays 41, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 125]

YEAS—361

Aderholt	Davis, Rodney	Huelskamp
Alexander	DeFazio	Huizenga (MI)
Amodei	DeGette	Hultgren
Andrews	Delaney	Hunter
Bachmann	DeLauro	Hurt
Bachus	DeBene	Israel
Barber	Denham	Issa
Barletta	Dent	Jackson Lee
Barr	DeSantis	Jenkins
Barrow (GA)	Deutch	Johnson (OH)
Bass	Diaz-Balart	Johnson, E. B.
Becerra	Doggett	Johnson, Sam
Benishek	Doyle	Joyce
Bentivolio	Duckworth	Kaptur
Bera (CA)	Duffy	Keating
Bilirakis	Duncan (TN)	Kelly (PA)
Bishop (GA)	Ellmers	Kennedy
Bishop (NY)	Engel	Kilmer
Bishop (UT)	Eshoo	Kind
Black	Esty	King (IA)
Blackburn	Farenthold	King (NY)
Blumenauer	Farr	Kingston
Bonamici	Fattah	Kinzinger (IL)
Bonner	Fitzpatrick	Kirkpatrick
Boustany	Fleischmann	Kline
Brady (PA)	Fleming	Kuster
Bralley (IA)	Fortenberry	Labrador
Bridenstine	Poster	LaMalfa
Brooks (AL)	Fox	Lamborn
Brooks (IN)	Frankel (FL)	Lance
Broun (GA)	Franks (AZ)	Langevin
Brown (FL)	Frelinghuysen	Lankford
Brownley (CA)	Gabbard	Larsen (WA)
Buchanan	Galleo	Larson (CT)
Bucshon	Garamendi	Latham
Bustos	Garcia	Latta
Butterfield	Gardner	Lewis
Calvert	Garrett	Lipinski
Camp	Gerlach	Loeb
Campbell	Gibbs	Lowenthal
Cantor	Gibson	Lowey
Capito	Gingrey (GA)	Lucas
Capps	Gohmert	Luetkemeyer
Capuano	Goodlatte	Lujan Grisham
Cárdenas	Gosar	(NM)
Carson (IN)	Gowdy	Luján, Ben Ray
Cartwright	Graves (GA)	(NM)
Cassidy	Graves (MO)	Lummis
Castor (FL)	Grayson	Maffei
Castro (TX)	Green, Al	Maloney
Chabot	Green, Gene	Carolyn
Chaffetz	Griffin (AR)	Maloney, Sean
Chu	Griffith (VA)	Marino
Cicilline	Grijalva	Matheson
Clay	Grimm	McCarthy (CA)
Cleaver	Guthrie	McCarthy (NY)
Clyburn	Gutierrez	McCaul
Coffman	Hahn	McClintock
Cohen	Hall	McCollum
Cole	Hanabusa	McHenry
Collins (GA)	Hanna	McIntyre
Collins (NY)	Harper	McKeon
Connolly	Harris	McKinley
Cook	Hartzler	McMorris
Cooper	Hastings (FL)	Rodgers
Costa	Hastings (WA)	McNerney
Cotton	Heck (NV)	Meadows
Courtney	Heck (WA)	Meehan
Cramer	Hensarling	Meeks
Crawford	Herrera Beutler	Meng
Crenshaw	Higgins	Messer
Cuellar	Himes	Mica
Culberson	Hinojosa	Michaud
Cummings	Holding	Miller (FL)
Daines	Holt	Miller (MI)
Davis (CA)	Horsford	Miller, Gary
Davis, Danny	Hudson	Moore

Moran	Rogers (AL)	Speier
Mullin	Rogers (KY)	Stewart
Murphy (FL)	Rogers (MI)	Stivers
Murphy (PA)	Rohrabacher	Stockman
Nadler	Rokita	Stutzman
Napolitano	Rooney	Swalwell (CA)
Neal	Ros-Lehtinen	Takano
Negrete McLeod	Roskam	Terry
Neugebauer	Ross	Thompson (MS)
Noem	Rothfus	Thompson (PA)
Nugent	Roybal-Allard	Thornberry
Nunes	Royce	Tiberi
Nunnelee	Runyan	Tierney
O'Rourke	Ruppersberger	Tipton
Owens	Rush	Titus
Pallone	Ryan (OH)	Tonko
Pascrell	Ryan (WI)	Tsongas
Pastor (AZ)	Salmon	Turner
Paulsen	Sánchez, Linda	Upton
Payne	T.	Valadao
Pearce	Sanchez, Loretta	Vargas
Pelosi	Scalise	Veasey
Perlmutter	Schakowsky	Vela
Perry	Schiff	Wagner
Peters (CA)	Schneider	Walberg
Peters (MI)	Schock	Walden
Peterson	Schrader	Wasserman
Petri	Schwartz	Schultz
Pittenger	Schweikert	Waters
Pitts	Scott (VA)	Watt
Poe (TX)	Scott, Austin	Weber (TX)
Pompeo	Scott, David	Webster (FL)
Posey	Sensenbrenner	Westmoreland
Price (GA)	Sewell (AL)	Whitfield
Price (NC)	Shea-Porter	Wilson (FL)
Quigley	Sherman	Wittman
Rahall	Shimkus	Wolf
Reed	Shuster	Womack
Reichert	Simpson	Woodall
Renacci	Sinema	Yarmuth
Ribble	Sires	Yoder
Rice (SC)	Slaughter	Yoho
Richmond	Smith (NE)	Young (AK)
Rigell	Smith (NJ)	Young (FL)
Roby	Smith (TX)	
Roe (TN)	Southerland	

NAYS—41

Amash	Jordan	Palazzo
Clarke	Kelly (IL)	Pingree (ME)
Conyers	Kildee	Pocan
Crowley	Lee (CA)	Sarbano
DesJarlais	Levin	Serrano
Dingell	Lofgren	Thompson (CA)
Duncan (SC)	Long	Van Hollen
Edwards	Massie	Velázquez
Ellison	Matsui	Visclosky
Fincher	McDermott	Walz
Fudge	McGovern	Welch
Hoyer	Mulvaney	Wenstrup
Jeffries	Nolan	Wilson (SC)
Johnson (GA)	Olson	

NOT VOTING—30

Barton	Forbes	Polis
Beatty	Granger	Radel
Brady (TX)	Honda	Rangel
Burgess	Huffman	Ruiz
Carney	Jones	Sessions
Carter	LoBiondo	Smith (WA)
Coble	Lynch	Walorski
Cravaway	Marchant	Waxman
Enyart	Markey	Williams
Flores	Miller, George	Young (IN)

□ 1213

Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Mr. FINCHER changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. CASSIDY, FARR, FLEMING, Ms. HAHN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California 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.

Stated for:

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 125, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. RADEL. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 125, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 125, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1765, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on April 26 I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 125, on H.R. 1765. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position for the RECORD on a vote cast on April 26, 2013. The vote was on passage of H.R. 1765, the Reducing Flight Delays Act.

On rollcall vote No. 125, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

RESPONSIBLE HELIUM ADMINISTRATION AND STEWARDSHIP ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIBERI). Pursuant to House Resolution 178 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 527.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1215

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 527) to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 113-47, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. DENT

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 87, noes 312, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 126]

AYES—87

Alexander	Gardner	Murphy (PA)
Barletta	Gerlach	Olson
Benishek	Gibson	Owens
Bishop (UT)	Grayson	Palazzo
Blackburn	Grimm	Perry
Boustany	Hahn	Pitts
Brady (PA)	Higgins	Pompeo
Camp	Himes	Rahall
Carson (IN)	Huelskamp	Reed
Cartwright	Hultgren	Renacci
Castor (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Richmond
Castro (TX)	Kind	Rooney
Chabot	King (NY)	Ros-Lehtinen
Courtney	Kinzinger (IL)	Roskam
Crowley	Lance	Rothfus
Cuellar	Larsen (WA)	Schwartz
Davis, Rodney	Larson (CT)	Slaughter
DeLauro	Latham	Swalwell (CA)
Dent	Lipinski	Terry
DesJarlais	Loebsack	Thompson (MS)
Diaz-Balart	Maffei	Thompson (PA)
Doyle	Maloney, Sean	Titus
Esty	Marino	Upton
Fattah	McCarthy (NY)	Visclosky
Fitzpatrick	McKinley	Welch
Foster	McNerney	Whitfield
Frankel (FL)	Meehan	Yoder
Garamendi	Meng	Young (AK)
Garcia	Miller (MI)	Young (FL)

NOES—312

Aderholt	DeFazio	Hunter
Amash	DeGette	Hurt
Amodei	Delaney	Israel
Andrews	DelBene	Issa
Bachmann	Denham	Jackson Lee
Bachus	DeSantis	Jeffries
Barber	Deutch	Jenkins
Barr	Dingell	Johnson (GA)
Barrow (GA)	Doggett	Johnson (OH)
Bass	Duckworth	Johnson, E. B.
Becerra	Duffy	Johnson, Sam
Bentivolio	Duncan (SC)	Jordan
Bera (CA)	Duncan (TN)	Joyce
Bilirakis	Edwards	Kaptur
Bishop (GA)	Ellison	Keating
Bishop (NY)	Ellmers	Kelly (IL)
Black	Engel	Kennedy
Blumenauer	Eshoo	Kildee
Bonamici	Farenthold	Kilmer
Bonner	Farr	King (IA)
Braley (IA)	Fincher	Kingston
Bridenstine	Fleischmann	Kirkpatrick
Brooks (AL)	Fleming	Kline
Brooks (IN)	Fortenberry	Kuster
Broun (GA)	Poxx	Labrador
Brown (FL)	Franks (AZ)	LaMalfa
Brownley (CA)	Frelinghuysen	Lamborn
Buchanan	Fudge	Langevin
Bucshon	Gabbard	Lankford
Bustos	Gallego	Latta
Butterfield	Garrett	Lee (CA)
Calvert	Gibbs	Levin
Campbell	Gingrey (GA)	Lewis
Cantor	Gohmert	Lofgren
Capito	Goodlatte	Long
Capps	Gosar	Lowenthal
Capuano	Gowdy	Lowe
Cárdenas	Graves (GA)	Lucas
Carney	Graves (MO)	Luetkemeyer
Cassidy	Green, Al	Lujan Grisham
Chaffetz	Green, Gene	(NM)
Chu	Griffin (AR)	Lujan, Ben Ray
Cicilline	Griffith (VA)	(NM)
Clarke	Grijalva	Lummis
Clay	Guthrie	Maloney,
Cleaver	Gutierrez	Carolyn
Clyburn	Gutierrez	Massie
Coffman	Hall	Matheson
Cohen	Hanabusa	Matsui
Cole	Hanna	McCarthy (CA)
Collins (GA)	Harper	McCaul
Collins (NY)	Harris	McClintock
Connolly	Hartzler	McCullum
Conyers	Hastings (FL)	McDermott
Cook	Hastings (WA)	McGovern
Cooper	Heck (NV)	McHenry
Costa	Heck (WA)	McIntyre
Cotton	Hensarling	McKeon
Cramer	Herrera Beutler	McMorris
Crenshaw	Hinojosa	Rodgers
Culberson	Holder	Meadows
Cummings	Holt	Meeks
Daines	Horsford	Messer
Davis (CA)	Hoyer	Mica
Davis, Danny	Hudson	Michaud
	Huizenga (MI)	

Miller (FL)	Roby	Southerland
Miller, Gary	Roe (TN)	Speier
Moore	Rogers (AL)	Stewart
Moran	Rogers (KY)	Stivers
Mullin	Rogers (MI)	Stockman
Mulvaney	Rohrabacher	Stutzman
Nadler	Rokita	Takano
Napolitano	Ross	Thompson (CA)
Neal	Roybal-Allard	Thornberry
Negrete McLeod	Royce	Tiberi
Neugebauer	Runyan	Tierney
Noem	Ruppersberger	Tipton
Nolan	Rush	Tonko
Nugent	Ryan (OH)	Tsongas
Nunes	Ryan (WI)	Turner
Nunnelee	Salmon	Valadao
O'Rourke	Sánchez, Linda	Van Hollen
Pallone	T.	Vargas
Pascrell	Sanchez, Loretta	Veasey
Pastor (AZ)	Sarbanes	Vela
Paulsen	Scalise	Velázquez
Payne	Schakowsky	Wagner
Pearce	Schiff	Walberg
Pelosi	Schneider	Walden
Perlmutter	Schrader	Walz
Peters (CA)	Schweikert	Wasserman
Peters (MI)	Scott (VA)	Schultz
Peterson	Scott, Austin	Waters
Petri	Scott, David	Watt
Pingree (ME)	Sensenbrenner	Weber (TX)
Pittenger	Serrano	Webster (FL)
Pocan	Sewell (AL)	Wenstrup
Poe (TX)	Shea-Porter	Westmoreland
Posey	Sherman	Wilson (FL)
Price (GA)	Shimkus	Wilson (SC)
Price (NC)	Shuster	Wittman
Quigley	Sinema	Wolf
Reichert	Sires	Womack
Ribble	Smith (NE)	Woodall
Rice (SC)	Smith (NJ)	Yarmuth
Rigell	Smith (TX)	Yoho

NOT VOTING—33

Barton	Granger	Radel
Beatty	Honda	Rangel
Brady (TX)	Huffman	Ruiz
Burgess	Jones	Schock
Carter	LoBiondo	Sessions
Coble	Lynch	Simpson
Conaway	Marchant	Smith (WA)
Crawford	Markey	Walorski
Enyart	Miller, George	Waxman
Flores	Murphy (FL)	Williams
Forbes	Polis	Young (IN)

□ 1220

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chair, on April 26 I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall number 126, on the Dent Amendment to H.R. 527.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) having assumed the chair, Mr. HULTGREN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 527) to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 178, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. I am opposed in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. SCHNEIDER moves to recommit the bill H.R. 527 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. ____ . BANNING EXPORTS TO HOSTILE NATIONS THAT SEEK NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR MISSILE TECHNOLOGY.

Nothing in this Act authorizes the export of helium from the Federal Helium Reserve (as that term is defined in the amendments made by this Act) to Iran, North Korea, or Syria, or to any person (including any successor, assign, affiliate, member, or joint venture with an ownership interest in any property or project any portion of which is owned by such person) in violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or who, in the judgment of the President, is likely to transfer or divert such helium to Iran, North Korea, or Syria in violation of Federal law or Executive Order prohibiting trade with Iran, North Korea, or Syria.

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

I rise to offer this motion to ensure that our strategic reserve of helium gas does not fall into the hands of those who wish to harm the United States or target our allies abroad. Helium is a crucial component of manufacturing and research processes here in the United States. The consistent availability of helium to United States companies and research institutions is, therefore, essential to our global competitiveness as well as our national security.

NASA is one of the largest consumers of helium gas in the United States, utilizing helium for a number of crucial national security priorities. For exam-

ple, the deployment of critical communications satellites, which is made possible by helium, helps to support our global information network and must remain a strategic U.S. asset. Helium has been utilized to purge explosive rocket fuel from intercontinental ballistic missiles and continues to be a strategic resource for any nation looking to build an advanced missile program. Helium is also utilized in cooling nuclear reactors.

This motion seeks to manage this national resource in a safe and responsible way by “banning exports to hostile nations that seek nuclear weapons or missile technology.” Helium can be used in the missile technology utilized by Iran, Syria, and North Korea, putting millions of lives at risk in the Middle East, on the Korean Peninsula, and possibly around the world.

Over the last several months, we have seen escalating belligerence from North Korea, Iran, and Syria, including missile tests, the acceleration of nuclear programs and, most recently, the apparent use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime against its own citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the House must adopt this language to ensure that the proper safeguards are in place to deny those rogue states access to our national helium reserve for their nefarious purposes.

I know we can all agree that the threats emanating from these countries are serious and that our enemies seek access to technology and resources to harm the United States and our allies. Our helium reserve is an asset we must secure from their reach.

The actions of these regimes continue to invoke national condemnation. This body has repeatedly acted to sanction these regimes for their reprehensible behavior. This motion is simply one more step to provide safeguards against the threat posed by these countries.

We must deny the export of helium from the strategic reserve to specifically the nations of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and allow the President the authority to deny exports to businesses or entities that could potentially divert helium to these governments.

We have seen an increasing number of provocations from North Korea, Iran, and Syria. These incidents have directly targeted the United States, threatened the existence of Israel, and endangered the lives of countless civilians in Syria.

It is our responsibility to ensure that our national assets, including our strategic helium reserve, are guarded from being used against us. This motion to recommit would help in achieving that goal. The motion provides a meaningful and necessary safeguard against potential use of the strategic helium reserve and helps to support our national security.

Again, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted,

the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

I urge all Members to support this commonsense language.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to claim time in opposition to the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I'm really disappointed to see this MTR. There is so much talk in this House about working together on both sides of the aisle. This bill is truly a bipartisan bill. And I suspect that there are probably Members on both sides of the aisle that were pretty suspicious when they saw a bill sponsored by HASTINGS, MARKEY, FLORES, and HOLT, yet that's precisely what we managed to get out of the House Natural Resources Committee. It's a bipartisan bill that deals with a very serious issue.

□ 1230

This motion to recommit is something that we've seen before. Nothing in our bill violates the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. Nothing in our bill violates that, and yet that's reflected in this MTR. Secondly, the countries that are mentioned in here are countries that are hostile to the United States. That's covered under an entirely different statute in the law.

We do not need this to slow down the process of passing a bill that is needed, so I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the MTR and “yes” on the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 186, noes 211, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 127]

AYES—186

Andrews	Brown (FL)	Chu
Barber	Brownley (CA)	Cicilline
Barrow (GA)	Bustos	Clarke
Bass	Butterfield	Clay
Becerra	Capps	Cleaver
Bera (CA)	Capuano	Clyburn
Bishop (GA)	Cárdenas	Cohen
Bishop (NY)	Carney	Connolly
Blumenauer	Carson (IN)	Conyers
Bonamici	Cartwright	Cooper
Brady (PA)	Castor (FL)	Courtney
Braley (IA)	Castro (TX)	Crowley

Cuellar	Kilmer	Pingree (ME)	Neugebauer	Rogers (KY)	Stutzman	Chabot	Hastings (WA)	Miller (FL)
Cummings	Kind	Pocan	Noem	Rogers (MI)	Terry	Chaffetz	Heck (NV)	Miller (MI)
Davis (CA)	Kirkpatrick	Price (NC)	Nugent	Rohrabacher	Thompson (PA)	Chu	Heck (WA)	Miller, Gary
Davis, Danny	Kuster	Quigley	Nunes	Rokita	Thornberry	Cicilline	Hensarling	Moore
DeFazio	Langevin	Rahall	Nunnelee	Rooney	Tipton	Clarke	Herrera Beutler	Moran
DeGette	Larsen (WA)	Richmond	Olson	Ros-Lehtinen	Turner	Clay	Higgins	Mullin
Delaney	Larson (CT)	Roybal-Allard	Palazzo	Roskam	Upton	Cleaver	Himes	Mulvaney
DeLauro	Lee (CA)	Ruppersberger	Paulsen	Ross	Valadao	Clyburn	Hinojosa	Murphy (PA)
DelBene	Levin	Rush	Pearce	Rothfus	Wagner	Coffman	Holding	Nadler
Deutch	Lewis	Ryan (OH)	Perry	Royce	Walberg	Cohen	Holt	Napolitano
Dingell	Lipinski	Sánchez, Linda	Petri	Runyan	Walden	Cole	Horsford	Neal
Doggett	Loeb sack	T.	Pittenger	Ryan (WI)	Weber (TX)	Hoyer	Collins (GA)	Negrete McLeod
Doyle	Lofgren	Sanchez, Loretta	Pitts	Salmon	Webster (FL)	Collins (NY)	Collins (NY)	Neugebauer
Duckworth	Lowenthal	Sarbanes	Poe (TX)	Scalise	Westrup	Connolly	Connolly	Noem
Edwards	Lowe y	Schakowsky	Pompeo	Schweikert	Westmoreland	Conyers	Conyers	Nolan
Ellison	Lujan Grisham	Schiff	Posey	Scott, Austin	Whitfield	Cook	Cook	Nugent
Engel	(NM)	Schneider	Price (GA)	Sensenbrenner	Wilson (SC)	Cooper	Cooper	Nunes
Eshoo	Luján, Ben Ray	Schrader	Reed	Shimkus	Wittman	Costa	Costa	Nunnelee
Esty	(NM)	Schwartz	Reichert	Shuster	Wolf	Cotton	Cotton	O'Rourke
Farr	Maffei	Scott (VA)	Renacci	Simpson	Womack	Courtney	Courtney	Olson
Fattah	Maloney,	Scott (VA)	Ribble	Smith (NE)	Woodall	Cramer	Cramer	Owens
Foster	Carolyn	Serrano	Rice (SC)	Smith (NJ)	Yoder	Crenshaw	Crenshaw	Palazzo
Frankel (FL)	Maloney, Sean	Sewell (AL)	Rigell	Smith (TX)	Yoho	Crowley	Crowley	Pallone
Fudge	Matheson	Shea-Porter	Roby	Southerland	Young (AK)	Cuellar	Cuellar	Pascarell
Gabbard	Matsui	Sherman	Roe (TN)	Stewart	Young (FL)	Culberson	Culberson	Pastor (AZ)
Gallego	McCarthy (NY)	Sinema	Rogers (AL)	Stockman		Cummings	Cummings	Paulsen
Garamendi	McCollum	Sires				Daines	Daines	Payne
Garcia	McDermott	Slaughter	Barton	Granger	Rangel	Davis (CA)	Davis (CA)	Pearce
Grayson	McGovern	Speier	Beatty	Honda	Ruiz	Davis, Danny	Davis, Danny	Pelosi
Green, Al	McIntyre	Swalwell (CA)	Brady (TX)	Huffman	Schock	Davis, Rodney	Davis, Rodney	Perlmutter
Green, Gene	McNerney	Takano	Burgess	Jones	Sessions	DeFazio	DeFazio	Perry
Grijalva	Meeks	Thompson (CA)	Carter	LoBiondo	Smith (WA)	DeGette	DeGette	Peters (CA)
Hahn	Meng	Thompson (MS)	Coble	Lynch	Stivers	Delaney	Delaney	Peters (MI)
Hanabusa	Moore	Tierney	Conaway	Marchant	Tiberi	DeLauro	DeLauro	Peterson
Hastings (FL)	Moran	Titus	Crawford	Markey	Walorski	DelBene	DelBene	Petri
Heck (WA)	Nadler	Tonko	Enyart	Miller, George	Waxman	Denham	Denham	Pingree (ME)
Higgins	Napolitano	Tsongas	Flores	Murphy (FL)	Williams	Dent	Dent	Pittenger
Himes	Napolitano	Van Hollen	Forbes	Polis	Young (IN)	DeSantis	DeSantis	Pitts
Hinojosa	Neal	Vargas	Gibbs	Radel		DesJarlais	DesJarlais	Pocan
Holt	Negrete McLeod	Veasey				Deutch	Deutch	Poe (TX)
Horsford	Nolan	Vela				Dingell	Dingell	Pompeo
Hoyer	O'Rourke	Velázquez				Doggett	Doggett	Possey
Israel	Owens	Visclosky				Doyle	Doyle	Price (GA)
Jackson Lee	Pallone	Walz				Duckworth	Duckworth	Price (NC)
Jeffries	Pascarell	Wasserman				Duffy	Duffy	Quigley
Johnson (GA)	Pascarell	Schultz				Duncan (SC)	Duncan (SC)	Rahall
Johnson, E. B.	Payne	Waters				Duncan (TN)	Duncan (TN)	Reed
Kaptur	Pelosi	Watt				Edwards	Edwards	Lance
Keating	Perlmutter	Welch				Ellison	Ellison	Langevin
Kelly (IL)	Peters (CA)	Wilson (FL)				Ellmers	Ellmers	Lankford
Kennedy	Peters (MI)	Yarmuth				Engel	Engel	Larsen (WA)
Kildee	Peterson					Eshoo	Eshoo	Larson (CT)

NOT VOTING—35

□ 1243

Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Ms. WATERS changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on May 26th I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 127, on the Motion to Recommit for H.R. 527.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 394, nays 1, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 128]

YEAS—394

Aderholt	DesJarlais	Hunter	Bishop (GA)	Buchanan
Alexander	Diaz-Balart	Hurt	Bishop (NY)	Buchson
Amash	Duffy	Issa	Bishop (UT)	Bustos
Amodei	Duncan (SC)	Jenkins	Black	Butterfield
Bachmann	Duncan (TN)	Johnson (OH)	Blackburn	Calvert
Bachus	Ellmers	Johnson, Sam	Blumenauer	Camp
Barletta	Farenthold	Jordan	Bonamici	Campbell
Barr	Fincher	Joyce	Bonner	Cantor
Benishek	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (PA)	Boustany	Capito
Bentivolio	Fleischmann	King (IA)	Brady (PA)	Capps
Bilirakis	Fleming	King (NY)	Braley (IA)	Cárdenas
Bishop (UT)	Fortenberry	Kingston	Bridenstine	Carney
Black	Fox	Kinzing (IL)	Brooks (AL)	Carson (IN)
Blackburn	Franks (AZ)	Kline	Brooks (IN)	Cartwright
Bonner	Frelinghuysen	Labrador	Brown (GA)	Cassidy
Boustany	Gardner	LaMalfa	Brown (FL)	Castor (FL)
Bridenstine	Garrett	Lamborn	Brownley (CA)	Castro (TX)
Brooks (AL)	Gerlach	Lance		
Brooks (IN)	Gibson	Lankford		
Broun (GA)	Gingrey (GA)	Latham		
Buchanan	Gohmert	Latta		
Buohon	Goodlatte	Long		
Calvert	Gosar	Lucas		
Camp	Gowdy	Luetkemeyer		
Campbell	Graves (GA)	Lummis		
Cantor	Graves (MO)	Marino		
Capito	Griffin (AR)	Massie		
Cassidy	Griffith (VA)	McCarthy (CA)		
Chabot	Grimm	McCaul		
Chaffetz	Guthrie	McClintock		
Coffman	Gutierrez	McHenry		
Cole	Hall	McKeon		
Collins (GA)	Hanna	McKinley		
Collins (NY)	Harper	McMorris		
Cook	Harris	Rodgers		
Costa	Hartzler	Meadows		
Cotton	Hastings (WA)	Meehan		
Cramer	Heck (NV)	Messer		
Crenshaw	Hensarling	Mica		
Culberson	Herrera Beutler	Miller (FL)		
Daines	Holding	Miller (MI)		
Davis, Rodney	Hudson	Miller, Gary		
Denham	Huelskamp	Mullin		
Dent	Huizenga (MI)	Mulvaney		
DeSantis	Hultgren	Murphy (PA)		

Southerland	Turner	Weber (TX)
Speier	Upton	Webster (FL)
Stewart	Valadao	Welch
Stockman	Van Hollen	Wenstrup
Stutzman	Vargas	Westmoreland
Swalwell (CA)	Veasey	Whitfield
Takano	Vela	Wilson (FL)
Terry	Velázquez	Wilson (SC)
Thompson (CA)	Visclosky	Wittman
Thompson (MS)	Wagner	Wolf
Thompson (PA)	Walberg	Womack
Thornberry	Walden	Woodall
Tierney	Walz	Yarmuth
Tipton	Wasserman	Yoder
Titus	Schultz	Yoho
Tonko	Waters	Young (AK)
Tsongas	Watt	Young (FL)

NAYS—1

Sánchez, Linda T.

NOT VOTING—37

Barton	Gibbs	Rangel
Beatty	Granger	Ruiz
Brady (TX)	Honda	Schock
Burgess	Huffman	Sessions
Capuano	Jones	Smith (WA)
Carter	LoBiondo	Stivers
Coble	Lynch	Tiberi
Conaway	Marchant	Walorski
Crawford	Markey	Waxman
Diaz-Balart	Miller, George	Williams
Enyart	Murphy (FL)	Young (IN)
Flores	Polis	
Forbes	Radel	

□ 1249

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on April 26 I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall number 128, on H.R. 527.

Had I been present I would have voted “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 26, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes numbers 125–128.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 125: “yea” (On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1765, Reducing Flight Delays Act), but we must do more to avert the sequester’s impacts to all Americans.

Rollcall No. 126: “nay” (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 527, Dent of Pennsylvania amendment No. 2).

Rollcall No. 127: “yea” (On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes).

Rollcall No. 128: “yea” (On passage of H.R. 527, to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 26, 2013, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 128 and 125. Please let the record reflect that I would have voted “aye” on H.R. 527, the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act, which is consistent with my position on this legislation. Please let the record reflect that I would have voted

“aye” on H.R. 1765, Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor the legislative day of Friday, April 26, 2013.

Had I been present I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote #126 (on agreeing to the Dent amendment to H.R. 527), “no” on rollcall vote #127 (on motion to recommit with instructions to H.R. 527), “aye” on rollcall vote #128 (on passage of H.R. 527).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall #125 on H.R. 1765, I am not recorded because of the death of a close personal friend. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall #126 on the Dent amendment to H.R. 527, I am not recorded because of the death of a close personal friend. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall #127 on the motion to recommit H.R. 527 with instructions, I am not recorded because of the death of a close personal friend. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall #128 on H.R. 527, I am not recorded because of the death of a close personal friend. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

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

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 2013; and that the order of the House of January 3, 2013, regarding morning-hour debate not apply on that date.

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

There was no objection.

PROMOTING PRIVATE-SECTOR JOB CREATION

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, the Sixth District of Kentucky has had some good news this month. Tiffany & Co. added 75 jobs at their Lexington manufacturing plant. The global law firm Bingham McCutchen opened a Lexington global services center with plans to employ 250 workers. Toyota

announced it will add 750 jobs and invest an additional \$360 million in their Georgetown manufacturing facility to build the Lexus.

I am honored to represent the hard-working Kentuckians who brought this global recognition and investment to the Bluegrass. It is a true credit to our workforce that these first-class companies chose to make these investments in Kentucky.

But take a moment and think about how many more jobs we could create without a \$17 trillion national debt clogging the engines of economic growth. If Congress is serious about promoting private sector job creation, then we must remove government-imposed obstacles to growth. That means repealing and replacing ObamaCare, cutting spending, reforming our Tax Code, reducing regulations, and unleashing American energy. Only then will we make these headlines the norm and not the exception.

RECOGNIZING FORT WORTH COMMUNITY SCHOLARS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of students in the city of Fort Worth that I’m honored to represent in Congress. Alejandra Benavidez, Consuelo Cuevas, Nian Dim, Elijah Herring, Miguel Lopez, Mariah Matthews, and Yesenia Ortiz each have been awarded a community scholarship to attend Texas Christian University.

TCU recognizes the benefits of having a diverse student body with varied backgrounds and experiences. In order to help ensure this, the university began the Community Scholars program in 1999 to bring students in who would otherwise not be able to afford a college education. The program has grown to include 11 high schools in the north Texas area, with 30 scholarships given each year, and boasts a 90 percent college graduation rate.

The students chosen from Fort Worth’s Trimble Technical High School add to the prestige and quality of the Community Scholars program and TCU overall. Each of these students are bright, motivated, and accomplished. Not only do these students exhibit academic excellence, but they also take part in volunteer work, extracurricular activities, and demonstrate leadership in their communities. Once again I want to commend these students. I know they will wear their purple with pride.

PROTECTING THE INNOCENT

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

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I’m heartbroken as I’ve heard more about Dr. Kermit Gosnell’s Philadelphia medical practice during the past few weeks.

The brutal method Dr. Gosnell used to ensure death from a botched abortion, severing the spinal cord of a baby born alive, is disgusting. I pray we are all shocked and disturbed by what has been revealed about abortion during this trial.

While Dr. Gosnell stands trial, there are more than a million babies who die from abortion each year in the United States. That's almost two times more deaths than caused by cancer in the U.S. every year and two times more than heart disease.

Abortion is taking an innocent life, and we have to stand against it. Life is precious. Children are precious. People talk about choice when we talk about abortion. I encourage more Americans to choose life and protect the most innocent in our Nation.

FAA SEQUESTER

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, the sequester is still hurting our constituents. And despite votes today, Congress is continuing to turn a blind eye to many communities affected by these draconian, across-the-board cuts.

Yes, we should not furlough air traffic controllers and other FAA employees. It's not smart, and I know as a Representative from Nevada that it is unnecessarily hurting tourism and local economies.

But House Republicans continue to ignore the impacts of the cuts on Head Start, on Title I schools, and on the Meals on Wheels program for our seniors. Why is that? Why are these students and seniors still on the chopping block? Do their interests not count in the Halls of Congress?

These mindless cuts are harming our kids' futures and our seniors' well-being, and this Congress is long overdue in paying attention to their needs. I've said before, Mr. Speaker, I'm willing to work with anyone from either side of the aisle to come up with solutions to replace the sequester, but we need to do it for all communities, not just one.

MEDICARE MARKET PRICING PROGRAM ACT OF 2013

(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, in the legislative process, effective communication can help bring attention to important issues and advance good policy. Unfortunately, all too often rhetoric doesn't match reality.

Take, for example, Medicare's so-called competitive bidding program for durable medical equipment. The program was intended to reduce Medicare costs and ensure that beneficiaries have access to quality services. In

practice, the system denies competition, which hurts small business providers, and worsens access to quality services, which harms seniors.

In fact, despite the program's catchy title, more than 240 market auction experts and economists have warned that the Medicare bidding program harms competition and will ultimately hurt patients.

Today I've joined in support of legislation, H.R. 1717, the Medicare Market Pricing Program Act of 2013, which would replace this program with one that's not just labeled competitive, but is competitive, and maintains beneficiary access to quality items and services.

I encourage my colleagues to join in support of the Medicare Market Pricing Program Act of 2013.

COMMENDING HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION ON THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there's an amazing collection of young people from around the country that are gathering in our Nation's Capital this weekend. They are part of the annual competition on the United States Constitution. It is my pleasure to visit with my constituents from Grant High School from Portland this morning, young people who have dug deep into the Constitution. They're passionately prepared to defend the principles, and are developing skills that'll last a lifetime.

It is unfortunate that Congress has failed to support the Classroom Law Project budgetarily. I would hope that there's an opportunity to reflect on what these young people are doing and what we could do in addition if we stepped back up and provided the resources so they could be available for more young people. At a time when America faces challenges and there is a breakdown in the other body not even being able to approve gun background checks something that 90 percent of the American people want, we ought to be supporting young people who are doing this important work of democracy.

I congratulate Grant High School, teacher David Lickey, and their coaches who are working with them. Regardless of the outcome, they are already winners.

□ 1300

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1461

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) as a cosponsor of H.R. 1461.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mr. LAMALFA. With the darkness and decay that has descended upon this country, we have a remedy, I'm glad to report here. This coming week, next Thursday, we can celebrate the 62nd Annual National Day of Prayer in the United States by official proclamation.

It's played a vital role, prayer, in the formation of this country by our Founders; and we have this opportunity, not just on this day, but every day, as we do at the beginning of the session in this body. I encourage everybody to take part.

I have artwork next to me here that hangs in my office here, and there's a prayer for guidance that George Washington once wrote and offered, and I would like to do an excerpt of that, given time.

That excerpt will be:

Increase my faith in the sweet promises of the gospel; give me repentance from dead works; pardon my wanderings, and direct my thoughts unto Thyself, the God of my salvation; teach me how to live in Thy fear, labor in Thy service, and ever to run in the ways of Thy commandments.

I'd advise read the rest, but please remember National Day of Prayer, May 2, next week.

THE EFFECTS OF THE SEQUESTER

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I have a one-sentence bill, H.R. 900, that repeals the sequester, and many of my colleagues have already begun talking about it and joining with me on it today.

These cuts are currently diminishing our Nation's education quality, our research output, leaving more with untreated mental illness, more hunger, more homelessness and fewer Federal criminal prosecutions. The sequester means that we'll have 2,100 less food inspectors for examining the safety of our food.

If Congress is unable to craft a bipartisan agreement that takes sequestration off the table, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 900, my one-sentence bill to repeal the sequester.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request until it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

THE VETERANS BENEFITS CLAIMS FASTER FILING ACT

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Benefits Claims Faster Filing Act. This no-cost legislation will shorten the time that veterans must wait for their claims to be decided.

Nationally, the average wait time for a claim is nearly 300 days. In El Paso, Texas, the veterans I represent wait an average of 439 days. We must do better.

My legislation will require the VA to report and post processing times and award rates for claims filed in a variety of ways, from the fastest way, which is a fully developed claim filed online, to the slowest way, which is filing an underdeveloped claim on a non-standardized piece of paper.

Informing veterans that they will wait the least amount of time if they file fully developed claims online will create an incentive to do so. Fully developed claims are consistently turned around in 100 days or fewer. Imagine a veteran in your district saving months of waiting unnecessarily for a decision on their claim.

We owe a lot to our veterans, and we can uphold our end of the bargain to them by ensuring that they receive the benefits they have earned and depend on in a timely manner.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the Faster Filing Act.

SAVE THE CHILDREN OF THE NORTH FOREST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of weeks, in my district, we've been working with a very small school district by the name of North Forest Independent School District, of about 7,000 young people, bright, energetic and prepared to reach and fulfill their future.

Unfortunately, the State of Texas chooses to close that school, not because they are not meeting the Leave No Child Behind, but because one high school did not meet the threshold by two students. Over the next couple of days, we expect to hear from the State to ask this district to terminate all employees.

We offered to the State a collaborative response of having them to work with public charters and work with the public school system, keeping it a public school system. We again ask the State of Texas, the Governor of the State of Texas, who has refused to give Federal funds for education back to the districts, you know why? Maybe it's because of sequester.

But more importantly, I want to save those students, I want to save those employees, and I believe we can do it by eliminating the sequester.

I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 900, a one-sentence bill to eliminate the sequester. These children at the North Forest Independent School District deserve to be able to graduate

from a public school. It is shameful that they will be getting a notice of their beloved teachers, fire them all.

I will go home to the district and stand against it. I ask for relief from the U.S. Department of Education and all of those who believe in educating our children and being responsible to our teachers who teach them and love them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEMETRIO RODRIGUEZ

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Today I'd like to take a moment to honor the life of Demetrio P. Rodriguez, a great American we lost earlier this week in my hometown of San Antonio. Demetrio passed away at the age of 87 after a long and rewarding life, a life that literally transformed public education in Texas and across the Nation.

Demetrio, like many of the folks who grew up on the west side of San Antonio, was a humble man. Born into a migrant farm-working family, he served in the Navy and later in the Air Force Reserve, and he worked for years at Kelly Air Force Base.

In 1968, with 15 other parents, he led the charge to change the way we do school finance, not only in Texas, but in the United States of America. He objected to the fact that property-poor districts were so far outspent and given much more money than property-rich districts in Texas. He led that charge.

In 1973, the Supreme Court said that education wasn't a fundamental right, but he didn't give up the fight. And in 1989, the Texas Supreme Court ruled that the children of Texas should have an equal education, no matter their income.

He was a great man. He'll be sorely missed. He was a fighter and a champion of people.

THE SEQUESTER HAS REAL CONSEQUENCES

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Some of my Republican colleagues were raging that air traffic was slowed by a so-called political manipulation of the sequester. I joined most of my House colleagues in voting to make a special exception for the FAA because we do want traffic to flow.

But I have a news flash: cutting billions of dollars from the budget in a sequester in a meat-ax way does have real consequences.

Furloughs are also occurring at the Departments of Defense and Agriculture, at the U.S. Customs and Bor-

der Protection. Head Start is cutting 70,000 slots for early childhood education. In my neighboring Indiana, there's a raffle being held to decide which children are going to be kicked out of the Head Start program.

Four million Meals on Wheels are going to be cut for seniors who are depending on them.

The Medicare Anti-Fraud Division is being cut. That makes no sense. And the sequester is projected to cost 750,000 American jobs this year.

So, Mr. Speaker, I too ask unanimous consent to bring H.R. 900 to the floor that would repeal the sequester.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

□ 1310

CORRECTING THE ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 1765, REDUCING FLIGHT DELAYS ACT OF 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of H.R. 1765, the Clerk strike "account" on page 2, line 14, and insert "accounts."

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

There was no objection.

REMEMBERING MAXINE SMITH

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, in Memphis, Tennessee, a great lady passed away—a lady who is as fierce, as brave, and as courageous a woman who's ever lived in this country: a lady by the name of Maxine Smith.

Maxine Smith was the executive secretary of the NAACP from 1962 up to around 2000. She served on the Memphis City School Board from 1971 to 1995 and was on the National Board of the NAACP. She helped take Memphis beyond Jim Crow and beyond segregation into a great city in America and America's mainstream.

Because the scourge of discrimination and desegregation stained this country, she was not allowed to enroll at Memphis State University. So she went to Spelman and then to Middlebury and got a master's degree. She went to work to help others and spent her life fighting against discrimination in all ways and all manners.

She served on the State Board of Education in Tennessee and made sure people got a good education, whether they were White or Black; and she overcame all of the hate and discrimination that she faced. She was a beautiful woman who lived Dr. King's dream—seeing people and judging them by the content of their character and not the color of their skin.

She was a person to be emulated, honored, and remembered. She had a

great life—a life extremely well lived. I will miss her and so will this Nation.

REPEAL THE SEQUESTER

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Today, the House proved that if it really wants to, it can move quickly. Today, we made it easier for air travelers, and I'm very happy that we did that. But the sequester is still there, and it is still impacting schools. I have a little Head Start that's going to be closed in my district. Others are being impacted. We're laying off Federal employees. This is impacting the military and health research across the country.

And so I call on the House majority to continue the work they started today. Don't just choose one group. Repeal this sequester. They have it in their power to put it on the floor to repeal the sequester. The American public is asking for this. It is our obligation to do this not just for air travelers but everybody around the country.

APPOINTING BUDGET CONFEREES

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Today, we passed a fix for the FAA and for air traffic controllers because of a problem created by sequestration. But we only have 10 fingers. There are many more holes in the dike than 10. We've already plugged the hole on the Pentagon. We've already plugged the hole on food inspectors at USDA. Today, we plug another one.

Sooner or later, we have to recognize the dike itself is being undermined by something called sequestration. The time has come for Congress to put aside partisan wrangling. It's time for the majority to show leadership and appoint conferees to a budget so we can actually work this out in a sensible way, not a meat-ax, reckless way, and get things done for the American people. Sequestration is not rocket science, but it will remain beyond us if we continue the partisan fighting we've had in this House.

REMEMBERING HOWARD PHILLIPS

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

Mr. STOCKMAN. When I first started out in politics, a dear friend of mine, Howard Phillips, was a conservative leader and a great father and patriot. On April 20, Howard Phillips passed away.

He grew up in Boston, where he became an avid baseball fan. He knew all the teams, all the players, and remained a passionate fan throughout his life. He fought hard to get into the Bos-

ton Latin School. From there, he invaded the liberal bastion that is Harvard, where he upheld conservative principles and even served as the chairman of the student council.

Howard made national news during the Nixon administration, when he fought to abolish the Office of Economic Opportunity. A leader, a champion, and a great father, he founded in 1974 the TCC, or The Conservative Caucus. It rapidly became one of the major nationwide conservative organizations. He made headlines for opposing the Panama Canal treaty and supporting Ronald Reagan's efforts to rebuild our defense and to cut taxes and spending.

The conservative movement will not be the same without Howard. In fact, the conservative movement would not be what it is today without his leadership. In 1960, he helped found Young Americans for Freedom, which became the model for conservative political action groups. Howard, Paul Weyrich, Richard Viguerie, Jerry Falwell, and other key leaders became the founders of what we know as the modern conservative movement.

Over the years, Howard stood firm to conservative principles when it was often easier to compromise with the establishment and others. When Howard saw the GOP tilting too far to the left, he found the U.S. Taxpayers' Party—now the Constitution Party—which nominated him as their Presidential candidate in 1992, 1996, and 2000. It was a distinct pleasure for Howard to see the new generation of conservative leaders. As a precursor to the Tea Party, Howard was always there.

Howard's work lives on through his family and through his children, through The Conservative Caucus, and through the work of his large family, including his son, Brad, who found the Persecution Project, which is very active in saving embattled Christians in Sudan; and his son Douglas' Vision Forum, which is a major home-schooling ministry; and through the many Americans inspired by his leadership and vision.

Howard is survived by his wife, Peggy, six children, and 18 grandchildren.

On April 29 a funeral will be held at McLean Bible Church.

God bless you, Howie. We love you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

WE NEED TO KNOW WHERE WE COME FROM TO KNOW WHERE WE ARE GOING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 min-

utes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is indeed an honor for me to yield to a friend, a man that I am delighted was elected to join us last year, my friend, Mr. YOHO from Florida, for such time as he may consume.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT

Mr. YOHO. I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard many gun control supporters say that the Second Amendment is outdated. They point out the phrase "a well-regulated militia" as their proof that armed and alert citizens belong in the 18th century and not the 21st century. We saw last week in Boston that they couldn't be more wrong.

When the Constitution and the Second Amendment were written, the story of the Boston struggles during the Revolutionary War was still fresh in America's memory. British troops looked at every American as a threat and treated them like virtual prisoners in the communities that they built. That's why our Founders made sure that it would be law, and a birthright for every law-abiding American, that everyone would have the freedom to protect themselves.

These days, many of America's enemies don't wear the uniforms of a nation. They try to avoid confrontation with our military and our police force; and they lurk in our streets, they hide out in our universities, and they wait for our defenses to go down. They don't save their hatred for our heroes in uniforms. They unleash it on anyone who is free.

The line between crime and terror is a thin one. Any victim of a violent crime has experienced terrorism in its most intimate and intense form. When we talk about guns and we look at the true meaning of the Second Amendment, it's clear that the passage of a couple of centuries hasn't changed its intent much.

The Second Amendment is a uniquely American value, as relevant today as when it was written. No other nation before ours has trusted the people to arm and protect themselves. When tragedies happened in Tucson, in Aurora, and in Newtown, guns were to blame. When the tragedy happened in Boston last week, we rightly blamed the person and not the instrument.

□ 1320

Allowing law-abiding citizens to exercise their freedom of self-defense can help keep us safe, and I will fight to protect this precious constitutional right.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from Florida.

At this time, I'm proud to yield to a friend from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY). I'm proud Wisconsin and Texas are in the same country because Wisconsin has certainly produced some great Americans.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Mr. DUFFY. I appreciate my friend from Texas yielding.

Over the past 5 months, our Nation has seen unspeakable horrors bestowed upon the children of our country, from the massacre in Newtown—the 23 innocent, young first graders who lost their lives—to just recently in the Boston bombing, where many lost their lives, but specifically, a third grader, Richard Martin, lost his life.

Richard, a couple weeks before, had just made his First Communion. There is a picture of Richard in a sharp white suit with a proud, toothless smile. He lost his life in Boston. His little sister, Jane, who was by him was also hit by the bomb. She lost her leg. She was just starting to take Irish step dancing classes. She will now be in recovery for months and years from that bombing.

We have to look at what's happening in our country with regard to violence against children. As a country, we have to soul-search about violence against our children, and we have been soul-searching. Our families, our communities, we've been soul-searching in this institution about that very violence. We've had a conversation about: How do we protect our children? How do we keep them from this violence and scourge that is spreading across our country? But we soul-search.

Meanwhile, in Philadelphia, dozens—if not hundreds—of babies have had their lives taken from them, where they've been murdered, left to lay in cardboard boxes, left in toilets trying to swim for air, only to have the backs of their necks snipped, basically decapitated. That kind of horror is being bestowed on children in America, and yet where is the media? Where are the protests? Where are the congressional hearings?

Listen, where are the parents on Air Force One flying to the White House having a meeting with the President? Where are the high-powered meetings with the Senators across the aisle? They're not happening.

I don't have the picture for you today, but many have seen it, a picture of the courtroom where the Kermit Gosnell trial is going on. There's a section reserved for the media—the media that loves great stories, loves fanfare. There's a section reserved for the media at this trial and there's nobody there. There's been a blackout. The media has refused to cover this story.

How about a poor, immigrant mother who can't speak English, who looks to her local community organization in Philadelphia, who gets a recommendation for an abortion to go to the nice-sounding Women's Medical Society clinic, a clinic that is well known for its filth and well known for its health violations. Poor minority immigrant goes to this clinic for an abortion, and she loses her life.

So I think we have to ask: Where is NARAL? Where is NOW? Where is Mrs. BARBARA BOXER, standing up for poor minority women who are losing their

lives in Philadelphia at the hands of an abortion provider? Where are they? The silence is deafening. Can't hear them.

There's no voice given to that poor minority immigrant. There is no voice given to these little babies who are so vulnerable at the start of their lives and they're voiceless. But no one—even those who say they stand up for women and babies, they're unwilling to stand up at this time.

However, if you are a white, privileged law student from this town, the doors swing wide open and the media wants to cover your story. They want to cover your point of view. But when we're talking about an abortion clinic that provides late-term, partial-birth abortions where babies are born alive, there is no outrage; there is no story.

Where is the NAACP for these minority babies? Where is La Raza? Where is the Black Congressional Caucus? Where is MAXINE WATERS? Where is the leader of the Democrat Party? Where are they, lending their voice to these atrocities, this murder?

You know, I'm a father of six. I've been there for the birth of all my babies. I know we have a lot of parents in this institution and across the aisle. Listen, newborn babies coming out, they are voiceless; they're defenseless; they rely on us for everything.

Here's a picture of my sixth baby, MariaVictoria, Mighty V, just born. The pictures of the babies that died in Philadelphia are bigger than this; they're more developed than this. And yet no one wants to stand up and shed light on these atrocities and these unspeakable horrors, the dehumanization, the desensitization of what happened in Philadelphia.

I think we have to ask ourselves why. Why aren't my good friends on the other side of the aisle, who have families, who have had children, who care about minorities and the poor and care about children—I know it because I hear them—where are they? Why won't they join us to expose this? Is it that they care more about the abortion clinics than poor defenseless babies that are born alive and aren't provided care, aren't provided love, but are abandoned and left to die? I can't believe that's true. Is it that they agree more with partial-birth abortions that are botched and babies are born alive and they're not willing to provide aid? I cannot believe that; not offering life-saving treatment for the most vulnerable among us.

I think we have to look around in our communities, in our country, we have to look at this very institution, and we have to be better than this. We are better than this.

We might disagree on abortion. I'm a pro-life guy. I know we have a lot of people who are pro-abortion in this institution. I can accept those distinctions. But how can anybody come forward who even supports abortion and say, I'm not going to defend a baby that's born alive? What kind of position is that? Or that you won't lend

your voice to this cause? You can come out and say, I support abortion, but I don't support this.

This is wrong. We're better, as Americans, than that. We're better Congressmen and -women than that. We have bigger hearts than that. This is unacceptable in our country.

We're going to have the abortion debate for a while, and that's okay, but we have to draw the line somewhere. When do we step forward and say we are going to defend the most defenseless and the most voiceless among us? When does that start?

I think in this institution most of us have agreed that that starts at birth—at least, I think it starts at conception, but everyone has agreed it starts at birth. So why, when we have this atrocity, this death of our children in Philadelphia with Dr. Gosnell, haven't people loaned their voices to these children? They deserve better than that.

So I think it's incumbent upon this institution, our communities, our country, and the media to make sure that we provide a voice, we provide a platform for those babies because we care more about those lives than we care about the abortion industry, and we care more about those babies than we care about exposing the horrors and atrocities of partial-birth abortion. We're better than that.

I'm going to tell you this: though we may disagree on some issues, we do agree on protecting these little ones as they come into the world. I'm going to continue that fight.

I know the gentleman from Texas is passionate on this topic and has a lot of things to talk about today, but I appreciate him yielding a few minutes for me to chat.

□ 1330

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate my friend from Wisconsin so much in giving voice to those who have no voice. We hear so often on this floor from people who mean what they say as they say: We have an obligation to help the most vulnerable amongst us, to help those who cannot help themselves. And having held my first-born child in both hands—I could have held her in one, but I didn't want to take a chance—I held a child that was smaller than some of these in this tale of horror of abortions, to think that someone could take scissors and cut the back of the neck and cut the spine and literally kill a child, it's virtually too much to take in.

I hope others will see the wisdom of what SEAN DUFFY was talking about. But it does seem people have been desensitized to so many things they need to be re-sensitized to. Every country, no matter what its strength, how strong, including this country that has become the strongest country in the history of the world, which is already the most free country in the history of the world, more freedom, more opportunity than anyplace, including the great Israel under Solomon as king—

we are told that there's never been a king wiser than Solomon—but the way this country was founded, the way it was molded, the way we gave credit to the Creator, to divine providence, to the Lord, as referenced in the date of our Constitution itself—and it's dated in the year of our Lord 1787—they knew, and they pointed out repeatedly, that our rights, our liberties, will not last beyond this country's recognition that all rights, all freedoms, all gifts, all liberties come from a source. George Washington referred to the Divine Author of our blessed religion in one of his writings. It is actually the prayer that he included in his resignation as commanding general of the Revolutionary forces.

And I know that in this Nation we accept everyone, all religions, all people, no matter what their religious convictions are, including no religious convictions whatsoever. But it is critically important that we know where we come from in order to have any idea where we're going. And it is the nature of man, it is the nature of humanity, that as a Nation reaches a peak—some in my history classes in college would refer to the cycle that countries go through, some referencing back to the ancient Greece government—that there was a cycle of its rise and fall. I felt like it was more of a bell-shaped curve that once you reach the peak, then people take their freedoms, take their opportunities for granted, they stop believing that there's a threat to those. And as they get less and less sensitive to the fact that all glory, all liberty, is fleeting, then they would lose them. Whether it's the cycle of rise and fall or a bell-shaped curve, it depends on us.

Tom Brokaw had described the Greatest Generation as those who recognized the danger of fascism and the oppression that existed in the 1940s and rose up and fought against it. Unfortunately, the guy that knows our history so well, that could write a great book on the Greatest Generation, could turn around and a few short years later be completely desensitized and show himself to be part of anything but a great generation because he could not even recognize a threat to this civilization's existence.

So, hopefully, people, situated as is he, will begin to recognize there are people that want to destroy our freedoms, they want to take what has been made into the greatest country, that's been blessed more than any country in history, and they want to act like there's no such thing as a threat to our security, to our freedom, to our own lives, to our lives and fortunes. Whether there's a threat to our sacred honor has been completely up to us. As the signers of the Declaration of Independence pledged, Our lives, our fortunes, our sacred honor.

So the question arises: Is there any honor in trying to buy off your enemies, make them love you with cash, make them love you with tanks, make

them love you by sending them F-16s, make them love you by sending tear gas to use against those they don't like? Is there any honor in that? We have Muslim Brotherhood, a group in Egypt, the Freedom and Justice Party in Egypt. They helped overthrow Mubarak as this administration here in America turned our back on an ally. And we got Muslim Brotherhood.

I continue to have people approach me, say they're from Egypt, and they get so frustrated; they cannot believe we're supporting the wrong people in Egypt, just as those I've met with in Afghanistan have begged us to stop trying to buy a friend in the Taliban, especially those in the Northern Alliance who lost family and friends trying to fight the Taliban—and successfully defeating them on our behalf by early 2002. Then we took back the weapons that we provided and said, we got it from here.

□ 1340

Now, 11 years later, we are turning our backs on our allies—the moderate Muslims who fought the Taliban for us—and are now trying to buy off the Taliban, who still want to destroy us. They still want to end our freedom, make us suffer because they consider us so decadent. From what I'm told in Afghanistan—and it has been reported widely in the news—this administration has offered to buy them first-class offices in Qatar so that they'll have a world presence and have instant respectability around the world. This administration has offered to release some of their murdering thugs who have spilled the blood of American patriots in the most cowardly and conning ways. So they have no respect for us.

I wondered if, perhaps, President Obama were going to be right. Perhaps he will be right. Maybe it will help America with countries that have shown hatred for this country. President Obama said it was going to basically be a game-changer that Muslim countries would have far more respect for us since we had a President, as President Obama said, who grew up in a Muslim country, with admiration for the practices and teachings of Muslims, a President who loved the call for prayer, who loved hearing that.

It has been over 4 years now, and we've seen the polling that, in Muslim countries around the world, this United States' favorability rating has fallen far below what it was under George Bush, who did not grow up in a Muslim country. So we found that that didn't work despite 4 years under this administration of trying to pander to those who want to destroy our way of life, who want to force a caliphate over America as they now are trying to do in Egypt, in Libya, and are trying to do in other Middle Eastern countries.

But our Constitution is what those of us who serve here took an oath to support and defend. That's where we are supposed to stand—in full defense of

our Constitution, not the United Nations Charter, not sharia law. We took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

It has been determined in this country by the courts that people have a First Amendment right to burn, destroy a United States flag—the same flag that has draped countless coffins—bodies—of Americans who, as Lincoln said, gave their last full measure of devotion for our freedom. People have a First Amendment right to destroy that flag—that symbol of freedom and liberty. They've said there is a First Amendment right to destroy Bibles regardless of how holy those books are held to be by so many in America.

A story is written and told of Thomas Jefferson's taking one of his many trips down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the Capitol, on a Sunday morning with a big Bible under his arm.

Someone said, "Mr. President, where are you going?"

He said, "Well, I'm going to church up in the Capitol.

Well, Mr. President, you don't believe everything they do there."

He said, "Sir, I am the highest elected magistrate in this country. It is imperative that I set the proper example."

Jefferson felt he was setting the proper example by going to a non-denominational Christian church here in the Capitol, which was held down the Hall in what was then the House of Representatives Chamber, now called Statuary Hall.

I have a bill that would require a plaque be put up to inform people of the amazing history. Thomas Jefferson, who coined the phrase "separation of church and State," said there needs to be a wall of separation between church and State. He saw it as more of a one-sided wall where the State would not interfere in religion. Certainly, for this country to be at its greatest, people would bring their religious convictions to the State and make it stronger and better. That man who coined the phrase "separation of church and State," not found in the Constitution, even felt it was appropriate to often have the Marine Band come and play hymns down the Hall for those who were at the Christian worship service.

I'm not advocating we go back to that—there is no need—as we have churches all over this place now, but it is not appropriate to act as if those parts of our history are not true. They are true, they are part of our history; and it was the church that was so strong in the abolitionist movement to try to bring about equal treatment. It was the church—not all churches, because there was prejudice and bias and bigotry in some churches, but those who truly understood the teachings of Christ stood so firmly and strongly against slavery.

Then 100 years later, an ordained Christian minister named Martin Luther King, Jr., fought for civil rights; but he did so as a complete pacifist,

not advocating violence, and his efforts succeeded. He freed up young, little White boys, like me, who were Christians to treat brothers and sisters of any race, any color, any creed as brothers and sisters. It's all part of our history—the good parts, the bad parts. We shouldn't try to rewrite history. You've got to know where you came from.

In the wake of the horrors of Boston, people were there, excited to see the finish of the race, of the world-famous Boston Marathon. So many friends of mine have dreamed of qualifying to run in the Boston Marathon. I have a number of friends who have. There is a lot of excitement even in their exhaustion as they near the finish line. That's where cold-hearted, calloused individuals filled with hate could set down bombs knowing they were going to kill very innocent people.

How do you see a little 8-year-old child knowing that child is going to be killed by what you put together and set down? How do you do that? How do you have such evil in your heart that you can do that? How do you have such evil in your heart you set a bomb down knowing that people who are still around it, as you walk away as a coward, are going to have their legs blown out from under them and never walk again? How do you do that?

You have to be so full of hate or evil or some sick religious convictions that somehow you believe that there is someone or something—some deity—that smiles upon that and thinks it's wonderful when you kill or maim innocent people and that somehow you'll be glorified by killing and maiming innocent people.

□ 1350

It's very tragic.

But we know for some time that the FBI, the State Department, the Intelligence Department, a number of departments have been trying to soften the language that they've used, that they've used to train so that they don't offend people who want to kill us already. I mean, I didn't know anybody back in the eighties that talked about radical Islam, yet 79 people were killed, hostages were taken, an Embassy was taken over, hostages held for over a year. In 1983, people were killed, marines waylaid as our Marine barracks in Beirut was blown up. We didn't really talk about radical Islam.

Yet over time, instead of recognizing the danger to this country, we have people in authority in this administration who've decided that we must not use the terms that accurately describe what our killers believe, our want-to-be killers believe. We can't use those words. They might be offended.

For heaven's sake, 9/11 of 2001 was plotted while Bill Clinton was President. And no one who has any fairness at all about them could ever accuse President Bill Clinton of demonstrating bias or prejudice against Islam. He sent troops to protect Muslims in Eastern Europe.

Whether we agree or disagree that it was appropriate use of American troops and American lives, he sent American lives that were lost to help Muslims. And all the while President Bill Clinton, as Commander in Chief, was trying to help Muslims, there were radical Islamists who were plotting and planning an incredibly egregious and heinous act and attack against the United States of America. And that was before anybody ever used the words "jihad," "radical Islam," or "al Qaeda."

There's an article that my staff called to my attention last night in the Washington Examiner, an editorial, posted April 25 at 9 p.m. The title of their op-ed is, "How the FBI Was Blinded By Political Correctness." It says:

As the initial elation over the swift identification and ending of the brothers Tsarnaev manhunt fades, a steady stream of facts are emerging that strongly suggest the need for a more sober assessment of the FBI's performance in the 2 years prior to the Boston Marathon bombing.

FBI counterterrorism agents interviewed Tamerlan Tsarnaev, the older of the brothers, in January 2011 after receiving a tip from Russian intelligence. Since the interviewing agents thought they heard nothing to indicate Tsarnaev was a terrorist, little else was done and the case was closed 2 months later.

A few months after that, Tsarnaev went to Russia and encountered somebody or experienced something that apparently prompted him to become quite open about his devotion to a radical vision of Islamic jihad. The FBI visited him a second time after he returned to the United States, but again concluded that Tsarnaev was not a threat.

It is speculation now, of course, but it's difficult to believe the Tsarnaevs would have been able to carry out the bombing had they been under active surveillance before the 2013 Boston Marathon.

The editorial from the Washington Examiner goes on and says:

Whatever else may yet be discovered about what the FBI missed, there is no excuse for the agency not grasping the significance of the radical Islamist video Tamerlan posted on his Facebook page, entitled, "The Emergence of Prophecy: The Black Flags from Khorasan." The video explains and glorifies the prophecy of a mighty jihadist army rising from the Iranian region of the near east to conquer the world and establish an enduring Muslim empire. The Khorasan connection is a staple of al Qaeda ideology, and the video's presence on Tsarnaev's Facebook page was a red flag that should have alerted agents to a very real potential danger.

It is quite possible, though, the FBI agents who interviewed Tsarnaev on both occasions failed to understand what they saw and heard because that's what they were trained to do. As the Washington Examiner's Mark Flatten reported last year, FBI training manuals were systematically purged in 2011 of all references to Islam that were judged offensive by a specially created five-member panel. Three of the panel members were Muslim advocates from outside the FBI, which still refuses to make public their identities. Nearly 900 pages were removed from the manuals as a result of that review. Several Congressmen were allowed to review the removed materials in 2012 on condition that they not disclose what they read to their staffs, the media, or the general public.

With the recent proliferation of revelations about FBI blindness on the brothers

Tsarnaev, a comment made last year by Representative Louie Gohmert, Republican of Texas, to Flatten now has a tragic resonance: "We've got material being removed more because of political correctness than in the interest of truth and properly educated justice officials. We are blinding our enforcement officers from the ability to see who the enemy actually is."

The Boston bombing showed the tragic consequences of that blindness.

This is an op-ed from yesterday by the Washington Examiner quoting me from over a year ago. In fact, on February 16, 2012, I gave a speech from right here on the House floor that was recorded where I talked about this very issue, and something of assistance was a poster. This poster points out the terminology that was used in the 9/11 Commission report because in that 9/11 Commission report, before this administration took over and implemented political correctness, the 9/11 Commission didn't know they had to be politically correct in the terminology they use, according to the new standards by the FBI, so they referred to "violent extremism" three times. They referred to the "enemy" 39 times. They referred to "jihad" 126 times. They used the word "Muslim" 145 times. They referred to "Islam" 322 times. They referred to "takfir" one time. They referred to the "Muslim Brotherhood" five times. They referred to "religious" 65 times.

□ 1400

They referred to "Hamas" four times, "Hezbollah" two times, "al Qaeda" 36 times, "caliphate" seven times, and "sharia" twice.

And then it's easy to see that when it comes to "enemy," neither the National Intelligence Strategy of 2009 under this administration, nor the FBI counterterrorism lexicon, the words that are allowed to be used by FBI agents in their terminology, apparently it is okay to talk about violent extremism, which is why Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano, she created a Countering Violent Extremism Working Group. Although she could not tell me how many members of the Muslim Brotherhood were part of that working group, we knew that there were some. She also could not tell me how many members of the Muslim Brotherhood who would like to see a giant caliphate in which the United States was included, how many she had in her Homeland Security Advisory Council that she gave secret clearances to. There's no way they could've been properly vetted and still gotten secret security clearances.

But we see with the new FBI terminology and the new intelligence terminology, they can't talk about the enemy. They can't talk about jihad. They can't talk about Muslim. They can't talk about Islam. They can't talk about the Muslim Brotherhood. They can refer to religion; but as we know from the Homeland Security reports that they've yielded, the thing they're worried about really is more people

who believe in the Constitution and veterans and Christians who are evangelical Christians. They'll talk about religious there; but, obviously, not in terms of radical Islam. They won't talk about Hamas. They won't talk about Hezbollah. The FBI counterterrorism lexicon doesn't even include reference to al Qaeda or sharia, nor does the Intelligence Strategy.

So the question comes to my mind about that interview, the interviews back in 2011, because I know so many FBI agents that are incredible Americans, real patriots, smart, a lot of wisdom and judgment, but they follow orders like I did when I was in the Army. You do what you're ordered to do, and they do.

But what kind of interview must that have been of the guy who was going to blow off arms and legs and kill a child and who had dreams of killing so many more? What kind of interview must that have been when you can't use the word "jihad"? You can't talk about his Muslim faith. Did they even bring up Tamerlan's Muslim faith in that interview? I mean, they're not supposed to talk about it. And I do not believe in using religion to discriminate against anybody; but when you find out that there is a radical sect, not like the vast, incredibly vast majority of Muslims who don't want to kill people, and don't want to maim, and don't think it's right to cause that kind of human suffering, but there is a sect, a radical Islamist sect, and they can't talk about it. What kind of interview was that?

Is it any wonder that the FBI came away from their interviews and said, we don't find any problems.

Well, I guess not. If you can't talk in detail about Islamic faith to find out whether someone is a radical, whether his beliefs have now embraced the book "The Milestone" that Qutb of Egypt embraced, that some in this country, some that our own Homeland Security Secretary think are wonderful people, they've embraced the same writings that Osama bin Laden said helped radicalize him, if you can't know about those things, how in the world can you do a legitimate interview and find out is this a peace-loving Muslim or is this a radical who wants to kill people? And if I don't get this conversation right, 2 years from now there will be people dead in Boston. How silly must we be as a Nation to blindfold our law enforcement and not let them see an enemy that wants to destroy us.

Now, I've talked to enough intelligence officers, Justice Department officials, people that love this country, Homeland Security, and they are so frustrated with the shackles that they have to wear, figuratively speaking, while they try to protect this country, where you can't talk about the beliefs of people who want to destroy this blessed country. What kind of interviews must those have been when you can't use the terms that let you get to the bottom of what may be a plot to kill people down the road?

There's no problem in the Justice Department. There is a problem with leadership that will not let them do their job, and it needs to change.

I'm blessed to be joined by a colleague, and I yield to Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

REMEMBERING HOWARD PHILLIPS

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Howard Phillips, a statesman, a patriot, and to the very end of his life, a brilliant thinker and tireless organizer for constitutionally limited government. He sought to limit the Federal Government at almost every turn.

In 1974, he founded the Conservative Caucus, which we might call the Tea Party movement of its day. He helped forge the New Right, and perhaps more than any other leader, he never put party above principle.

He organized behind the scenes. He was a mentor to today's conservative mentors; and above all, he believed in the sovereignty of God and not of the State.

He was a brilliant speaker, and a brilliant thinker. Any American searching for the meaning of American values might look to Howard Phillips for guidance.

Tomorrow's young conservative leaders may not learn Phillips' name, but his ideas will live on, and for that, we should be grateful. The conservative movement lost a lion last week, and it is my privilege to remember him.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you for that worthy tribute.

Well, I want to reference a part of a Special Order address that was delivered here on this floor February 16, 2012, by me, and in that I had before me a transcript of a hearing where the FBI Director testified, and I pointed out—well, I just read the transcript, as I will do now, part of it. I pointed out before reading that I don't have a problem with the FBI having an outreach program to communities, but I said:

Why would the FBI see the need to make positive outreach into any community of a specific nature?

So after Director Mueller had indicated, yes, we have this wonderful outreach program with the Muslim communities, and those communities are exactly like every other community, I said:

You had mentioned earlier and it's in your written statement that the FBI developed an extensive outreach to Muslim communities, and in answer to an earlier question I understood you to say that Muslim communities were like all other communities.

□ 1410

So I'm curious. As a result of the extensive outreach program the FBI has had to the Muslim community, how has your outreach program gone with the Baptists and the Catholics?

Director Mueller said:

I'm not certain of necessarily the thrust of that question. I would say that our outreach to all segments of a particular city or county or society are good.

I said:

Well, do you have a particular program of outreach to Hindus, Buddhists, Jewish community, agnostics, or is it just an extensive outreach program to—

He interrupted and said:

We have outreach to every one of those communities.

I asked how he did that, and then he started to filibuster. And I said:

I have looked extensively, and I haven't seen anywhere in any one of the FBI's letters information that there's been an extensive outreach program to any other community trying to develop trust and this kind of a relationship, and it makes me wonder if there is an issue of trust or some problem like that that the FBI has seen in that particular community.

And just so there's no mistaking, let me just read directly from the judge's opinion in the Holy Land Foundation case in response to the effort by ISNA, the Islamic Society of North America, CAIR, Council on American Islamic Relations, NAIT, the Holy Land Foundation and others.

And I read this:

The judge said: The government has produced ample evidence the associations of CAIR, ISNA, NAIT and the Holy Land Foundation, the Islamic Association for Palestine, and Hamas. While the Court recognizes that the evidence produced by the government largely predates the Holy Land Foundation designation date, the evidence is nonetheless sufficient to show the association of these entities with the Holy Land Foundation, the Islamic Association for Palestine and Hamas.

There was plenty of evidence to support that, according to the judge. That was affirmed by the Fifth Circuit.

It's important to note that, out of concern for the FBI's outreach program, and the State Department and the White House for reaching out, bringing in people who courts have said supported terrorism, and these people are being brought in, in the military we say brought inside the wire, in this case, brought inside the State Department, brought inside the White House on a regular basis, brought inside the Justice Department, my friend, Frank Wolf had this language added to the continuing resolution that was passed, that President Obama signed into law. This is language in the law, and my friend, Mr. Wolf included it to reference the FBI's policy.

It says, and this is the language in the law:

Conferees support the FBI's policy prohibiting any formal non-investigative cooperation with unindicted co-conspirators in terrorism cases. The conferees expect the FBI to insist on full compliance with this policy by FBI field offices, and to report to the Committee on Appropriations regarding any violation of the policy.

Well, guess what? We didn't get this from the FBI. We had to get it from the Islamic Society of North America's own Web site. They reported that on Wednesday, February 8—that was last year, 2012—that the American Arab Anti-discrimination Committee, the Arab American Institute, the Interfaith Alliance, the Islamic Society of North America, ISNA, which has been pronounced by the Fifth Circuit as having plenty of evidence to support that they fund terrorism, and have, and then it mentions other groups, including the Shoulder-to-Shoulder Campaign.

But they, it says:

They had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the Public Affairs Office of the FBI. Director Robert Mueller joined the meeting to discuss these matters with representatives from the organizations.

The conversation with Director Mueller centered on material used by the agency that depicts falsehoods and negative connotations of the Muslim American community. The use of the material was first uncovered by Wired magazine.

And that was uncovered by an organization that seems to be right in there with those who were unindicted but named co-conspirators in funding terrorism.

From ISNA, they say:

Director Mueller informed the participants that the FBI took the review of the training material very seriously, and he pursued the matter with urgency to ensure that this does not occur again in the future.

ISNA President, Imam Magid, who's a frequent visitor to the White House, who the White House consults on speeches, or has, and welcomed to the inner sanctum of the State Department, other departments here in Washington, Magid stated:

The discovery of FBI training materials that discriminated against Muslims did damage to the trust that was built between dedicated FBI officials and the American Muslim community. We welcome and appreciate Director Mueller's commitment to take positive steps toward eradicating such materials and rebuilding trust in an open dialogue.

The Director also informed participants that, to date, nearly all related FBI training materials, including more than 160,000 pages of documents, were reviewed by subject matter experts multiple times. Consequently, more than 700 documents, 300 presentations of material, have been deemed unusable by the Bureau and pulled from the training curriculum. Material was pulled from the curriculum if even one component was deemed to include factual errors or be in poor taste or be stereotypical or lack precision.

I guess stereotypical would mean if they point out that terrorists have one thing in common, that would be stereotypical.

ISNA also reports:

It was clear to all meeting participants that the issue of trust between community Members and the FBI needs to be taken seriously by all our Nation's decisionmakers. It was evident the Bureau must strengthen its efforts to build trust.

How about trust from the other side?

How about condemnation of terrorist acts?

How about coming out and making clear all ties have been severed with Hamas and Hezbollah and those who would seek to make terror on innocent people?

Anyway, ISNA's rejoicing because they got the FBI to actually go through and cull material that has words like "jihad," words like "extremist," words that have been purged from the FBI lexicon.

Now, I was one who was allowed, in a classified setting, which I felt was totally unnecessary, to see the names of the so-called subject matter experts. I was allowed to go through material and see what it was.

And it's time, Mr. Speaker, that our FBI agents and intelligence be allowed to remove the blindfolds and see who the enemy is when they do interrogations and questioning.

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

THANKING THE FIRST RESPONDERS IN THE BOSTON MARATHON BOMBING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from Massachusetts to thank the law enforcement officers, medical professionals, first responders and citizen heroes for their incredible bravery and sacrifice during and after the tragic events last week at the Boston Marathon.

Given the time constraints, I'd like to now yield to my colleague from Massachusetts, BILL KEATING.

Mr. KEATING. I'd like to thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank so many of our colleagues that we work with day in and day out. When we came here back into session, so many of them gave their heartfelt feelings for all those that were hurt during the terrible marathon bombing that occurred in Boston on April 15.

We first remember those that lost their lives during this terrible, terrible tragedy. And there's never words that are adequate to deal with these issues. That type of loss to family, to friends, to loved ones can't really be put into words.

□ 1420

I can only convey my own, as well as our colleagues', sympathy for those families. Four young people's lives were taken too quickly from us—all four people who had so much to give. They were four people who we had a glimpse of with the accounts of their lives as the public mourned and joined with their families at their loss. It was just a glimpse. But what a glimpse:

A young boy, Martin Richard, had a profound message, as his poster revealed to all: "No more hurting people. Peace."

Lu Lingzi, who came here from another country to study and to better herself; an accomplished student, pianist, a young woman who had developed tremendous friendships in the short time she was here, who came to this

country to learn more, to become more, and to offer more.

Sean Collier, a young police officer who dedicated himself to helping people. To protect and to serve, that was his goal. He gave his life doing just that.

Krystle Campbell, a young, vibrant woman; a person who, despite a busy life, busy schedule, put much of her life on hold—over a year—to help her grandmother when she was ill.

There were the first responders and the people that were injured, over 280, including Richard Donohue, an MBT police officer who participated with Watertown police in slowing down these perpetrators before they could harm more people. He was seriously injured. We pray for him in the process.

There were first responders on the scene, including civilians who just risked everything they had to provide emergency aid and help to those runners and those bystanders who were there. They were first responders that had been trained for years for terrible moments like this, who sacrificed their safety moving forward—EMTs, police officers, firefighters.

The incredible medical community in the Boston area, some of whom ran to work knowing what happened and were there, ready, emergency room doors opened, everything in place, saving lives.

We honor the citizens in our area who all gave up a small part of their freedom listening to their leaders who displayed good judgment, common sense, and moving forward to put their safety first.

Those lives of those four young people that aren't with us now, as well as the lives of those people that are recovering from the injuries and those first responders that helped us, will not be defined by a depraved act of violence of two individuals. These people are the definers themselves: givers, people that care. That's who we are. They define the best in us, the selfless side in us. They define the best of what's Boston. They define the best of what's in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. They define the best of us as Americans. And they are all to be remembered today. It's a time to put politics aside and remember what a great country we have because of individuals like this.

Ms. TSONGAS. I thank the gentleman and appreciate very much his heartfelt comments.

At this time, I would like to yield to my colleague from Rhode Island, DAVID CICILLINE.

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentlewoman very much for yielding and thank my other colleagues for accommodating me.

My home is in Providence, Rhode Island, which is about an hour south of Boston. Two weeks ago, several of my friends and neighbors traveled to Boston to compete in the marathon. When I first learned of these horrific attacks, my thoughts first turned to them and their families.

Like all Rhode Islanders, I've kept the people of Boston and their loved ones in my thoughts and prayers over the past 2 weeks. It's in moments such as this that words fail to adequately describe the pain we feel in our hearts, our continuing sense of disbelief, and the anger we hold toward those responsible for such a senseless and vicious attack—the actions of these two individuals that demonstrated such a callous disregard for so many lives, some were ended and many were irreversibly changed.

These attacks were an attempt to shake the very foundation of our democratic and free society. But after these bombs exploded on a beautiful sunny day in Boston and we saw the incredible harm caused to so many, we also witnessed the very best of humanity in the courageous actions of the brave men and women who responded to this attack, helped care for the injured, and relentlessly pursued their perpetrators and brought them to justice.

We think about those brave police officers and first responders who witnessed these attacks firsthand and instinctively raced towards the source of these blasts so they could assist the wounded and keep others from harm. We think also about a 26-year-old MIT campus police officer who was murdered as he worked to keep his community safe. We think about an MBTA transit police officer who never hesitated when he answered a call to report immediately to Watertown and continues to fight after sustaining life-threatening injuries trying to apprehend these suspects.

Sometimes it takes a tragic event to remind us of the incredible sacrifices our first responders make every single day. And the heroism demonstrated by these men and women in the face of such overwhelming danger helps remind us just how much we owe to those who keep our communities safe in cities and towns all across this country.

These attacks were designed to strike fear and intimidate the people of Boston and all Americans. But instead, they brought out the very best that our country has to offer, not just in the actions we saw from men and women in Boston, but in the generosity shown by those who gave blood, donated money, and did everything they could to bring any measure of relief for the victims and their families.

I join my colleagues in applauding their service today, and ask that all of us remember the responsibility that those of us in the House have to serve our first responders and to continue to keep the families affected by this attack in our thoughts and prayers.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, on April 15 and in the days after, local, State, and Federal law enforcement personnel from across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and nearby States of Rhode Island and New Hampshire joined in a weeklong effort to respond to the marathon bombing and assist in finding and capturing the suspects. These dedi-

cated first responders saved hundreds of lives in the immediate aftermath of the attack and saved countless more from the threat of future attacks.

Through unprecedented communication and confident leadership, public safety agencies at every level coordinated to bring justice down upon those responsible. Their actions proved that no act of terror can blunt the spirit of resiliency, of fortitude, of endurance that is at the heart of the American people.

As relief and pride wash over the Boston area, we must not forget that there is still much healing to be done. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families of Martin Richard, a young boy whose big smile we will never forget and whose sign, "No more hurting people. Peace," is a living challenge to all of us; Krystle Campbell, a fine young woman who, since she could, has attended virtually every marathon day, so emblematic of the great event that it is for the city of Boston, but also for the entire Commonwealth and region; Lu Lingzi, a young student from China, so emblematic of the ways in which Boston's great academic institutions draw people from across the world to share in the great treasure that we have there, but also to participate in those great days that are uniquely American, like Patriots' Day; and Officer Sean Collier, somebody beloved by the student body.

□ 1430

I had several MIT students in to see me just a couple of days ago. They said everybody knew him and everybody liked him.

And the more than 200 innocent people—a number from my district—who suffered severe injuries from this senseless attack, we want to remember and encourage all of them as they go forward.

Jeff Bauman, who suffered tragic loss of limbs, but who, as he came out of surgery, was able to help identify the suspects.

The Corcoran family, a mother and daughter who are currently sharing a hospital room together as they begin the long journey of recovery but who are already having tremendous assistance. Lowell High School, where Krystle is a student, sent prom tickets to be sure that she would make her way there. And many amputees, who have successfully gone on to new lives, were in the waiting room waiting to encourage them as they go forward and to show them what is possible.

Richard Donohue, Jr., the MBTA Transit policeman who rushed to assist, doing his duty critically injured.

Also from my district, Brittany Loring, Steven Byrne, James Gauntlett, David Yezpe, many members of the White family, the Brassard family, and Roseann Sdoia; remarkable people who shared in a tremendous and troubling moment in our history.

I'd also like to remember some other specific people who have roots to my district.

Commissioner Ed Davis. I have known Commissioner Davis since his early days on the beat in my hometown of Lowell. During a 28-year career at the Lowell Police Department Davis worked as a beat cop, a detective, and a vice and narcotics officer before being named chief in 1994.

During his time in Lowell, Chief Davis helped to turn around our city and set it off into an age of growth. We were proud of him when he left to become the Boston Police Commissioner, and we are even more proud of him now.

Commissioner Davis showed extraordinary intelligence, professionalism, poise and confidence from Monday through the capture of the suspects on Friday. He was a calming influence in a time of great chaos and crisis. He deserves the thanks and gratitude of the people of Boston, of our Commonwealth, and of our country.

I commend Special Agent in Charge Richard DesLauriers, who proved himself extremely capable during the entire crisis as he oversaw the massive operation of identifying and tracking down the suspects and helped bring the swift arm of justice down upon those responsible.

Also, at times of great crisis we look to our leaders for guidance and confidence. Our leaders—city, State and Federal—did not shy away but rather confronted the chaos head-on, challenged the evil, and pushed forward so that we could, together as one community, arrive quickly at healing and justice.

In particular, Mayor Tom Menino. This mayor came from the hospital to be involved in the aftermath and suspect search. Seeing him on television in a wheelchair gave everyone a great feeling of pride, and we couldn't help but notice how deeply he cares for the city he has so ably overseen for many years. He embodies the grit and toughness that Boston is known for. He embodies Boston Strong.

Governor Deval Patrick was a true leader during a time of crisis. He helped oversee the coordination of so many agencies to ensure optimal collaboration and made sure the public was up to date and aware of the situation as it developed, as we all watched moment to moment from our homes or whatever we might be. He stood with gravitas and a determined, strong composure that trickled down throughout the State public safety agencies.

And we will always appreciate President Barack Obama's deep involvement since the start. His words during the service at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross were a touching example of our Nation's unwavering resolve. As much as we are Boston Strong, Commonwealth Strong, we are all one and we are all strong.

I have to say that the interfaith service was a remarkable moment, when representatives of the many different faiths came together as we embarked

on a journey of healing and reassurance about the unity, strength and resiliency that Boston is known for.

It was a uniquely American day. The marathon that is much celebrated draws people from across the world, across our country, across Massachusetts; a great Red Sox game—many go from one event to the other; and Patriot's Day, which commemorates the beginning of the American Revolution, the reenactment of Paul Revere's ride, and the Shot Heard Around the World. The commemoration takes place in my district.

All of that is to say that we will work hard to follow up with and be strong supporters of those who still seek to recover, make sure they have all the necessary resources going forward, and that they have the strong support of their community and friends. And we will do all that it takes to move forward from this tragic moment and to make of it something good that brings us all together and helps continue this country on a path of healing.

With that, I'd like to yield to my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank my colleague, NIKI TSONGAS, for organizing today's Special Order, and I thank her for the time.

It is with immense gratitude that I rise to honor Massachusetts' first responders today. While I'm always proud to call myself a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being from Massachusetts has carried a very special significance these past 12 days.

The tragic bombings that occurred on April 15 took three precious, innocent lives and caused hundreds of others to suffer devastating wounds. A former intern of mine, Patrick Downes, and his wife, Jess, were wounded. I want them to know that we are continuing to pray for them and for all the others who are wounded.

We also remember Officer Sean Collier, an MIT police officer who was shot and killed. Our prayers are with his family.

So many lives were upended by this tragic, senseless act of violence. Citizens of the Commonwealth and Americans across the country are still coping with the horror of the bombings that took place on what is normally a celebratory day in Massachusetts—Patriot's Day. Amidst these acts of violence and terror, our belief in the fundamental goodness of people is strengthened when we reflect on the courageous acts of so many in the wake of such a tragedy.

I want to recognize the incredible sacrifices of Massachusetts' first responders and the sacrifices that they made from the moment the bombs went off until the time the final suspect was apprehended.

Even as we speak, victims are still being treated by medical professionals

at some of the world's finest hospitals, like Massachusetts General, Beth Israel Deaconess, Boston Medical Center, Brigham and Women's, and Boston's Children's Hospital, among others.

Police, firefighters, medical professionals, members of the National Guard, even ordinary citizens rushed to the scene of the bombing last week in order to help the wounded, potentially putting themselves in harm's way. Sleep was the last thing on the minds of many of these selfless men and women who worked back-to-back shifts in support of the communities they call home.

The extraordinary response of the Boston medical community is very much a part of the story of the 2013 Boston Marathon. The explosions took place at 2:50 p.m. Emergency medical teams mobilized immediately, and 35 minutes later—after the injured were swiftly and efficiently stabilized, transported and triaged at hospitals throughout the city—the first patient was wheeled into an operating room. Nurses, doctors, all medical personnel simply showed up to help.

I want to recognize the incredible leadership of President Obama, of Governor Deval Patrick, and of Boston Mayor Tom Menino. They offered words of comfort, they reassured us, and they helped us get through this terrible ordeal. I was particularly moved to see Mayor Menino, who was recovering from a broken leg, stand tall and lead his great city.

I also want to recognize Richard DesLauriers, the special agent in charge of the Boston FBI and an Assumption College graduate, for his outstanding work which led to the apprehension of the final suspect. They have all made our State very proud.

At the interfaith service last week, we showed the world that Boston and Massachusetts will not be deterred. We are a resilient community, and we will emerge from this stronger than ever. In a week where we saw the very best and worst of human behavior on display, I am proud to say that Massachusetts' best, our first responders, triumphed.

While we continue to reflect on the tragedies of last week, we move forward with a renewed sense of pride, knowing that their exceptional commitment to public service is what makes us all Boston Strong.

□ 1440

Ms. TSONGAS. I thank the gentleman and appreciate his comments and the fact that we are all coming together to talk about this event we are still working very hard to comprehend.

With that, I would like to yield to my colleague, our newest Member from Massachusetts, Congressman KENNEDY.

Mr. KENNEDY. I would like to begin by thanking the gentlelady from Massachusetts for the opportunity and most importantly for pulling us all together here today to mark a moment that none of us will ever forget, a sig-

nature moment in Massachusetts history.

I also want to begin by recognizing the victims of the horrific attacks that happened last Monday. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families as they begin a long road to recovery. I, I think like many of my colleagues from Massachusetts and like so many people from Massachusetts and from really around the country and around the world, have always delighted in Marathon Monday. I don't know how many times I went out and watched the runners as they ran by on their quest to the finish line on Boylston Street. My stepmother has actually run the marathon a number of times; and together with my dad and brother, we would often go down to Heartbreak Hill to watch the runners at the time that they need it most.

As you see all the runners run by, I think one of the things that always stuck with me was how many people were there cheering them on. As you think about it, 26.2 miles, with people from the very beginning in Hopkinton to the end on Boylston Street in Boston, two, three, four, five rows deep on each side of the street, sitting there, screaming, yelling, offering a bottle of water or literally a hand to those who are trying, striving for an incredible feat of personal endurance and excellence.

That is really, I think, to me what that marathon, what that day, is all about. It's about a community that comes together to cheer on not just the runners but to celebrate what we have built together, to recognize that that day isn't just about those individual feats of excellence but about a community that is willing to cheer on complete strangers, for runners to know—and you'll hear it if you talk to those that have competed in that race—that, yes, it is an extraordinarily difficult course, but that Boston is one of the best marathons to run because there is always a crowd that is there to carry you through to the finish line. Complete strangers, people you have never seen before and will never see again, but they are there to offer a hand.

And so it was with great sadness, but also great pride, that I watched the events unfold on Monday, to see complete strangers run into danger rather than flee from it; to see our first responders answer our call of bravery without hesitation; to meet the doctor that after running the marathon and completing 26.2 miles ran to work so that he could get started helping save victims; to meet some of the victims and their families, to know that we will never, despite how much we have come together, be able to replace Martin and Krystle and Lu and Officer Collier, but that the long path to recovery, that we will be there with them for every step of the way; to recognize the law enforcement officers that put themselves in grave danger, never quite knowing what might happen or what weapons these two terrible individuals might have on them, that took

great risks for the sake of safety for our own communities; to the investigators and the prosecutors that now have the long task of bringing these individuals to justice; to our sports teams, to the 17,000 strong that sang the national anthem in Boston Garden and the 30,000-plus that belted it out at Fenway Park; to Mayor Menino, Vice President BIDEN and President Obama for their leadership in this difficult time; to the One Fund for Boston that in shortly over 10 days has already grown to over \$20 million, pouring in from citizens from around the country to help provide a little bit of relief to those who will need it most in this long road to recovery.

It is an extraordinary message, a powerful symbol that gets back to what Boston and Massachusetts have always been about. From the first people that set foot on our shores, the earliest settlers and the Pilgrims, that we have each other's backs and we always will, and that next year on Patriots Day the marathon will be run more crowded and louder than ever.

Ms. TSONGAS. I thank my colleague for his very insightful comments. It is so true: it's a spirit of community that was so evident. It's embedded in the race itself, the marathon itself. It's something that was so evident as everybody responded, as the bombs went off to tragic effect. It's been followed up with all the tremendous outpouring of contributions both to individual funds as well as the One Fund; and in the smallest of ways, as I mentioned, Lowell High School sent prom tickets to Sydney Corcoran, wanting to make sure that she would be able to attend, and also that spirit of help from across the country, to have a young man who lost his leg in a shark attack in Hawaii at his own expense come to Boston to visit with some of those who had sadly lost their legs, to say, yes, you're going to be, not fine, forever changed, but your life will be very productive and positive. We have seen this over and over again, and I thank you for your comments.

With that, I would like to yield to my colleague from New Hampshire, Congresswoman CAROL SHEA-PORTER.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Thank you very much for having this moment, an opportunity to talk about Boston and also to talk about the country and to talk about Boston's neighbor, New Hampshire.

On that day, like so many others, I had a family member whose brother-in-law was running in that race and he was running because his father had died of cancer. And so many people were running for causes that day. Fortunately, the family is fine, but some families were devastated beyond belief.

You know, Boston is a small city, but it's a great city; and New Hampshire is a small State, but it's a great State. And so what happens to Boston and what happens to Massachusetts is felt deeply in New Hampshire. You see, we work together, we play together, and

we attend events together. We also grieve together. And so when that call came to New Hampshire, when Boston reached out and asked our police forces to help, the answer from a Nashua SWAT team member was, of course we can. The answer from the Manchester SWAT team—Manchester, New Hampshire—was, yes, and they were on their way. The answer from the Seacoast Emergency Response Team, SERT, that has officers from 11 different seacoast communities was, yes; and the answer from the New Hampshire State Police SWAT and the explosives disposal unit was, yes, we'll be there.

They understood the danger, but they also understood that they were needed and they didn't hesitate. And the stories coming from that experience are very moving. One team reported how an elderly woman in Watertown had hidden behind her couch for hours. You can imagine the terror that the residents felt. And yet our first responders were there, the police were there, the comfort was there.

So as we pray for the victims and we remember those who died, the victims are also from New Hampshire and many other States, as we know, and somebody died from a foreign country, but we're all one. We're all Boston strong. As we remember all of them, we thank our police officers and our first responders for always being there when we need them because, as they said when the call came, yes, of course we'll do that.

Thank you very much for having this.

Ms. TSONGAS. I thank the gentlewoman and appreciate very much her comments as well as the shared commitment of Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to responding to the horrific attacks.

As we face the days ahead, Patriots Day will continue to be a day when we commemorate a people who refused to be terrorized and courageously defend the ideals on which our Nation was founded.

In the words of our great poet Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Our flag will most defiantly remain unfurled in April's breeze."

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of the victims of the terrorist bombings that struck the City of Boston during the 117th running of the Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013. I rise also in prayer for the recovery of all those who were injured in this horrific attack and to honor the heroism of the responders to this tragedy.

Krystle Campbell, a resident of Arlington in my Congressional District and graduate of Medford High School, lost her life at the Boston Marathon finish line doing what she loved to do: support other people. She was 29 years old, just a few weeks from her 30th birthday, with a lifetime of helping more people ahead of her.

Krystle's annual pilgrimage to the marathon represented who she was, says her family. When people needed support, Krystle was there. When her grandmother needed help fol-

lowing surgery, Krystle moved in with her for two years to help her recover.

Krystle's smile, hard work, and constant happy demeanor is what her family and friends will miss. But most of all, they will miss what she was always known for: being there when you needed her, being a joyful, active participant in the lives of her family and friends.

In our grief, we know that Krystle is still there, still cheering all of us on, still there in our hearts. Today we honor her memory and the joy she brought to so many lives.

Martin Richard, an eight-year old boy from Dorchester, Massachusetts, had his entire life ahead of him.

He loved to play sports, draw pictures, and was dearly loved by his family, friends, classmates, and community;

Lu Lingzi came to the United States from China to study statistics at Boston University. She posted to her friends that morning of April 15th that she was enjoying her day. Lu Lingzi reminds us of our common humanity, and that these senseless acts of terrorism are crimes that have no borders.

In the seconds, hours, and days following the bombings, Massachusetts and the nation witnessed the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of law enforcement officers and other first responders. Officer Sean Collier of Wilmington, Massachusetts, gave his life, the ultimate sacrifice, during this ordeal.

Sean was an outstanding officer of the MIT police force on his way to a position on the Somerville police force. Yesterday the Somerville Board of Aldermen unanimously voted to posthumously name Sean Collier a Somerville police officer. Somerville's Mayor Joseph Curtatone said "This person was exemplary as a public servant and a human being. He would have been an outstanding member of the Somerville Police Department."

Officer Collier was on his regular shift, protecting the students at MIT, when he was assassinated by two twisted individuals as Officer Collier sat in his police cruiser.

We mourn his loss, along with his family, the MIT community, Massachusetts, and Americans everywhere.

Officer Collier was known by his family, friends, and co-workers as a generous, kind, and dedicated individual and officer. His friends say he was always armed with a sense of humor, and his roommate who trained with him at the academy said his only fault was that he was too brave.

Officer Collier represents the best of Massachusetts and of law enforcement. We honor his memory and know that his life of service and sacrifice will never be forgotten by Massachusetts or the nation.

In the early morning of Friday, April 19, 2013, after a week of searching for suspects in the Boston Marathon bombings, and just hours after an MIT officer had been assassinated, Massachusetts law enforcement spotted and engaged the two brothers who were accused of committing the bombings.

The officers who exchanged fire with the two brothers were met with heavy resistance by the suspects. 200 or more rounds of ammunition are reported to have been fired on the corner of Dexter and Laurel Streets in Watertown, Massachusetts, in my congressional district. The bombers also hurled explosives at the officers, turning a city street into a battlefield.

One officer of the MBTA police force, Richard Donohue, Jr., was struck in the leg during the firefight. He likely did not know then, but his academy classmate and friend, Sean Collier of the MIT police force, was the officer felled by the bombing suspects hours earlier.

Officer Donohue of Woburn in my congressional district raced to help his fellow officers—not a surprise for an officer known as an avid runner and a dedicated public servant. His family notes that his great-great-grandfather even won the Boston Marathon, where Officer Donohue started his week working a shift at this iconic race.

Officer Donohue is being cared for in the hospital, with his family by his side. An entire Massachusetts family of citizens remains forever in his debt for putting his life on the line to keep us safe.

We mourn the innocent victims who lost their lives on Patriots Day at the Boston Marathon: Krystle Campbell, Martin Richard and Lu Lingzi. We grieve for Office Sean Collier, who was killed by the bombers as he protected the students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). We pray for the recovery of all MBTA Police Officer Richard Donohue, Jr. and all those injured in the blasts. We honor the heroism of all of our police officers, fire fighters, medical staff and other emergency responders.

We will never forget. We will always remain "Boston Strong".

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

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

Mrs. BEATTY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a family emergency.

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

Mrs. WALORSKI (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of the death of Sandy Decesaro, a close personal friend.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, April 30, 2013, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

1310. A letter from the Board Chair and CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — 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 (RIN: 3052-AC75) received April 17, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1311. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing Brigadier General Lewis A. Craparotta, United States Marine Corps, to wear the insignia of the grade of major general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1312. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the department's intentions to continue to expand the role of women in the Army and Marine Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1313. A letter from the Assistant, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Bank, transmitting the System's final rule — Definitions of "Predominantly Engaged In Financial Activities" and "Significant" Nonbank Financial Company and Bank Holding Company [Regulation PP; Docket No. R-1405] received April 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1314. A letter from the Deputy Associate Director for External Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's Consumer Response Annual Report for 2012; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1315. A letter from the Assistant Director for the Office of Older Americans, Consumer Financial Protections Bureau, transmitting a Report on Senior Designations for Financial Advisors; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1316. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] received April 17, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1317. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2012 annual report on mining activities as required by the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1318. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Distribution Transformers [Docket No.: EERE-2010-BT-STD-0048] (RIN: 1904-AC04) received April 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1319. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Geologic Sequestration of Carbon Dioxide: Draft Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program Class VI Well Plugging, Post Injection Site Care, and Site Closure Guidance received April 26, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1320. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule -Evaluations of Explosions Postulated to Occur at Nearby Facilities and on Transportation Routes Near Nuclear Power Plants (Regulatory Guide 1.91) received April 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1321. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1991 (Pub. L. 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, a report prepared by the Department of State for the December

22, 2012 — February 19, 2013 reporting period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq, pursuant to Public Law 107-243, section 4(a) (116 Stat. 1501); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1322. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting report on proposed obligations for the Cooperative Threat Reduction; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1323. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period December 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1324. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning methods employed by the Government of Cuba to comply with the United States-Cuba September 1994 "Joint Communiqué" and the treatment by the Government of Cuba of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 "Joint Statement", together known as the Migration Accords; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1325. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1326. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a letter regarding actions under the Iran Sanctions Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1327. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Initial Implementation of Export Control Reform (RIN: 1400-AD37) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1328. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1329. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Defense, transmitting three reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1330. A letter from the Director, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report for FY 2012 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1331. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of the Navy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1332. A letter from the Director, Office of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting eight reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act

of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1333. A letter from the Diversity and Inclusion Programs Director, Federal Reserve System, transmitting the ninth annual report pursuant to Section 203(a) of the No FEAR Act, Pub. L. 107-174, for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1334. A letter from the President, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's annual report for FY 2012 prepared in accordance with Title II 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.

1335. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the report on the administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act covering the six months ending June 30, 2012, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 621; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1336. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting the Office's report entitled, "Executive Summary of the 2012 Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1337. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a follow up letter on a challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1338. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report entitled, "Debt Collection Recovery Activities of the Department of Justice for Debts Referred to the Department for Collection Annual Report for 2012"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1339. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Wage Methodology for the Temporary Non-Agricultural Employment H-2B Program, Part 2 (RIN: 1205-AB69) received April 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1340. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Visas: Documentation of Immigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended (RIN: 1400-AD39) received April 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1341. A letter from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, transmitting High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program Report to Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1342. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone for Ice Conditions; Baltimore Capitan of the Port Zone [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0986] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1343. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorages; Lower Mississippi River, Above Head of Passes, Convent, LA and Point Pleasant, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0103] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1344. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Draw-

bridge Operation Regulation; Lake Champlain, Swanton, VT [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0918] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1345. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Change to Enforcement Period, Patapsco River, Northwest and Inner Harbors; Baltimore, MD [Docket No.: USCG-2012-1075] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1346. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; MODU KULLUK; Kuluida Bay, Kodiak Island, AK to Captains Bay, Unalaska Island, AK [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0091] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1347. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of MARPOL Annex V Amendments [Docket No.: USCG-2012-1049] (RIN: 1625-AB97) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1348. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marine Vapor Control Systems [USCG-1999-5150] (RIN: 1625-AB37) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1349. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; New Haven Harbor, Quinnipiac and Mill Rivers, CT [Docket No.: USCG-2009-1021] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1350. A letter from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Transportation of Agricultural Commodities [Docket No.: FMCSA-2012-0378] (RIN: 2126-AB58) received April 26, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1351. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's FY 2010 annual report on the Child Support Enforcement Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1352. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applicable Federal Rates — May 2013 (Rev. Rul. 2013-11) received April 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1353. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the annual report on the National Security Education Program (NSEP) for 2012, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1906; jointly to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select) and Education and the Workforce.

1354. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report entitled "Report to Congress on Iran-Related Multilateral Sanctions Regime Efforts" covering the period from August 17, 2012 to February 16, 2013; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, and Ways and Means.

1355. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting

Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 2014, including the Performance Plan, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f(f); jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, and Appropriations.

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. LUCAS (for himself, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 1764. A bill to limit the amount of ammunition purchased or possessed by certain Federal agencies for a 6-month period; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LATHAM:

H.R. 1765. A bill to provide the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer certain funds to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 1766. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to eliminate the application of the sequestration to funds associated with the operation of air traffic control towers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. WATT, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HIMES, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. MARKEY):

H.R. 1767. A bill to exclude from consumer credit reports medical debt that has been in collection and has been fully paid or settled, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Ms. ROSELEHTINEN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SALMON, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. PERRY, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. RADELL, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. GRIMM):

H.R. 1768. A bill to amend the Diplomatic Security Act to require certain notifications to Congress of Accountability Review Boards of the Department of State, avoid conflicts of interest of the members of such Boards, require actions with respect to reports from such Boards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 1769. A bill to improve energy infrastructure resilience through federal water resource investments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself, Mr. BARBER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. STEWART):

H.R. 1770. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the different treatment under the Survivor Benefit Plan accorded members of the reserve components who die from an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of duty during inactive-duty training compared to members of

the Armed Forces who die in the line of duty while on active duty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. SALMON):

H.R. 1771. A bill to improve the enforcement of sanctions against the Government of North Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Financial Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. LANCE, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. ROYCE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FORBES, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. ISSA):

H.R. 1772. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make mandatory and permanent requirements relating to use of an electronic employment eligibility verification system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. HURT):

H.R. 1773. A bill to create a nonimmigrant H-2C work visa program for agricultural workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and 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. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ENYART, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H.R. 1774. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the reemployment of certain persons following absences from a position of employment for the purpose of obtaining medical treatment for certain injuries and illnesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. MARINO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 1775. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue an order with respect to secondary cockpit barriers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FARR (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. DENHAM):

H.R. 1776. A bill to establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Ben-

nito and Fresno Counties, to designate the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness in such counties, to designate additional components of the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 1777. A bill to create jobs in the United States by increasing United States exports to Africa by at least 200 percent in real dollar value within 10 years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Small Business, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 1778. A bill to mandate training of members of the Foreign Service to protect the rights of United States citizens in the custody of foreign governments, to deny entry into the United States of officials of any foreign government, including their immediate family members, who commit or who fail to rectify fundamental due process and human rights violations of United States citizens in the custody of a foreign government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FINCHER (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California):

H.R. 1779. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. NUNES, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 1780. A bill to provide that the only health plans that the Federal Government may make available to the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, and Federal employees are those created under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or offered through a health insurance exchange; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CUELLAR, and Ms. FOX):

H.R. 1781. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for special immigrant status for certain spouses and children of employees of the United States Government abroad killed in the line of duty; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RIGELL (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, and Mr. HURT):

H.R. 1782. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior conduct offshore oil and gas Lease Sale 220 as soon as practicable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LATHAM (for himself and Mr. MCINTYRE):

H.R. 1783. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to issue loan guarantees for pur-

poses of financing improvements to school lunch facilities, training school food service personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. PETERS of Michigan (for himself, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. CHU, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 1784. A bill to reform and modernize domestic refugee resettlement programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 1785. A bill to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 1786. A bill to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. REED (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 1787. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. KLINE, Mr. JONES, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. COLE, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina):

H.R. 1788. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to delegate to States the authorities of the Secretary of the Interior under that Act with respect to cormorants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 1789. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require advance public notice of any modification to be made in the terms or conditions of any policy or plan of insurance offered under such Act; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ENYART, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 1790. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend to physician assistants eligibility for Medicaid incentive payments for the adoption and use of certified electronic health records, whether or not such physician assistants practice at a rural health center or Federally qualified health center; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 1791. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to codify authority under existing grant guidance authorizing use of Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grant Program funding for enhancing medical preparedness,

medical surge capacity, and mass prophylaxis capabilities; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. COFFMAN (for himself and Mr. ROE of Tennessee):

H.R. 1792. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report cases of reportable infectious diseases at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with State law; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Ms. BASS, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 1793. A bill to establish a framework for effective, transparent, and accountable United States foreign assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, Rules, and 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. CROWLEY:

H.R. 1794. A bill to amend the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to provide for the increased purchase of Kosher and Halal food and to modify the labeling of the commodities list under the emergency food assistance program to enable Kosher and Halal food bank operators to identify which commodities to obtain from local food banks; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 1795. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. ENYART, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. JONES, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. ESTY, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HARPER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. BARBER):

H.R. 1796. 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; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SALMON, Mr. JONES, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. CARTER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. COLE, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. HARPER, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. PEARCE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. AMASH, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MARINO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. BLACK,

Mrs. NOEM, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BARR, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. ROSS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. LONG, Mr. BONNER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. STEWART, Mr. YODER, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. HALL, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 1797. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H.R. 1798. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to ensure health care coverage value and transparency for dental benefits under group health plans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 1799. A bill to designate certain public lands in the Sonoran Desert of the State of Arizona as national conservation areas and wilderness areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRIMM (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia):

H.R. 1800. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to allow business development companies to purchase, otherwise acquire, or hold certain securities, to change the asset coverage ratio and treatment of preferred stock for business development companies, and to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise certain rules relating to business development companies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HIGGINS (for himself, Ms. MOORE, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. WOLF, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. FARR):

H.R. 1801. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide for coverage of oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the coverage provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 1802. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to promote

civic learning and engagement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HUDSON (for himself and Mr. MCINTYRE):

H.R. 1803. A bill to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 1804. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress semi-annual reports on the cost of foreign travel made by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Ms. MENG, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK):

H.R. 1805. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress an annual report on the automatic processing of claims for compensation under the laws administered by the Secretary; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. HECK of Washington):

H.R. 1806. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the rate of tax on distilled spirits produced by small distilleries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 1807. A bill to establish a grant program to assist retail power providers with the establishment and operation of energy conservation programs using targeted residential tree-planting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MICHAUD (for himself and Ms. PINGREE of Maine):

H.R. 1808. A bill to designate certain Federal lands within the Cross Island National Wildlife Refuge and the Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge, part of the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, in Lincoln County, Hancock County, and Washington County, Maine, as wilderness; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 1809. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide notice of average times for processing claims and percentage of claims approved, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RADEL:

H.R. 1810. A bill to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Gasparilla Island Unit in Florida; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RADEL:

H.R. 1811. A bill to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System areas included in Florida System Unit P-16, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ROSS, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 1812. A bill to provide high-skilled visas for nationals of the Republic of Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. BEATTY,

Mr. JORDAN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GIBBS, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. RENACCI, and Mr. TURNER):

H.R. 1813. A bill to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SCHOCK (for himself, Mr. KEATING, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. FORBES, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GRIF-FITH of Virginia, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PETRI, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WOLF, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 1814. A bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 1815. A bill to protect workers from the corrupt and coercive "Card Check" system of organizing labor unions; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 1816. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide additional educational assistance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill for veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VISCLOSKEY (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1817. A bill to require certain Federal agencies to use iron and steel produced in the United States in carrying out projects for the construction, alteration, or repair of a public building or public work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1818. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow importation of polar bear trophies taken in sport hunts in Canada before the date the polar bear was determined to be a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1819. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow the importation of polar bear trophies taken in sport hunts in Canada; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Florida:

H.R. 1820. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modernize and enhance the Federal Government's response to oil spills, to improve oversight and

regulation of offshore drilling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RAHALL:

H.J. Res. 42. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify that the Constitution neither prohibits voluntary prayer nor requires prayer in schools; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. SPEIER):

H. Con. Res. 36. Concurrent resolution recognizing the disparate impact of climate change on women and the efforts of women globally to address climate change; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BENTIVOLIO:

H. Res. 185. A resolution declaring that it should be the policy of the United States to encourage visits between the United States and Taiwan at all levels; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BASS:

H. Res. 186. A resolution congratulating the people of Kenya on their commitment to peaceful elections, as demonstrated on March 4, 2013, and calling on Kenyans to come together to continue to implement political, institutional, and accountability reforms envisioned in the Kenyan constitution; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. SIREN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. PALLONE):

H. Res. 187. A resolution expressing the United States' commitment to the reunification of the Republic of Cyprus and the establishment of a unified government on Cyprus that guarantees the human rights of all Cypriots and condemns any attempt to use the current economic crisis as a means of imposing a settlement on the people of Cyprus, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. MICHAUD):

H. Res. 188. A resolution calling upon the Government of Turkey to facilitate the reopening of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Theological School of Halki without condition or further delay; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. MENG, Mr. HONDA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. FALBOMAVAEGA, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERA of California, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. CARO-

LYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. HANABUSA):

H. Res. 189. A resolution recognizing the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in May as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the Nation's history; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HANNA:

H. Res. 190. A resolution condemning the April 15, 2013, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Boston, Massachusetts and calling upon the United States Government, the governments of all nations, the United Nations, and other international organizations to renounce the use of IEDs and take actions to stop their proliferation; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H. Res. 191. A resolution honoring Jacoby Dickens, the successful, community-oriented African-American financier and philanthropist in Chicago, Illinois; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Res. 192. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National STD Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MOORE:

H. Res. 193. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN:

H. Res. 194. A resolution expressing support for designation of the month of May as Williams Syndrome Awareness Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H. Res. 195. A resolution expressing support for designation of May 2013 as "Health and Fitness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

20. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of New Mexico, relative to Senate Joint Memorial No. 41 urging the Congress to support the preservation of the Navajo Code Talkers' remarkable Legacy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

21. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Resolution No. 138 condemning the failure of the Majority Leadership in the House of Representatives to reauthorize the "Violence Against Women Act"; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Natural Resources, and Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers

granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 1764.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution. This bill places a temporary prohibition on covered agencies from purchasing ammunition. The purpose of the prohibition is to determine the effect government purchases have on the price of ammunition, an instrument of interstate commerce.

By Mr. LATHAM:

H.R. 1765.

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

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 1766.

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

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution,

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, and

Article 1, Section 9, clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 1767.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the Commerce Clause).

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 1768.

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

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 1769.

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

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 1770.

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

Clause 14 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution: To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 1771.

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

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 1772.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution enumerating congressional authority "[t]o establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization."

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 1773.

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

Article 1, section 8, clause 4 of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have power to "establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization." The Supreme Court has long found that this provision of the Constitution grants Congress plenary power over immigration policy. As the Court found in *Galvan v. Press*, 347 U.S. 522, 531 (1954), "that the formulation of policies [pertaining to the entry of aliens and the right to remain here] is entrusted to Congress has become about as firmly imbedded in the legislative and judicial tissues of our body politic as any aspect of our government."

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 1774.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution that grants Congress the authority, "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 1775.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

The Congress shall have Power To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. FARR:

H.R. 1776.

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

Article I, section 7.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1777.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1778.

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

article 1, section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 1779.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 1780.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government as enumerated in Article 1 Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 1781.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4.

By Mr. RIGELL:

H.R. 1782.

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

Article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution: "The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful

Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

By Mr. LATHAM:

H.R. 1783.

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

Article I, Section 1; and Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan:

H.R. 1784.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 1785.

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

"The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the Power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States)."

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 1786.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

The Congress shall have Power To . . . provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

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

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 1787.

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

Article I, Section 8; The Congress shall provide for the common Defense and General Welfare of the United States

By Mrs. BACHMANN:

H.R. 1788.

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

This legislation makes specific changes to existing law in a manner that allows the States and the People to reclaim certain powers from current Federal government control, in accordance with Amendment X to the United States Constitution. Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution grants Congress the power to regulate commerce, such as that considered by this legislation. Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution grants the president the power to make treaties, such as those that must be adhered to under this Act. Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution grants Congress the power to "make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution" the powers granted to them under Article I, Section 8 and those granted to the president under Article II, Section 2.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 1789.

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

The ability to regulate interstate commerce pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 1790.

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

Article. I.

Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 1791.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which grants Congress the power to provide for the common Defense of the United States, and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States, which provides Congress the power to make "all Laws which shall be necessary and proper" for carrying out the constitutional powers vested in the Government of the United States.

By Mr. COFFMAN:

H.R. 1792.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 1793.

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

This bill is introduced pursuant to the authority delineated in Article I section I, which includes an implied power for the Congress to regulate the conduct of the United States with respect to foreign affairs.

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 1794.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 1795.

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

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7, giving Congress the authority to control the expenditures of the federal government

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

H.R. 1796.

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

General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 1) Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 18)

Constitutional analysis is a rigorous discipline which goes far beyond the text of the Constitution, and requires knowledge of case law, history, and the tools of constitutional interpretation. While the scope of Congress' powers is an appropriate matter for House debate, the listing of specific textual authorities for routine Congressional legislation about which there is no legitimate constitutional concern is a diminishment of the majesty of our Founding Fathers' vision for our national legislature.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.R. 1797.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 17: "The Congress shall have Power . . . to exercise exclusive legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of the particular

states, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the seat of government of the United States.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 1798.

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

This legislation is being introduced in order to amend ERISA—which was passed based on a combination of Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3 (commerce clause) and Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18 (the necessary and proper clause).

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 1799.

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

Article IV, Section 3

By Mr. GRIMM:

H.R. 1800.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. HIGGINS:

H.R. 1801.

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

The constitution authority of this legislation lies in the power of congress to regulate commercial activity as described in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 1802.

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

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

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 1803.

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

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3 states: "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 1804.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 1805.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 1806.

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

As described in Article 1, Section 1 "all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States . . ."

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 1807.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 1808.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitu-

tion in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 1809.

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

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. RADEL:

H.R. 1810.

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

Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RADEL:

H.R. 1811.

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

Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 1812.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4, which states that Congress has the power to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:

H.R. 1813.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7
The Congress shall have Power * * * To establish Post Offices and post roads.

By Mr. SCHOCK:

H.R. 1814.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 1815.

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

This bill makes specific changes to existing law in a manner that returns power to the States and to the People, in accordance with Amendment X of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 1816.

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

Article 1, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to provide for the common defense.

By Mr. VISCLOSKEY:

H.R. 1817.

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

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1818.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1819.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG of Florida:

H.R. 1820.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RAHALL:

H.J. Res. 42.

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

Article V of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the authority to propose Constitutional amendments.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 3: Mr. FORBES.
 H.R. 32: Mr. FORBES, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
 H.R. 36: Mr. THORNBERRY.
 H.R. 147: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina and Mr. DAINES.
 H.R. 148: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
 H.R. 164: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. ROSKAM.
 H.R. 176: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
 H.R. 180: Ms. GABBARD.
 H.R. 182: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Ms. GABBARD.
 H.R. 183: Ms. GABBARD.
 H.R. 184: Mr. RICHMOND and Ms. KAPTUR.
 H.R. 207: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. GARDNER.
 H.R. 262: Ms. GABBARD.
 H.R. 268: Mr. CUMMINGS.
 H.R. 303: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
 H.R. 309: Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
 H.R. 357: Mr. FORBES.
 H.R. 376: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 401: Mr. PETERS of Michigan.
 H.R. 474: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. POLIS.
 H.R. 495: Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 497: Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 503: Mr. NUGENT.
 H.R. 515: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. TSONGAS.
 H.R. 519: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. ESTY, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. ANDREWS.
 H.R. 535: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ENYART, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 543: Mr. CARTER.
 H.R. 556: Mr. NUNNELEE.
 H.R. 567: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. CHABOT.
 H.R. 574: Mr. GRAYSON.
 H.R. 578: Mr. HUELSKAMP.
 H.R. 580: Mr. DENT.
 H.R. 594: Mr. CULBERSON and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 627: Mr. BERA of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. YODER, Mr. CAMP, Mr. MICA, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. COLE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HIMES, Mr. FLEMING, and Mrs. ROBY.
 H.R. 630: Mr. KING of New York.
 H.R. 655: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 664: Mr. NADLER, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CROWLEY and Mr. GIBSON.
 H.R. 665: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
 H.R. 671: Mr. MATHESON.
 H.R. 675: Ms. CHU.
 H.R. 685: Mr. NUGENT.
 H.R. 688: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. BARBER, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 689: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
 H.R. 690: Mr. O'ROURKE.
 H.R. 693: Mr. FORBES.
 H.R. 702: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. VELA, and Mr. GRAYSON.
 H.R. 718: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
 H.R. 719: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
 H.R. 728: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN.
 H.R. 729: Mr. RUSH.
 H.R. 755: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 763: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. ISSA.
 H.R. 765: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KEATING, Mr. FARR, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 792: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
 H.R. 797: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 807: Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. BARTON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
 H.R. 822: Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 846: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
 H.R. 850: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 853: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H.R. 863: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 864: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. PAULSEN.
 H.R. 911: Mr. MATHESON.
 H.R. 915: Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 919: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 940: Mr. AMASH.
 H.R. 949: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 956: Mr. SIREN, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, and Mr. PETERS of California.
 H.R. 986: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H.R. 988: Ms. KAPTUR.
 H.R. 1070: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GRAYSON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. MORAN.
 H.R. 1074: Mr. LANCE, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. GOHMERT.
 H.R. 1077: Mr. BARR and Mr. PEARCE.
 H.R. 1094: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. POLIS.
 H.R. 1097: Mr. NUNES.
 H.R. 1143: Mr. LUCAS.
 H.R. 1149: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 1150: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 1155: Mr. SCHIFF.
 H.R. 1175: Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 1186: Mr. COBLE, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
 H.R. 1187: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 1201: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H.R. 1213: Mr. POCAN.
 H.R. 1247: Ms. KUSTER.
 H.R. 1250: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa and Mr. LATHAM.
 H.R. 1252: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, and Mr. MATHESON.
 H.R. 1281: Mr. HIGGINS.
 H.R. 1282: Mr. ELLISON.
 H.R. 1286: Mr. WELCH, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. WALZ.
 H.R. 1290: Mr. STUTZMAN.
 H.R. 1318: Mr. POLIS and Mr. HINOJOSA.
 H.R. 1322: Mr. MICHAUD.
 H.R. 1327: Mr. MORAN.
 H.R. 1330: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Ms. SCHKOWSKY.

H.R. 1331: Mr. SCHOCK.
 H.R. 1336: Mr. JOYCE.
 H.R. 1339: Mr. PAULSEN.
 H.R. 1344: Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
 H.R. 1384: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 1389: Mr. DEFAZIO.
 H.R. 1406: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. STOCKMAN.
 H.R. 1410: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
 H.R. 1416: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 1417: Mr. BRADY of Texas.
 H.R. 1418: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. MICHAUD.
 H.R. 1428: Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. GOSAR.
 H.R. 1429: Mr. PETERS of Michigan.
 H.R. 1432: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. RADEL, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 1449: Mr. YODER and Mr. ADERHOLT.
 H.R. 1451: Mr. HANNA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. MAFFEL, and Mr. GRIMM.
 H.R. 1453: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 1461: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.
 H.R. 1462: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. PITTENGER.
 H.R. 1479: Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.R. 1488: Mr. HINOJOSA.
 H.R. 1507: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TONKO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 1521: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. KUSTER.
 H.R. 1528: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BARR, Mr. LANCE, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. LATHAM.
 H.R. 1530: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
 H.R. 1550: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
 H.R. 1553: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CARTER, Mr. COLE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. STEWART, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. LANKFORD.
 H.R. 1563: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H.R. 1565: Mr. CARNEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CHU, Mr. POCAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. ESTY, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. BARBER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. WATERS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FARR, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1567: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
 H.R. 1587: Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. PEARCE.
 H.R. 1595: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. RAHALL, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mrs. LOWEY.
 H.R. 1610: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 1626: Mr. PITTINGER.
 H.R. 1632: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
 H.R. 1634: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
 H.R. 1648: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 1652: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 1661: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 1666: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
 H.R. 1672: Mr. AMODEL.
 H.R. 1682: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 1690: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 1705: Mr. VEASEY.
 H.R. 1708: Mr. POMPEO.
 H.R. 1727: Mr. ENYART.
 H.R. 1734: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. LEWIS.
 H.R. 1735: Mr. WALDEN, Mr. JONES, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. LATTA.
 H.R. 1737: Mr. HIMES and Ms. ESTY.
 H.R. 1744: Mr. AMODEL.
 H.R. 1748: Mr. DINGELL.
 H.R. 1750: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. PEARCE.
 H.R. 1751: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 1755: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. FOSTER.
 H.J. Res. 28: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama and Mr. STOCKMAN.
 H.J. Res. 40: Mr. CALVERT.
 H. Con. Res. 16: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
 H. Con. Res. 29: Mr. JONES.
 H. Con. Res. 34: Mr. KEATING and Mr. PAS-TOR of Arizona.
 H. Res. 36: Mr. RENACCI, Mr. DENT, and Mr. SHIMKUS.
 H. Res. 90: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. PASCARELL.
 H. Res. 94: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H. Res. 106: Mr. LUCAS.

H. Res. 109: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H. Res. 136: Ms. MENG.
 H. Res. 166: Mr. CALVERT.
 H. Res. 173: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
 H. Res. 174: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LORETTA SAN-CHEZ of California, Ms. CHU, Mr. OWENS, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. RICH-MOND, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsyl-vania, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. KENNEDY.
 H. Res. 177: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. PEARCE.
 H. Res. 180: Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. ESHOO.

ative to a Resolution urging the Congress to support appropriating the NAWCA Program; to the Committee on Appropriations.

11. Also, a petition of Union County Repub- lican Party, Georgia, relative to a Resolu- tion urging the Congress to take all nec- essary binding legislation to prohibit any in- fringement of the rights of citizens to keep and bear arms; to the Committee on Armed Services.

12. Also, a petition of Union County Repub- lican Party, Georgia, relative to a Resolu- tion urging the Georgia General Assembly to amend the Laws of the Official Code of the State of Georgia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

13. Also, a petition of the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico, relative to Resolution No. 2013- 36 supporting the measure of Congress to allow gay and lesbian partners to access im- migration benefits in an equal and fair man- ner; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

14. Also, a petition of the City of Naples, Florida, relative to Resolution No. 13-13268 notifying the Congress and the President that the City will lawfully use all of its au- thority to resist or overturn any federal gun control measures; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

15. Also, a petition of the City of Bridge- port, Connecticut, relative to Resolution No. 31-12 supporting smart and strong gun leg- islation listed in the resolution; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Education and the Workforce.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIM- ITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIM- ITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. LATHAM

H.R. 1765, the Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and reso- lutions as follows:

H.R. 1461: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

10. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Conservation Federation, Missouri, rel-

DISCHARGE PETITIONS— ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge peti- tion:

Petition 1 by Ms. DELAURO on H.R. 377: Marc A. Veasey, Raul Ruiz, Patrick Murphy, Richard E. Neal, Emanuel Cleaver, Bradley S. Schneider, and Collin C. Peterson.