United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 No. 117

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 9, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX 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:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. As the tensions of violence continue to mount, we turn to You, Lord God, as our hope and salvation.

Critical moments in the life of any person or any nation, as well as momentous undertakings, O Lord, bring us to our knees before You. We humbly seek Your guidance and rely on Your faithfulness.

Be with us in the days ahead. Bless the Members of the people's House, all who work here, and our guests. Listen to our heartfelt prayers.

We seem to be entering a passageway of darkness which may fill us with fear and anxiety. Bring us safely to the light at the end of the tunnel. Help all Members of this assembly attend to the voices of wisdom and of the American people as matters of great import and danger are considered in these coming days.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, 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. HOLDING. Madam 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HOLDING led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

PRESIDENT'S POLICY DEEPLY UNSERIOUS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, over the past month, I have traveled by bus and car across all five counties I represent in the Second District of South Carolina, where I found my constituents agree with Charles Krauthammer in his column yesterday in The State newspaper of Columbia, South Carolina.

Mr. Krauthammer is recognized for his extraordinary insight and has identified the President's policy as ''stunning zigzag, following months of hesitation, ambivalence, contradiction, and studied delay''; the President ''having yet done nothing but hesitate, threaten, retract, and wander . . . claiming . . . not his own red line but the world's . . . a transparent attempt at offloading responsibility.''

''There's no strategy, no purpose here other than helping Obama escape self-inflicted humiliation.

''This is deeply unserious.''

The White House announced April 25 that Syria had chemical weapons, but only after 4 months of serious scandals, ObamaCare destroying jobs, and the upcoming debt debate vote, did it seek action. On my tour, I was inspired at the North Augusta Rotary Club by the four-way test: Is it the truth?

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th, 2001, and September the 11th, 2012, at Benghazi in the global war on terrorism.

MILITARY ACTION IN SYRIA

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

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, before I returned to Washington last week, I was skeptical of the President's proposal for military action in Syria. After classified briefings and hearing directly from Secretaries Kerry and Hagel, I am more skeptical than ever.

This administration has done nothing to convince me and the American people that they have a focused, effective plan for military action in Syria, or really any true plan at all. These

Printed on recycled paper.

strikes, like the administration's Middle East policy of the last 4½ years, lack coherence and fail to support a long-term strategy.

Additionally, they have not adequately considered the risk of retaliation from Assad's allies, Russia and Hezbollah.

Madam Speaker, the test of a successful foreign policy is that our friends trust us and our enemies fear us. President Obama has failed in this regard, and a military strike will fail to benefit the United States' broader strategy or international interests.

USE POWER OF THE PURSE TO STOP OBAMACARE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, how do Yucca Mountain, Iran Contra, and the Vietnam War relate to the Affordable Care Act? All of those represent legislative limitations of funding to counter decisions made by the executive branch. In each instance, Congress used its authority provided under the Constitution to place limits on Presidential decisions. We need to use those constitutional powers again.

The Affordable Care Act is lurching toward an uncertain start and is dramatically different than what was signed into law over 3 years ago. Gone are the CLASS Act and the 1099 business activity reporting requirement. What about the Federal preexisting program? It hasn't accepted a new patient since February of this year.

How unfair is it that the large corporations in this country received an 11th-hour Presidential exemption and Members of Congress receive a subsidy? None of this is available to the average American.

I look at all of this and I ask: What tools are available to prevent this disaster? And the answer is provided in the historical record when previous Congresses used the one trump card they have available. All that is required is the courage and the clarity of vision to alter history.

GREECE V. GALLOWAY

(Mr. COLLINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to promote the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, specifically, the right of all citizens to freely express their religion.

This November, the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments in the case of Town of Greece v. Galloway. The town of Greece, located just outside of my district in western New York, is accused of violating the First Amendment because the vast majority of volunteers who opened town meetings, they opened them with a prayer using Christian references.

Legislative and communal prayer has a rich tradition in this country and should not be curtailed by illegitimate fears of religious overreach in the United States. We must remain a Nation that does not force a religion on any person but is accepting of those who wish to profess their faith.

MILITARY RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, the constitutional right to religious liberty is, with increasing frequency, being denied to the men and women in our military who swore to support and defend the Constitution when they enlisted.

Within the past month, we have seen a new case of an Air Force veteran who says he was relieved of duty by his commander because he would not champion same-sex marriages. This senior master sergeant with 19 years of service to his country has now been entangled in the military justice system, not for anything he has done or said, but for refusing a commander's order to make a statement that would violate his deeply held religious beliefs.

What's happening in this case violates current statutes, not to mention the First Amendment. That's why it's so crucial that Congress protect military religious freedom and its expression. My amendment to do that was passed in this House, and we need the Senate to act and the President to stop his threat to veto.

FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in defense of the First Amendment right to free exercise of religion.

Thomas Jefferson once asked:

> Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God?

The clear answer is no.

If freedom of religion is not protected in the very places where laws are crafted, how can we expect the laws enacted to respect each individual's freedom of religion?

As a pastor and a chaplain, I believe that freedom of religion isn't some mere abstract concept to be debated in the Halls of Congress or before the Supreme Court. Religious freedom gave me the ability to preach God's word in Georgia, and religious freedom allowed me to give faith-based encouragement to soldiers while I served alongside them in Iraq.

It is a precious liberty our Founders fought and died to protect, and I will not allow freedom and free exercise of religious liberties to be undermined here or anywhere.

GREECE V. GALLOWAY

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the First Amendment as well—as a patriot, as a pastor, as a Member of Congress.

Joseph Stalin, an enemy of America, once said it this way:

> America is like a healthy body and its resistance is threefold: its patriotism, its morality, its spiritual life. If we can undermine these three areas, America will collapse from within.

President Eisenhower, a patriot, said it this way in October of 1954:

> Atheism substitutes men for the Supreme Creator, and this leads inevitably to domination and dictatorship. We must jealously guard our foundation in faith, for on it rests the ability of the American individual to live and thrive in this blessed land and to be able to help other less fortunate people to achieve freedom and individual opportunity. These we take for granted, but to others they are often only a wistful dream. ''In God We Trust,'' often have we heard the words of this wonderful American motto. Let us make sure that familiarity has not made them meaningless for us. We carry the torch of freedom as a sacred trust for all mankind. We do not believe that God intended the light He created to be put out by men.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, August 2, 2013:

H.R. 2576, to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify requirements relating to the availability of pipeline safety regulatory documents, and for other purposes;

H.R. 1171, to amend title 40, United States Code, to improve veterans service organizations access to Federal surplus personal property;

H.R. 678, to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes;

H.R. 267, to improve hydropower, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by Speaker pro tempore THORNBERRY on Tuesday, August 6, 2013:

H.R. 1344, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

GLOBAL INVESTMENT IN AMERICAN JOBS ACT OF 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2052) to direct the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to conduct an interagency review of and report to Congress on ways to increase the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2052

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) It remains an urgent national priority to improve economic growth and create new jobs.

(2) National security requires economic strength and global engagement.

(3) Businesses today have a wide array of choices when considering where to invest, expand, or establish new operations.

(4) Administrations of both parties have consistently reaffirmed the need to promote an open investment climate as a key to domestic economic prosperity and security.

(5) The United States has historically been the largest worldwide recipient of foreign direct investment but has seen its share decline in recent years.

(6) The United States faces increasing competition from other countries as it works to recruit investment from global companies.

(7) Foreign direct investment can benefit the economy and workforce of every State and Commonwealth in the United States.

(8) According to the latest Federal statistics, the United States subsidiaries of companies headquartered abroad contribute to the United States economy in a variety of important ways, including by—

(A) providing jobs for an estimated 5,600,000 Americans, with compensation that is often higher than the national private-sector average, as many of these jobs are in high-skilled, high-paying industries;

(B) strengthening the United States industrial base and employing nearly 15 percent of the United States manufacturing sector workforce;

(C) establishing operations in the United States from which to sell goods and services around the world, thereby producing nearly 18 percent of United States exports;

(D) promoting innovation with more than $41,000,000,000 in annual United States research and development activities;

(E) paying nearly 14 percent of United States corporate income taxes; and

(F) purchasing goods and services from local suppliers and small businesses worth hundreds of billions of dollars annually.

(9) These companies account for 5.8 percent of United States private sector gross domestic product.

(10) The Department of Commerce has initiatives in place to increase foreign direct investment.

(11) The President issued a statement in 2011 reaffirming the longstanding open investment policy of the United States and encouraged all countries to pursue such a policy.

(12) The President signed an executive order in 2011 to establish the SelectUSA initiative and expanded its resources and activities in 2012, so as to promote greater levels of business investment in the United States.

(13) The President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness in 2011 recommended the establishment of a National Investment Initiative to attract $1,000,000,000,000 in foreign direct investment over five years.

(14) Sound transportation infrastructure, a well-educated and healthy workforce, safe food and water, stable financial institutions, a fair and equitable justice system, and transparent and accountable administrative procedures are important factors that contribute to United States global competitiveness.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the ability of the United States to attract foreign direct investment is directly linked to the long-term economic prosperity, global competitiveness, and security of the United States;

(2) it is a top national priority to enhance the global competitiveness, prosperity, and security of the United States by—

(A) removing unnecessary barriers to foreign direct investment and the jobs that it creates throughout the United States; and

(B) promoting policies to ensure the United States remains the premier global destination in which to invest, hire, innovate, and manufacture products;

(3) maintaining the United States' commitment to open investment policy encourages other countries to reciprocate and enables the United States to open new markets abroad for United States companies and their products;

(4) while foreign direct investment can enhance the Nation's economic strength, policies regarding foreign direct investment should reflect national security interests and should not disadvantage domestic investors or companies; and

(5) United States efforts to attract foreign direct investment should be consistent with efforts to maintain and improve the domestic standard of living.

SEC. 4. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT REVIEW.

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Federal Interagency Investment Working Group and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall conduct an interagency review of the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment.

(b) SPECIFIC MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The review conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include a review of—

(1) the current economic impact of foreign direct investment in the United States, with particular focus on manufacturing, research and development, trade, and jobs;

(2) trends in global cross-border investment flows and the underlying factors for such trends;

(3) Federal Government policies that are closely linked to the ability of the United States to attract and retain foreign direct investment;

(4) foreign direct investment as compared to direct investment by domestic entities;

(5) foreign direct investment that takes the form of greenfield investment as compared to foreign direct investment reflecting merger and acquisition activity;

(6) the unique challenges posed by foreign direct investment by state-owned enterprises;

(7) ongoing Federal Government efforts to improve the investment climate and facilitate greater levels of foreign direct investment in the United States;

(8) innovative and noteworthy State, regional, and local government initiatives to attract foreign investment; and

(9) initiatives by other countries in order to identify best practices for increasing global competitiveness in attracting foreign direct investment.

(c) LIMITATION.—The review conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall not address laws or policies relating to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

(d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—Prior to—

(1) conducting the review under subsection (a), the Secretary shall publish notice of the review in the Federal Register and shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the matters to be covered by the review; and

(2) reporting pursuant to subsection (e), the Secretary shall publish the proposed findings and recommendations to Congress in the Federal Register and shall provide an opportunity for public comment.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Federal Interagency Investment Working Group and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall report to Congress the findings of the review required under subsection (a) and submit recommendations for increasing the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment without weakening labor, consumer, financial, or environmental protections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TERRY. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2052, the Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013.

Now, we recently saw the latest job numbers. While somewhat positive, the reality is that we have more people out of the workforce than since 1978. People are giving up looking for work, and it doesn't have to be and shouldn't be that way.

There are many foreign companies who want to ''in-source'' their jobs to America, but there have been many barriers standing in their way. There are many foreign companies who should and want to come here. These are good, high-paying jobs that many Americans are looking for.

In 2010 alone, U.S. affiliates of foreign firms employed an estimated 5.6 million Americans. These Americans also made, on average, $77,000 per year.

These U.S. subsidiaries invested $41.3 billion in research and development and made $149 billion in capital expenditures in the United States that same year. In the manufacturing sector alone, FDI inflows were nearly $84 billion in 2012, according to the National Association of Manufacturers.

Unfortunately, according to the testimony of the Organization for International Investment at our legislative hearing last spring, the United States' share of foreign direct investment dropped from 41 percent at its high in 1999 to just 17 percent in 2011. Today, we're here to reverse that trend.

My bill, H.R. 2052, and also, with the gentlelady, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. BARROW on the other side of the aisle, this is a bipartisan piece of legislation that instructs the Department of Commerce to conduct an interagency review geared to identifying those barriers to foreign investment to the United States. It also instructs the Department of Commerce to make recommendations on ways to lower or eliminate those same barriers.

The United States should be the leader in attracting foreign investment. We have a stable government, safe working conditions, and the most skilled workforce in the world. I believe that our long-term global competitiveness and economic success as a nation is directly tied to our ability to attract foreign investment.

By creating an environment where foreign companies want to move their manufacturing operations or distribution centers to the United States, we are fostering an environment or atmosphere of organic, government stimulus-free economic growth.

We must be aware of the potential impact on the U.S.' ability to attract foreign direct investment when considering new laws and regulations.

We want these companies to come here and help us grow our economy. But there are a number of areas within the purview of the Federal Government where we can improve the domestic climate for foreign direct investment.

It's my hope that the report at the heart of this legislation will highlight those areas, both for the administration, where it can act on its own authority, and for Congress, where the administration lacks the authority.

I would also like to thank some individuals who helped get this legislation off the ground and to the House floor today. First off, I'd like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), who has championed this issue for several years.

I would also like to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the ranking member of this subcommittee, as well as our friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW), for his leadership.

I believe we can all agree that we shouldn't stop our efforts to put America back to work until every American who wants a job can find one. This legislation is a step in the right direction, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska for his leadership on this issue.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2052, the Global Investment in American Jobs Act, because it will encourage the growth of good, American jobs.

Every time I go home, I'm reminded of how investors overseas spur jobs here at home by tapping into the talent of America. Dutch companies like DSM in Augusta, French companies like Alstom in Waynesboro, and Japanese companies like YKK in Dublin could invest in any country in the world. They're proud to invest in Georgia's 12th District because the families who work for them take pride in their work.

This bill requires the Department of Commerce to investigate how it can be an attractive investment for foreign-owned companies. The United States still has the best workers in the world, and they deserve every opportunity to offer their skills to companies looking to expand.

I'm proud that this bill also enjoys broad bipartisan support. This is how Congress can and should work, Democrats and Republicans coming together to get Americans back to work.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I look forward to building a stronger future for American workers by passing H.R. 2052.

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'll continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the patience and understanding, just coming from a classified hearing.

I want to first thank the chairman and his staff, as well as committee Democratic staff, for working so hard and so diligently and collaboratively to come to an agreement on legislation that will help guide American job and economic growth.

There is a strong incentive to invest in America, which remains the best place on Earth to find talented, motivated employees who are the core of the middle class.

My home State of Illinois ranks number one in the Midwest in terms of foreign direct investment, with nearly 1,600 foreign-based firms employing more than 300,000 Illinois residents. In attracting the investment, Illinois has showcased its world-class transportation infrastructure, its diversified economy, its productive workforce, and its cultural diversity and attractions.

It has also maintained its strong labor, health, and environmental standards that helped build the middle class, which I believe is the key to successful foreign direct investment.

Some companies are working to respect the rights of workers as they invest in the United States. On Friday, it was announced that Volkswagen is working collaboratively with the United Auto Workers to unionize its Chattanooga, Tennessee, plant. That will help to ensure that the best interests of American workers are a major consideration at the plant and the company as it continues its investment in the United States.

That being said, it is important that the study authorized in this legislation examine both the benefits and the costs of foreign direct investment. Doing so will allow us to determine the ways to drive investment that maintains high labor, health, environmental, and national security standards.

And on that subject, I'd like to enter into a colloquy on the amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Mr. TERRY. While I will not oppose this amendment, I must express my reservations.

Mr. Chairman, you worked with me in a very collegial and bipartisan manner to craft a bipartisan bill. H.R. 2052 is a good product.

Now we have before us an amendment that makes three changes that could be perceived to weaken important provisions of the bill. I have concerns about each of them, but I would like to focus on the elimination of cost-benefit language regarding the bill's required review of the current economic impact of foreign direct investment.

During our negotiations, I suggested that language because I believed that we needed to ensure that the review be balanced, and you agreed.

In addition, some of the language in the findings and in the sense of Congress could be read as if there are only benefits of FDI, and we wanted to be evenhanded. While I do believe that there are benefits to FDI, there are also costs that must be considered.

Regardless of the amendment before us now, can you assure me that the bill's requirement of a review of the current economic impact of foreign direct investment required under this bill will include a review of both the benefits and costs of foreign direct investment?

Mr. TERRY. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. TERRY. Yes, I can assure you. I agree with the gentlelady that it should include both benefits and costs, as we have suggested. And I do want to state that I appreciate working with you. And you have shown great collegiality as well in our negotiations, and I want to thank you for that.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Thank you so much.

Reclaiming my time, if I could just say, I will not oppose the amendment, but I do expect to work with you to ensure that the review, should this bill become law, is balanced and to ensure that any report of this committee on H.R. 2052 include the clarification that you just made.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, having the right to close, I am going to reserve the balance of my time and allow them to finish their time, if they have any.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. I thank the gentleman.

We have no further speakers on our side and, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I want to close by saying that this truly has been a bipartisan effort. Both sides of the aisle want the U.S. to be in a better position to attract the foreign direct investment which does create jobs in the United States. That has been on the decline. We need to reverse that.

And this is one of those times when you go home and you hear, at your townhall meeting, Why don't you work together? The people need to see how we worked together on this bill and resolved the differences between each other on this. Today we're here to have what I think will be an overwhelmingly positive vote.

With that, I will submit a couple of letters for the RECORD. One is about 150 entities that signed on to a letter for the Organization for International Investment, and then also another letter from Sanofi dated September 9, 2013.

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

ORGANIZATION FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT

OFII is the only business association in Washington D.C. that exclusively represents U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies and advocates for their non-discriminatory treatment under state and federal law.

MEMBERS

ABB Inc.; ACE INA Holdings, Inc.; Ahold USA, Inc.; Airbus North America Holdings; Air Liquide USA; Akzo Nobel Inc.; Alcatel-Lucent; Allianz of North America; ALSTOM; Anheuser-Busch; APG; APL Limited; AREVA, Inc.; Arup; Astellas Pharma US, Inc.; AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; BAE Systems; Balfour Beatty; Barclays Capital; Barrick Gold Corp. of North America.

BASF Corporation; Bayer Corp.; BG Group; BHP Billiton; BIC Corp.; Bimbo Foods, Inc.; bioMérieux, Inc.; BMW of North America; BNP Paribas; Boehringer Ingelheim Corp.; Bombardier Inc.; BOSCH; BP; Bridgestone Americas Holding; Brother International Corp.; BT; Bunge Ltd.; Bunzl USA, Inc.; Case New Holland; Cobham.

Covidien; Credit Suisse Securities (USA); Cristal USA Inc.; Daiichi Sankyo, Inc.; Daimler; Dassault Falcon Jet Corp.; Deutsche Telekom; Diageo, Inc.; EADS, Inc.; Electrolux North America; EMD Serono Inc.; E.ON North America; Ericsson; Evonik Degussa Corporation; Experian; Flextronics International; Food Lion, LLC; France Telecom North America; FUJIFILM Holdings America; Garmin International, Inc.

GDF SUEZ Energy North America, Inc.; Generali USA; GKN America Corp.; GlaxoSmithKline; Hanson North America; Henkel Corporation; Holcim (US) Inc.; Honda North America; HSBC North America Holdings; Huhtamaki; Hyundai Motor America; Iberdrola Renewables; ING America Insurance Holdings; InterContinental Hotels Group; JBS USA; John Hancock Life Insurance Co.; Kering; Kia Motor Corporation; Lafarge North America; Logitech Inc.

L'Oréal USA, Inc.; Louisiana Energy Service (LES); Louis Dreyfus Commodities; Louisville Corporate Services, Inc.; LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton; Macquarie Aircraft Leasing Services; Maersk Inc.; Magna International; Mallinckrodt; Marvell Semiconductor; McCain Foods USA; Michelin North America, Inc.; National Grid; Nestlé USA, Inc.; Nissan; Nomura Holding America, Inc.; Novartis Corporation; Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals; Oldcastle, Inc.; Panasonic Corp.; of North America.

Pearson Inc.; Pernod Ricard USA; Philips Electronics North America; QBE the Americas; Randstad North America; Reed Elsevier Inc.; Research in Motion; Rexam Inc.; Rinnai; Rio Tinto America; Roche Holdings, Inc.; Rolls-Royce North America Inc.; Royal Bank of Canada; SABIC Innovative Plastics; Samsung; Sanofi US; SAP America; Sasol; Schlumberger.

Schneider Electric USA; Schott North America; Shell Oil Company; Siemens Corporation; Smith & Nephew, Inc.; Societe Generale; Solvay America; Sony Corporation of America; Sprint; Sumitomo Corp.; of America; Swiss Re America Holding Corp.; Syngenta Corporation; Takeda North America; Tate & Lyle North America, Inc.; TD Bank; TE Connectivity; Teva Pharmaceuticals USA; Thales USA, Inc.; The Tata Group; Thomson Reuters.

ThyssenKrupp North America, Inc.; Tim Hortons; Toa Reinsurance Company of America; Tomkins Industries, Inc.; TOTAL Holdings USA, Inc.; Toyota Motor North America; Transamerica; Tyco; UBS; UCB; Umicore USA; Unilever; Vivendi; Vodafone; Voith Holding Inc.; Volkswagen of America, Inc.; Volvo Cars North America; Volvo Group North America, Inc.; Westfield LLC; White Mountains, Inc.; Wipro Inc.; Wolters Kluwer U.S. Corporation; Wolseley; WPP Group USA, Inc.; XL Global Services; Zurich Insurance Group.

ORGANIZATION FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT,
Washington, DC, September 9, 2013.

Re OFII Support of H.R. 2052, the ''Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013''.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee, Washington, DC.

Hon. LEE TERRY,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade, Washington, DC.

Hon. HENRY WAXMAN,
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Committee, Washington, DC.

Hon. JAN SCHAKOWSKY,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON, RANKING MEMBER WAXMAN, CHAIRMAN TERRY AND RANKING MEMBER SCHAKOWSKY: On behalf of the Organization for International Investment (OFII) and its member companies, I write in strong support of H.R. 2052, the ''Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013'' and commend the Energy and Commerce Committee for its leadership on this important bipartisan legislation. As the United States continues to confront significant economic challenges, this legislation is critical to enhancing our nation's efforts to attract global business investment and the jobs and economic growth it generates.

OFII is a business association comprised of over 160 U.S. subsidiaries of companies headquartered abroad (membership list is included). OFII works to ensure a level playing field for its member companies and promote policies which increase U.S. competitiveness in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

U.S. subsidiaries of global companies play a major role in the national economy, directly employing 5.6 million Americans, supporting an annual U.S. payroll of more than $408 billion, and employing 17 percent of the U.S. manufacturing workforce. In addition, these companies account for a significant share of U.S. research and development activities, purchase goods and services worth hundreds of billions of dollars every year from U.S. suppliers and small businesses, and produce nearly 18 percent of all U.S. exports, which provide hundreds of billions of dollars in American goods and services annually to customers around the world.

However, the United States faces an increasingly competitive global environment for job-creating FDI. Now more than ever before, companies have an unprecedented array of options when looking to invest, expand, or establish new operations, including into emerging economies such as China and Brazil. While the United States remains the world's leading recipient of FDI, its share of global investment has dropped significantly from 41 percent in 1999 to just 17 percent in 2011. It is no longer enough for the U.S. to merely be ''open'' to global investment; we must be ready to compete in a challenging global marketplace.

OFII and its member companies believe the ''Global Investment in American Jobs Act'' is a critical step in ensuring the U.S. remains the world's most attractive location for global businesses to invest, grow, and create jobs. The bill directs the Secretary of Commerce to lead the first-ever comprehensive interagency review of U.S. competitiveness for FDI. This examination of economic trends, best practices from around the world, and key policies will result in recommendations to Congress outlining a new roadmap for attracting and retaining top tier global businesses. In addition, the legislation explicitly recognizes the importance of FDI to

the U.S. economy by expressing the sense of Congress that remaining competitive in attracting such investment is directly linked to our nation's long-term economic strength and security.

Passage of the ''Global Investment in American Jobs Act'' would send a powerful and bipartisan message that America is ready to compete in a new way for global investment.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

NANCY L. MCLERNON,
President & CEO, Organization for International Investment.

SANOFI,
Washington, DC, September 9, 2013.

Hon. LEE TERRY,
House of Representatives, Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing & Trade, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TERRY: Sanofi is a leading global and diversified healthcare company which discovers, develops and distributes therapeutic solutions focused on patients' needs. Sanofi has core strengths in the field of healthcare with seven growth platforms: diabetes solutions, human vaccines, innovative drugs, rare diseases, consumer healthcare, emerging markets and animal health.

On behalf of Sanofi, I would like to thank and commend you and your colleagues and express our strong support for your bill, H.R. 2052, the ''Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013.'' As you know, the ''Global Investment in American Jobs Act'' is bicameral and bipartisan legislation aimed at improving America's ability to attract job-creating foreign direct investment (FDI) from businesses around the world. The bill requires the Secretary of Commerce to implement a comprehensive review of the United States' ability to attract foreign direct investment. The review will look at what we are doing right and what we are doing wrong. It will also look at what other countries are doing that we should follow and what other countries are doing that we should avoid. Following this review, the Secretary will issue recommendations for all agencies of government setting out a comprehensive plan for improving U.S. global competiveness for attracting foreign investment.

FDI in the United States has been an engine for economic growth, fueling U.S. manufacturing, innovation, trade, and overall job creation. U.S. subsidiaries of foreign-headquartered companies account for 5.8 percent of U.S. private sector GDP and employ 5.6 million American workers, including two million in the manufacturing sector. In addition, these companies produce 18 percent of all U.S. exports, fund 14 percent of annual research and development activities, and support a diverse supplier network throughout the country, purchasing goods and services worth hundreds of billions of dollars every year from thousands of small and medium-sized American companies.

While the U.S. remains the world's leading recipient of foreign direct investment, our global share of such investment has dropped significantly since the turn of the 21st century, from 41 percent in 1999 to just over 17 percent in 2011. In March, the Department of Commerce released new data showing the U.S. received $174.7 billion in global investment for 2012, a decrease of 25% compared with $234 billion the previous year. Foreign-headquartered companies, such as Sanofi, have many options when looking to invest, expand, or establish new operations, including into emerging economies. In this challenging global environment, the U.S. must position itself to compete for job-creating FDI.

Sanofi has made a significant investment in the U.S. Sanofi employs more than 17,000 through our U.S. affiliates in pharmaceuticals, vaccines, animal health, consumer health and rare diseases. Sanofi has R&D facilities in 8 states (AZ, CA, GA, MA, MD, MO, NJ, and PA) and important R&D partnerships with organizations such as Harvard, MIT and Dana-Farber, reflecting the importance of research and development to the company in the U.S. Our U.S. affiliates have manufacturing, packaging or distribution sites in 9 states (MO, PA, TN, MA, NJ, MN, NC, GA, MD and NV). Our U.S. affiliates export products from 7 states (GA, PA, MA, MO, NJ, TN, and MN). And we have more than $4 billion in contracts with over 15,000 vendors and suppliers throughout the U.S.

H.R. 2052 has the support of a broad range of cosponsors who understand that investment from around the globe is important to every state and region across this country. As a result, H.R. 2052 was unanimously approved by the Energy and Commerce Committee on July 17, 2013. The House of Representatives passed similar legislation during the 112th Congress with strong bipartisan support. Passing this legislation will be an important step in enhancing/ U.S. competitiveness and reinvigorating job growth in our country.

Thank you once again for your work and commitment to incentivize FDI in the United States to expand the job market and strengthen our economy.

Sincerely,

PATRICK MCLAIN,
Vice President, Federal Government Affairs, Policy & Issues Management.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2052, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1615

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CONSOLIDATED REPORTING ACT OF 2013

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2844) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2844

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Federal Communications Commission Consolidated Reporting Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. COMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE REPORT.

Title I of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 14. COMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE REPORT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In the last quarter of every even-numbered year, the Commission shall publish on its website and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the state of the communications marketplace.

''(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall—

''(1) assess the state of competition in the communications marketplace, including competition to deliver voice, video, audio, and data services among providers of telecommunications, providers of commercial mobile service (as defined in section 332), multichannel video programming distributors (as defined in section 602), broadcast stations, providers of satellite communications, Internet service providers, and other providers of communications services;

''(2) assess the state of deployment of communications capabilities, including advanced telecommunications capability (as defined in section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 1302)), regardless of the technology used for such deployment, including whether advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion;

''(3) assess whether laws, regulations, or regulatory practices (whether those of the Federal Government, States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)), or foreign governments) pose a barrier to competitive entry into the communications marketplace or to the competitive expansion of existing providers of communications services;

''(4) describe the agenda of the Commission for the next 2-year period for addressing the challenges and opportunities in the communications marketplace that were identified through the assessments under paragraphs (1) through (3); and

''(5) describe the actions that the Commission has taken in pursuit of the agenda described pursuant to paragraph (4) in the previous report submitted under this section.

''(c) EXTENSION.—If the President designates a Commissioner as Chairman of the Commission during the last quarter of an even-numbered year, the portion of the report required by subsection (b)(4) may be published on the website of the Commission and submitted to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate as an addendum during the first quarter of the following odd-numbered year.

''(d) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) ASSESSING COMPETITION.—In assessing the state of competition under subsection (b)(1), the Commission shall consider all forms of competition, including the effect of intermodal competition, facilities-based competition, and competition from new and emergent communications services, including the provision of content and communications using the Internet.

''(2) ASSESSING DEPLOYMENT.—In assessing the state of deployment under subsection (b)(2), the Commission shall compile a list of geographical areas that are not served by any provider of advanced telecommunications capability.

''(3) INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.—The Commission may use readily available data to draw appropriate comparisons between the United States communications marketplace and the international communications marketplace and to correlate its assessments with demographic information.

''(4) CONSIDERING SMALL BUSINESSES.—In assessing the state of competition under subsection (b)(1) and regulatory barriers under subsection (b)(3), the Commission shall consider market entry barriers for entrepreneurs and other small businesses in the communications marketplace in accordance with the national policy under section 257(b).''.

SEC. 3. CONSOLIDATION OF REDUNDANT REPORTS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) ORBIT ACT REPORT.—Section 646 of the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 (47 U.S.C. 765e; 114 Stat. 57) is repealed.

(b) SATELLITE COMPETITION REPORT.—Section 4 of Public Law 109–34 (47 U.S.C. 703) is repealed.

(c) INTERNATIONAL BROADBAND DATA REPORT.—Section 103 of the Broadband Data Improvement Act (47 U.S.C. 1303) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e) as subsections (b) through (d), respectively.

(d) STATUS OF COMPETITION IN THE MARKET FOR THE DELIVERY OF VIDEO PROGRAMMING REPORT.—Section 628 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 548) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (g);

(2) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (g); and

(3) by transferring subsection (g) (as redesignated) so that it appears after subsection (f).

(e) REPORT ON CABLE INDUSTRY PRICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 623 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 543) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (k); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (l) through (n) as subsections (k) through (m), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 613(a)(3) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 533(a)(3)) is amended by striking ''623(l)'' and inserting ''623(k)''.

(f) TRIENNIAL REPORT IDENTIFYING AND ELIMINATING MARKET ENTRY BARRIERS FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES.—Section 257 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 257) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(g) SECTION 706 REPORT.—Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 1302) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the last sentence, by striking ''If the Commission's determination is negative, it'' and inserting ''If the Commission determines in its report under section 14 of the Communications Act of 1934 that advanced telecommunications capability is not being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion, the Commission''; and

(B) by striking the first and second sentences;

(2) by striking subsection (c);

(3) in subsection (d), by striking ''this subsection'' and inserting ''this section''; and

(4) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(h) STATE OF COMPETITIVE MARKET CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICES.—Section 332(c)(1)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(c)(1)(C)) is amended by striking the first and second sentences.

(i) PREVIOUSLY ELIMINATED ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 154) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (k); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (l) through (o) as subsections (k) through (n), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Communications Act of 1934 is amended—

(A) in section 9(i), by striking ''In the Commission's annual report, the Commission shall prepare an analysis of its progress in developing such systems and'' and inserting ''The Commission''; and

(B) in section 309(j)(8)(B), by striking the last sentence.

(j) ADDITIONAL OUTDATED REPORTS.—The Communications Act of 1934 is further amended—

(1) in section 4—

(A) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii), by striking ''and shall furnish notice of such action'' and all that follows through ''subject of the waiver''; and

(B) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (2);

(2) in section 215—

(A) by striking subsection (b); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(3) in section 227(e), by striking paragraph (4);

(4) in section 309(j)—

(A) by striking paragraph (12); and

(B) in paragraph (15)(C), by striking clause (iv);

(5) in section 331(b), by striking the last sentence;

(6) in section 336(e), by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

''(4) REPORT.—The Commission shall annually advise the Congress on the amounts collected pursuant to the program required by this subsection.'';

(7) in section 339(c), by striking paragraph (1);

(8) in section 396—

(A) by striking subsection (i);

(B) in subsection (k)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (F); and

(ii) in paragraph (3)(B)(iii), by striking subclause (V);

(C) in subsection (l)(1)(B), by striking ''shall be included'' and all that follows through ''The audit report''; and

(D) by striking subsection (m);

(9) in section 398(b)(4), by striking the third sentence;

(10) in section 624A(b)(1)—

(A) by striking ''REPORT; REGULATIONS'' and inserting ''REGULATIONS'';

(B) by striking ''Within 1 year after'' and all that follows through ''on means of assuring'' and inserting ''The Commission shall issue such regulations as are necessary to assure''; and

(C) by striking ''Within 180 days after'' and all that follows through ''to assure such compatibility.''; and

(11) in section 713, by striking subsection (a).

SEC. 4. EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to expand or contract the authority of the Federal Communications Commission.

SEC. 5. OTHER REPORTS.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to prohibit or otherwise prevent the Federal Communications Commission from producing any additional reports otherwise within the authority of the Commission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

The legislation before the House this afternoon, H.R. 2844, the FCC Consolidated Reporting Act, is a bipartisan bill that seeks to provide flexibility and relief to both our job creators as well as the Federal Communications Commission. This bill is another step in the process of streamlining government so that businesses can focus their time and resources on growing our economy and creating jobs instead of complying with outdated and burdensome mandates from the Federal Government. Every dollar spent on outdated FCC reporting mandates is a dollar that could otherwise be spent creating more high-paying jobs and investing in new infrastructure.

H.R. 2844 also recognizes the reality that our Nation is in a fiscal crisis and that we must find ways to do more with less. By consolidating eight annual and tri-annual reports into a single biannual Communications Marketplace Report, not only do we recognize this new budget reality by giving the FCC more flexibility and tools to drive greater efficiencies but we can usher in a platform to analyze the converged nature of today's highly competitive intermodal communications industry, which has moved beyond the traditional confines of the 1992 and 1996 Cable and Communications Act.

This simple, commonsense measure will also ensure that Congress has timely access to the Commission's best analysis of the communication's landscape at the beginning of each Congress by requiring that the Communications Marketplace Report be published in the last quarter of an even-numbered year. This will allow Congress to better use findings to inform our legislative activities.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a great example of lawmakers from both sides of the aisle coming together to reform outdated government mandates that were created by Congresses of the past. I applaud Chairmen UPTON and WALDEN, as well as Ranking Member ESHOO, for working so closely and cooperatively with me on this legislation; and I strongly encourage my colleagues to join in supporting passage of this commonsense measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2844, a bill to streamline many of the outdated reporting requirements that Congress has placed on the Federal Communications Commission. At a time when agency resources are limited, this bill, I think, is an example of how to make the FCC's reporting obligations more efficient, which in turn will ensure that the agency can focus on its mission to protect the public interest and promote competition across the communications marketplace.

The bill also ensures that the FCC has the flexibility to continue assessing the state of competition, which is so essential and so important in our

country across the entire communications marketplace, including particular submarkets like wireless, cable, and satellite. This data is vital to both consumers and to policymakers.

I want to thank Chairman WALDEN; certainly the chairman of the full committee, Chairman UPTON; and most especially, Representative SCALISE, for pursuing this legislation in a bipartisan manner and for working with me to ensure that the expert agency, the FCC, was included in our deliberations.

Mr. Speaker, the House passed a similar bill in the last Congress. So I recommend to all of our colleagues this very sensible bill that, again, is something that all Members can stand for, and that is to streamline a Federal agency and kind of get rid of some of the weeds of the past and clear a better path for the agency to continue, again, assessing the state of competition across the entire communications marketplace.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe I have any speakers on this side. I urge my colleagues—everyone in the House—to support the bill. I think it deserves that kind of support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCALISE. I want to thank the gentlelady from California, again, for her hard work on this and the good bipartisan cooperation that we've had in making these reforms.

I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), chairman of the Telecommunications Subcommittee.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana and the gentlelady from California for their great work on this, I think, really good bill.

I was in small business for more than 22 years with my wife, and these are the sorts of odds and ends that can eat a small business alive. It can eat an agency alive as well. These are silly mandates that get put on, often for a good reason initially; but then nobody ever goes back and says, Why are we still asking for a report on the status of the telegraph industry, or whatever else. We went back and did that.

This is the kind of nuts-and-bolts work that I think helps clean up government, helps make it more efficient, makes it more productive, makes it more affordable, and gets out of the way and helps stop doing things it doesn't need to do. Too often, we don't do that.

I think one of the hallmarks of our subcommittee has been a real bipartisan effort to make sure that when we create programs, we then follow and make sure they're working, like we're doing with FirstNet and the Incentive Auctions, to try and track and make sure it's working and then to dig deeper and look for those things that aren't working or they're outdated, yet put a burden on an agency and cost either those who pay for that agency through their taxes or through fees, or whatever. It's all coming out of the private economy into the government economy. We need to stop that.

So this bill consolidates eight separate congressionally mandated reports on the communications industry into a single comprehensive report. As my colleague from Louisiana said, it changes the timeline so that Congress can get the information in a better and timely manner. And it cuts cost. I hope this bill will receive strong bipartisan support in the House. I assume it will. And I hope that our friends across the building will in this Congress take it up and pass it as well.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the bipartisan work of my friends from California and from Louisiana. I urge the House to approve this measure and send it expeditiously over to the Senate.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, in closing, as we heard from our constituents, as we just got back from this August work period where many of us held townhall meetings throughout our district, people are frustrated with why Congress can't work together to get things done. I think this is a good example of how both parties came together and looked at some very outdated laws.

People also ask, Why are you always passing laws and why don't you actually get rid of some of the laws on the books that don't make any sense? Well, that's what we're doing here with H.R. 2844. We're actually going through and repealing laws that are burdens to our small businesses that are out there trying to create jobs in the technology industry. One of the great growing segments of our economy is the telecommunications industry; and yet look at some of these reports that they're required and mandated to compile, many of which have no real bearing on the marketplace today. As the chairman of the subcommittee mentioned, we actually do repeal the telegraph report. Why we still have a law on the books that requires a report issued on competitiveness in the telegraph industry—that goes to show how we have so many of these outdated laws on the books still to this day. And Congress from time to time needs to go and repeal outdated rules and regulations like this. That's what we're doing in this legislation.

It's a good, commonsense piece of legislation that we worked on in a bipartisan way to bring to the floor. I urge all my colleagues to pass the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2844, as amended

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1845

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 6 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2052, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2844, by the yeas and nays.

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

GLOBAL INVESTMENT IN AMERICAN JOBS ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2052) to direct the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to conduct an interagency review of and report to Congress on ways to increase the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 32, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 448]

YEAS—379

Aderholt	Becerra	Brady (TX)
Alexander	Benishek	Braley (IA)
Amodei	Bera (CA)	Brooks (AL)
Andrews	Bilirakis	Brooks (IN)
Bachus	Bishop (NY)	Brown (FL)
Barletta	Bishop (UT)	Brownley (CA)
Barr	Black	Buchanan
Barrow (GA)	Blackburn	Burgess
Barton	Blumenauer	Bustos
Bass	Bonamici	Butterfield
Beatty	Boustany	Calvert

Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—32

Amash
Bachmann
Bentivolio
Bridenstine
Broun (GA)
DeSantis
Duncan (SC)
Fincher
Fleming
Foxx
Harris
Hudson
Huelskamp
Jones
Jordan
Kingston
Labrador
LaMalfa
Massie
McClintock
Meadows
Mullin
Poe (TX)
Posey
Ribble
Royce
Salmon
Sanford
Schweikert
Stockman
Weber (TX)
Yoho

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Kaptur

NOT VOTING—20

Barber
Bishop (GA)
Brady (PA)
Bucshon
Franks (AZ)
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Herrera Beutler
Jackson Lee
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, George
Nadler
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Schwartz
Sherman
Velázquez
Young (FL)

□ 1911

Messrs. MEADOWS, FLEMING, HUELSKAMP, DeSANTIS, RIBBLE, FINCHER, JORDAN, POSEY, KINGSTON, SALMON, BROUN of Georgia, WEBER of Texas, and SANFORD changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FRANKS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 448, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CONSOLIDATED REPORTING ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2844) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 449]

YEAS—415

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E.B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod

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

NOT VOTING—17

Bishop (GA)
Brady (PA)
Bucshon
Gingrey (GA)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Herrera Beutler
Jackson Lee
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, George
Perlmutter
Rush
Schwartz
Velázquez
Welch
Wilson (SC)
Young (FL)

□ 1925

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). 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.

ADDRESSING EMPLOYMENT CRISIS

(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, last Friday, the Department of Labor released figures suggesting that unemployment decreased to 7.3 percent in August, the lowest rate in over 4½ years.

While seemingly good news, if you actually look below the surface, labor force participation fell to its lowest level in 35 years, with only 63.2 percent of working-age Americans being employed. While the unemployment rate declined, it can be attributed to a growing share of individuals giving up on trying to find a job.

Mr. Speaker, it's not that American workers are lazy or reliant upon handouts. Over 12 million Americans are struggling to make ends meet, with tens of millions more struggling with underemployment.

The solution to our national employment crisis is straightforward: we must get a handle on out-of-control debt, a cumbersome and out-of-date Tax Code, and limit bloated regulations.

As we continue our work here in the House, I encourage all of my colleagues to focus their work on breaking down these barriers to employment. Our constituents deserve as much.

□ 1930

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE HINDU AMERICAN FOUNDATION

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to rise today on the House Floor and recognize the great work of the Hindu American Foundation, which is having its annual Northern California Awareness and Gala Dinner near my congressional district one week from Saturday.

There are over 2 million Hindus in the United States, and the Hindu American Foundation works to educate people about their religious faith and protect the free exercise of it around the Nation and across our globe.

I'm proud to stand as a Member of Congress with the Hindu American Foundation on issues that are important to me and its members. For example, I worked to get the FBI to collect data on anti-Hindu hate crimes, including sending two letters to ask it to do so. Thanks to this advocacy and the Hindus across the Nation, we've achieved this goal.

I've also cosponsored H.R. 717, the Reuniting Families Act, to enable people in the United States to be reunited with family members abroad; cosponsored House Resolution 47, which calls on the Postal Service to adopt a commemorative Diwali holiday; and I also joined the India Caucus.

Saturday's dinner will give the Hindu American Foundation members and supporters a great chance to talk about what we've done together and what the future may bring.

I also look forward to attending the gala and hearing from my colleague here in the House, TULSI GABBARD, from Hawaii, who is the first Hindu ever elected to this body and is, rightfully, being honored by the Hindu American Foundation. I'm sure she'll have a unique and insightful perspective for this occasion.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, after 9/11, September became National Preparedness Month, a month to encourage Americans to take steps to prepare for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities.

Recent events such as Hurricane Sandy; the Boston Marathon bombing; the West, Texas, plant explosion; deadly tornados in Oklahoma; and flooding in my own district reinforce the need for preparedness planning.

As chair of the Homeland Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, and as congressional cochair of National Preparedness Month, I urge all Members to promote preparedness activities in their districts. Encourage your constituents to build and maintain emergency kits, develop and exercise emergency plans, and participate in local preparedness activities.

I also urge Members to learn more about how local response organizations are using social media and encourage your constituents to follow local responders on Twitter and Facebook.

National Preparedness Month is also a good time to thank our firefighters, police officers, emergency managers, and their families, whose persistent sacrifices make our country more secure and more prepared.

IT'S TIME FOR THE HOUSE TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, a report released last week by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration examined the relationship between climate change and the extreme weather events from last year. The report found compelling evidence that human-caused climate change contributed to many of the extreme weather events seen around the world last year, including some of the heat waves and droughts seen in the central United States, as well as elevated sea levels that contributed to the unprecedented level of flooding in New York City after Superstorm Sandy.

The report, based on the work of 78 scientists, concluded that climate change has an impact on extreme weather events. These storms and droughts are endangering lives and livelihoods, and costing taxpayers billions of dollars.

Unfortunately, we are failing to address these threats in the House of Representatives. The Republican majority of the House has refused to acknowledge the overwhelming scientific evidence that the planet's climate is changing, and that human activity is a major contributor to this change.

THANKS TO THE MINNESOTA OVARIAN CANCER ALLIANCE

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

This past weekend, I joined neighbors to help kick off the annual Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance Walk and Run. Each year, thousands come out to this event in Edina Park to raise awareness of and education on ovarian cancer, to raise funds for research, and to give support and hope to local women and their families that are touched by this devastating disease.

In 2013 alone, the American Cancer Society estimates that about 22,000 new cases of ovarian cancer will be diagnosed, and 14,000 women will die of ovarian cancer in the United States.

This last March, I met with a group of doctors and nurses from every major health system in the Twin Cities to discuss cancer care and prevention, and I'm pleased to cosponsor legislation that ensures that cancer patients get the care they need.

Mr. Speaker, the powerful stories of hope that I heard this weekend are just a fraction of what we see in our community as we work on our shared goal of making cancer a thing of the past.

LOCAL ISSUES IMPACTING MANY AMERICANS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in the midst of serious discussions on America's next step forward on issues involving Syria, I rise simply to talk about local issues and issues impacting many Americans. One of them has to do with foster care and the situation of foster care in my own State, one dealing with children who've aged out in the city of Houston, and there are no facilities for them to be able to utilize, except for a few, like Little Audrey's, which is under siege, and which we're trying to draw the attention of the community to, to be able to help those children or young people that have no place to go, and then to provide more counselors for foster care children so they have a lifeline while they're in the foster care system.

Finally, some good news: I want to salute the Zion Ministries, the church that I joined yesterday, where they received their marker of historic preservation in the Fourth Ward, Freedmen's Town area.

In our local communities, good things are happening and challenges are happening, and I hope that, as we look at these hard decisions, we'll be able to work with our communities as well on some of the important issues they face.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in a classified security briefing on Syria and missed H.R. 2052, the Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

On H.R. 2844, the Federal Communications Commission Consolidation Reporting Act, I would have voted ''aye,'' and on the Journal vote, I would have voted ''aye.''

THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FORBES. 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 materials on the subject of our Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to come to the floor tonight to discuss our first freedom, religious liberty, as we recognize the 226th anniversary of the signing of our Constitution on September 17, Constitution Day.

I'm hosting this special order as founder and cochairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, a bipartisan group of more than 90 Members of the House of Representatives dedicated to protecting religious freedom in America and preserving our Nation's rich spiritual heritage.

I cochair this caucus with my good friend, Mr. MIKE MCINTYRE, a Democratic Member from North Carolina, who, unfortunately, cannot be with us this evening.

Faith and religious freedom are not party-line issues. Members of the Congressional Prayer Caucus gather each week in the United States Capitol to pray for our Nation. We leave political labels at the door, and we join in prayer for one another and our country.

On September 17, our Nation will mark the 226th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution in Independence Hall, Philadelphia. The Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, was soon to follow.

Religious freedom is the very first thing named in the First Amendment. It is our first freedom, and it's a fundamental human right.

But as President Ronald Reagan so accurately observed, freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. Our freedoms are fragile, and how quickly we forget their importance.

An annual survey by the Newseum Institute's First Amendment Center revealed that only 24 percent of Americans are aware that religious freedom is a First Amendment right. We are forgetting our first freedom. It is this amnesia that results in the subjugation of the fundamental right of religious freedom.

Just last month, a justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court recognized that their decision to uphold fines against a wedding photographer who declined to photograph a same-sex wedding meant that the photographer is now ''compelled by law to compromise the very religious beliefs that inspire'' her life.

But the justice called this trampling of religious freedom ''the price of citizenship.''

The price of citizenship? No. Religious freedom is the very thing the Pilgrims sought when they landed in Plymouth and struggled to survive in a new and unknown world.

Religious freedom was so important to our Founding Fathers that it was the first freedom they named as bearing protection from the government. It's not the price of citizenship; it is the hallmark of the American spirit of freedom.

The American people recognize that the New Mexico Supreme Court's decision is wrong. A recent Rasmussen poll revealed that 85 percent of Americans believe that a wedding photographer who has a deeply held religious belief about marriage has a right to decline to photograph a same-sex ceremony.

Even still, we see weekly reminders that religious freedom is being trampled in the name of tolerance. The Supreme Court's decision in United States v. Windsor has given validation to the basely false argument that the only reason anyone has to support traditional marriage is bigotry. We've forgotten President Obama's observation in 2012 that there are people of goodwill on both sides of the marriage debate.

Over the last few months alone, we've seen so many injustices, like the Oregon bakery that's been forced to close its doors because of the visceral hate mail, threats and boycotts they received simply for living their lives according to their faith.

As some workers protest for higher wages, we see businesses like Hobby Lobby that pay their full-time workers significantly more than minimum wage fighting for the ability to keep their doors open and their workers employed because they dare to operate their business according to the dictates of their conscience.

We see an attack on the integrity of the military chaplaincy, an institution

that exists to support the free exercise of religion for our brave servicemembers as they leave home and family behind to enter harsh and foreign environments.

And we see servicemembers like Senior Master Sergeant Monk fighting to maintain their careers in the military because they dare to hold a traditional view of marriage.

In Iran, Pastor Abedini languishes in the notorious Evin prison because of his Christian faith. He's an American citizen who has been wrongly sentenced to 8 years in prison because he dared to hold a certain religious belief, torn from his wife and two young children.

As we approach the 1-year anniversary of his incarceration, we need to make sure that we realize that his fight for freedom is a reminder of how important it is that we remain a beacon for the fundamental right of religious freedom and the ability to live your life openly and freely on the basis of your convictions. We must defend Pastor Abedini and advocate for his immediate release to the safety of his family.

As we honor Constitution Day, let us remember the fundamental right of religious freedom enshrined in the First Amendment. Members of the Prayer Caucus have not forgotten our first freedom. We stand ready to guard and protect it.

I'm proud to partner with my good friend, Mr. MCINTYRE, in leading this extraordinary group of Members known as the Congressional Prayer Caucus.

I'm so pleased to be joined this evening by my colleagues who are working to protect religious freedom in America and around the world, and at this time I'd like to yield to my good friend, Mr. TIM WALBERG from Michigan.

Mr. WALBERG. I thank my friend from Virginia and, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on an issue of ultimate importance tonight, the First Amendment liberties.

□ 1945

We go back to those brave men whose shoulders we stand upon, and here in the Chamber today, people like Jonathan Witherspoon, who said:

> A republic once equally poised, must either preserve its virtue or lose its liberty.

Congressman FORBES, we are standing for that virtue today. We are standing for that virtue in a country that, sadly, has walked away from accepting it out of hand. And assuming that there will be differences—there will be theological differences, there will be religious differences—America was known from its inception as a place where we could be free to have those foundational principles.

Benjamin Franklin himself said:

> This will be the best security for maintaining our liberties. A Nation of well-informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the religion of ignorance that tyranny begins.

And so I went to some statements that were made in the constitutions of our States—specifically, those States that were our 13 colonies—to look at what our Framers and Founders, those back in the States that said we want a Federal Government, but we want a Federal Government that comes under the control of the States. What did they say about religion and those First Amendment liberties? I picked out three. I picked them out related to the highest offices of our land.

The first was New York. Our Attorney General, Eric Holder, was born, raised, and educated in New York. In its constitution, New York State says:

> The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed in this State to all humankind.

That was New York.

I went then to the State of Delaware, the State of our Vice President. And in that State, the preamble to the constitution starts out by saying:

> Through Divine goodness, all people have by nature the rights of worshiping and serving their Creator according to the dictates of their consciences.

That's Delaware.

And so then ultimately I went to the last State that I looked at. And I went to that because our President comes from Illinois. But that wasn't one of the 13 colonies, my friend from Virginia will inform me. So I went to Massachusetts, where he was educated at Harvard Law School. Article II in that constitution says:

> It is the right as well as the duty of all men and society, publicly, and at stated seasons to worship the Supreme Being, the great Creator and Preserver of the universe. And no subject shall be hurt, molested, or restrained in his person, liberty, or estate, for worshiping God in the manner and season most agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience.

Mr. Speaker, I would say those are the foundational principles that led to the adoption of our Constitution and, ultimately, the First Amendment. And so a danger comes when we come to areas like prayer, where we have a municipality like Greece, New York, that is fighting in the case Greece v. Galloway for the opportunity to continue their tradition of opening with prayer.

Patrick Henry said:

> An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left us.

An appeal. Isn't that a prayer? An appeal to God?

> An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left to us. But we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God that presides over the destinies of nations. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone. Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?

And then he appeals to God again. A prayer:

> Forbid it, almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death.

So today we come to a situation in our country where we have people who are saying, basically, the same thing: give me liberty or give me death. Give me the opportunity to pray. Give me the opportunity to worship without Big Government collapsing on me.

Mr. Speaker, there are enemies of our freedoms. And they have somehow caught it right.

Joseph Stalin said:

> America is like a healthy body and its resistance is threefold: its patriotism, its morality, its spiritual life. If we can undermine these three areas, America will collapse from within.

He's right: we are collapsing, to our detriment and to those who yearn for freedom.

I end with this. A patriot, a President, a believer in prayer, a believer in the First Amendment. President Eisenhower stated in 1954:

> Atheism substitutes men for the Supreme Creator and this leads inevitably to domination and dictatorship.

He went on to say:

> We must jealously guard our foundation in faith. For on it rests the ability of the American individual to live and thrive in this blessed land and to be able to help other less fortunate people to achieve freedom and individual opportunity. These we take for granted, but to others they are often only a wistful dream. In God we trust, our motto. Often have we heard the words of this wonderful American motto. Let us make sure that familiarity has not made them meaningless for us. We carry the torch of freedom as a sacred trust for all mankind.

And then President Eisenhower concluded:

> We do not believe that God intended the light that He created to be put out by men.

I thank my friend for allowing me these statements tonight. And may we stand firmly to the point that ultimately our First Amendment liberties—and even more than that—the God-blessed opportunities that come from His truth will be applauded in this land.

Mr. FORBES. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his great leadership on these First Amendment rights and for his words tonight.

We have another great leader on First Amendment rights, Mr. Speaker, and that's DOUG LAMBORN for Colorado.

DOUG, it's a pleasure to have you tonight. I would love to yield to you for any comments you might have.

Mr. LAMBORN. I want to thank my friend and colleague, Representative RANDY FORBES of Virginia, for his leadership in this vital area of religious liberty and for putting this time together.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our constitutionally granted right to religious liberty and in support of our military. I am grateful for our Nation's military, and I feel privileged to represent thousands of men and women in uniform who serve at the five military installations in my district. Our military is made up of brave, peace-loving men and women of all faiths serving to protect our freedom and our way of life. But there is a growing and troubling pattern of religious discrimination against our men and women in arms.

Earlier this year, an Army Reserve training brief listed Catholics, Evangelical Christians, Sunni Muslims and some Jews as ''religious extremists,'' along with groups like al Qaeda, Hamas, and the KKK. Also, in July of this year, a Christian chaplain was ordered to remove a religious column he had written which simply detailed the history of the phrase:

There are no atheists in foxholes.

Furthermore, in drafting religious freedom policies and regulations, officials within the Pentagon have consulted with radical atheists who once characterized Christians as ''monsters who terrorize their fellow Americans who are die-hard enemies of the United States Constitution.'' This same radical atheist is calling on the Pentagon to prosecute military chaplains who share their faith with servicemembers, claiming that even speaking about your Christian faith amounts to ''unconstitutional religious proselytizing and oppression.''

Mr. Speaker, this is an affront to our civil liberties and demeaning to this Nation that has always believed in the First Amendment freedom of self-expression. Religious freedom is an integral part of America's greatness and has been a pillar of our Nation from the very beginning. We must remain firmly committed to defending religious freedom.

Mr. FORBES. I thank the gentleman for his hard work in this area and for being with us tonight.

We heard Mr. WALBERG mention Patrick Henry; and from the State that Patrick Henry came from is my good friend, ROB WITTMAN.

ROB, thank you for being here and your fight in all this.

Mr. WITTMAN. Thank you, Representative FORBES. I want to thank you for your leadership in the Congressional Prayer Caucus and for taking the time to make sure we got together today to recognize the importance of today's date and the efforts by our forefathers to make sure that we have those liberties and freedoms to make sure that we can freely practice our religious beliefs here.

I'm pleased to be here as a member of our Prayer Caucus and join with my other colleagues on the Prayer Caucus to honor Constitution Day and the religious freedoms of all our citizens.

September 17, 2013, marks the 226th anniversary of the signing of the greatest governing document the world has ever known: our Constitution. Religious freedom is the very first freedom protected in the First Amendment. And just as Chairman FORBES has spoken of, it was really a discussion that took place years ago in Virginia.

Governor Patrick Henry, there in the church at St. John's in Richmond, got up and spoke about the importance of the individual liberties and freedoms and the importance to make sure that we as a Nation had a Constitution that preserved those. As you know, he led that fight to make sure that James Madison, the author of the Constitution, provided in the Constitution just those individual liberties and freedoms. In fact, I think a lot of folks don't know he actually voted against ratifying the Constitution originally because it did not contain those basic individual liberties and freedoms, and it was his work that made sure that we enjoyed those individual liberties and freedoms today, based on our Constitution.

It was that First Amendment that read:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

In today's world, there are far too many obstacles for many of our citizens to truly practice what is promised in the First Amendment. There are challenges to religious symbols. Religious freedom for members of our military is under attack.

Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Phillip Monk was recently dismissed from his position and reassigned after he refused to voice his opinion when his commanding officer asked him if he could agree with her belief that openly voicing a religious or moral opposition to same-sex marriage is discrimination. He stood by his beliefs and paid the price professionally for that.

Religious liberties are threatened, for many, each and every day.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, as has been so eloquently stated, has a direct tie to the First Amendment. I stated Governor Patrick Henry's efforts there; but also Thomas Jefferson was very, very adamant and passionate about preserving those religious freedoms.

The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom was authored by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison in 1779, and it states:

No man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities.

Thomas Jefferson, the second President of the United States, and one of our Nation's Founding Fathers, understood the need for protecting our natural rights, those provided to us by our Creator, those protected by our government, all of which were more important to him than any other element of what he espoused in the creation of our government. And we know that none meant more to him or to our Nation than the freedom of religion. The statute declares that compulsory religion is wrong, that no religion should be forced on an individual, and that the freedom of religion is a natural right.

□ 2000

The statute's doctrine and principles have inspired individuals throughout the Commonwealth and across our Nation.

Thomas Jefferson requested that three of his greatest accomplishments be listed on his epitaph. Freedom of religion was so important to him that the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom was listed along with the founding of the University of Virginia and the writing of the United States Declaration of Independence as his greatest lifetime achievements. Thomas Jefferson believed deeply in that freedom of religion and wanted to make sure that it was something that our Nation continued to espouse today, and it was his moral foundation.

The statute ultimately facilitated the path to complete religious freedom in the United States. As we know, the discussions that took place took place based upon that Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom. That was eventually included in the First Amendment to our Constitution.

It is our duty to ensure that the Congress continues to protect our First Amendment freedoms for now and for future generations. And I want to thank all of my colleagues in the Congressional Prayer Caucus to make sure that we remember each and every day as we are here the practice of religious freedom, and to make sure that we understand that our projection of that freedom is what makes us the great Nation that we are today.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. WITTMAN, I thank you for your dedication to First Amendment rights and to our military.

One of the deep thinkers that we have in this area in all forms of policy, especially as it comes to First Amendment liberties, is the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD).

Mr. LANKFORD, we are delighted to have you tonight, and I would love to hear some of your thoughts on this.

Mr. LANKFORD. It is absolutely my honor to have the chance to be here as well to be able to speak out on the issue that was critical in the foundation of our own Constitution and of our Nation as a whole, and that is the right to believe.

We in America have this unique thing, the right to believe or the right to not have a belief at all; but if you believe, to also have the right to actually live what you believe. It is this unique American freedom that people around the world sometimes stare at with awe because they are bound to have a certain set of beliefs to be in that country, but not so with us in America. You can have a belief, not have a belief; but if you have one, you may live your faith.

Coptic Christians in Egypt would love to be able to live their faith and not live in fear right now. The Baha'i in Iran would love to be able to live out their faith and not live in fear right now. The Christians in Syria would love to be able to live out their faith and not live in fear. And the multiple religions that try to practice in countries like China and Vietnam and other

places that constantly live in fear because of their own faith would love to have that. But not so in America. Whether you be a Member of Congress, whether you be an individual in the administration, whether you be any person walking down the streets of America, you have the right to be able to live out your faith, and it is essential for us. It's a great value that we share, but it is essential that we also continue to protect. And on days like today, it is ironic that we are discussing again this unique value to say: Can we still live out our faith as Americans?

Let me just give you a couple of examples where the challenge has been put to the test recently. It wasn't but a couple of years ago that the Obama administration challenged the Missouri Synod Church on whether that church and Hosanna-Tabor could choose their own minister or whether they would be fought from the outside, that the government could step into the church and say, No, we have to help be a part of selecting who the minister is. That was argued all the way until it got to the Supreme Court, where they lost 9–0, and the Supreme Court reaffirmed again that a church has the right to select their own minister.

It is ironic that we are dealing with a great business that employs thousands upon thousands of people around the country, called Hobby Lobby, that the founders of that company are Christians, they live out their faith—they practiced their faith from when they were a craft/framing shop in the garage of the family, and they continue to practice that business the exact same way now—to say: Can they live out their faith?

They are currently facing a set of fines right now where the administration has stepped in to say, if you provide health care insurance that we choose, you're fine; if you don't provide any insurance at all, I'm going to fine you $2,000; but if you provide insurance that doesn't meet the administration's religious belief, you will be fined, as a company, $36,500 per employee.

Let me run that past you again. In a country where you are free to live out your faith, if this particular company chooses not to provide insurance that violates their faith and it doesn't follow up with the administration's policy, they will be fined $36,500 per employee per year. And so they changed their insurance to meet the faith of the administration. It's not right. We are a place where we cannot only have a belief in a label, but also choose to live out that label. That's important for us as a Nation.

Two things that I wanted to be able to encourage us as well. One is that students, on September 25—just a few days from now—will stand at flag poles around this Nation. They will gather early in the morning before other kids even get up and stand at a flag pole for an annual celebration called ''See You at the Pole,'' where students will gather to pray. It's not a demonstration; it's not a declaration. It is just students doing publicly what they do privately every single day, and that's pray for our Nation. They can do that because of our freedom.

Today, I remember three Oklahomans that 2 years ago lost their life in Afghanistan. They are heroes. They were individuals that were protecting the freedom of people they had never met and protecting our Nation. Jane Horton, one of the widows, not long after her husband, Chris, was killed in Afghanistan, dropped by my office and got a chance to visit with me. We talked for a long time, and she handed me a tie that her husband had. I chose to wear it today, 2 years after he was killed, so that we would not forget those who stand for our freedom and that we will not forget what they have done for us and our Nation.

Mr. FORBES. Thank you, Mr. LANKFORD, and for your great work on this subject.

Probably no one has defended the rights of our military and their First Amendment rights and the rights of our chaplains more than the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING).

Mr. FLEMING, thank you for your efforts in that and for being here tonight. We would love to hear your thoughts on this very special amendment and right for Americans.

Mr. FLEMING. I would like to thank my good friend from Virginia for having this Special Order this evening and the leadership that the gentleman has provided in this area with the Prayer Caucus and so many other things, both on Armed Services and outside of Armed Services, in that realm.

Mr. Speaker, I am greatly inspired and moved this evening with the speeches that I've heard talking about religious liberty and all of the things that we are struggling with right now with religious liberty.

Religious freedom is at the center of who we are as Americans. With foresight and clarity, the Founding Fathers enshrined religious freedom as a First Amendment right. Quote: ''Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof''—the First Amendment.

Despite these undisputed facts, time and again we have witnessed a whittling away of this freedom. The passage of the President's signature legislation, ObamaCare, ushered in a new wave of government oppression for businesses, religious organizations, faith-based schools, charities, and hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned this evening that with ObamaCare and with many other things that we're seeing on the religious front, on the military front, that Washington and this administration is actually substituting its religious beliefs for our own; a very dangerous precedent.

What have we talked about? ObamaCare. You know, we discuss ObamaCare and all the problems, the cost and the rationing board and all of these things, but what's left out of that discussion are some very, very important points.

ObamaCare's HHS mandate requires that all insurance plans cover various items and services that are in direct conflict with deeply held religious beliefs or moral convictions. Three groups are singled out for this:

Number one is health care providers themselves, who in many cases will be forced to participate in certain techniques, certain types of treatment that are against their deeply held religious beliefs, such as abortion, such as getting abortion pills—what we call abortifacients—sterilization procedures, and such as that.

Another important group is religious institutions. The Catholic Church has, for many decades—really, centuries—gone about the work of the Lord to provide health care to individuals but will be required, under the HHS mandates, to actually provide certain procedures, such as sterilization and birth control pills, that are against their deeply held beliefs. Regardless of whether you agree with that or not is beside the point. According to the First Amendment, the church and its institutions should be allowed to do what is right by their own personal religious beliefs.

The third group is private businesses. You have already heard about Hobby Lobby and many others who, because of the HHS mandate, will have to provide coverage through insurance for certain things, which may include abortions, and yet that's against their own deeply held religious beliefs—and suffering fines of tens of thousands of dollars per episode and per day for having done so. That is not right under the First Amendment.

There are 67 cases and over 200 plaintiffs that have filed suit against the administration to protect the First Amendment right to religious freedom. They are working their way through the courts.

Tyndale House, a Christian publishing company, well known for their production of the Bible, as well as family-owned and operated business Fresh Unlimited, Inc., a fresh produce processing and packing company in Ohio, and Beckwith Electric, a Florida-based electric company, are among the 37 for-profit companies seeking relief from the HHS mandate.

Hospitals, charities, Catholic dioceses, and religious colleges, including Louisiana College in my own State, are at various stages of defending their first freedom against the administration's constitutional HHS mandate.

Instead of supporting publishers, grocers, electricians, doctors, nurses, teachers, and professors, ObamaCare strips away the ability for these individuals to live their lives in a manner consistent with their religious beliefs.

This administration has relentlessly lambasted the religious freedom of hardworking Americans, threatening ruinous fines for noncompliance. And again, companies such as Hobby Lobby,

a well-known arts and crafts store that started out just as one single store, faced crippling fines for their religious beliefs.

Congressman FORTENBERRY, Congresswoman BLACK, and myself have put together a compendium of conscience protections through legislation. We've attempted many times to get this up for a vote and passed through the House and through the Senate that would block many of these HHS mandates that come down from ObamaCare. So far we have not gotten the support from the other side of the aisle to get this done, but we will continue until this is completed.

Then, finally, military religious freedom. We know that the military oftentimes is a microcosm of what happens in the demographics across America. And today, religious freedom is under tremendous pressure. We have situations where military members can no longer put a Bible out on their desk, that somehow that's offending someone and that's breaking a statute or a law.

You heard the recent case of Master Sergeant Monk, who, because he wouldn't champion something that was against his religious beliefs—closely held and taught by his own church—is now facing potential court-martial for speaking out against that. The list goes on and on, Mr. Speaker, of what's happening, and it's very recent.

This is not your father's military. This is not really the military you were in even 5 years ago. This is a new military in which religious freedom is being pushed away and substituting Washington's morality, Washington's faith—this administration's faith—instead.

So with that, I do want to thank my colleagues who are here tonight talking about the important things. What could be more important than religious freedoms? I think many would say that's the foundation, the basic foundation upon which this Nation was created and why many people have immigrated over the centuries here and many people even today continue to immigrate to the United States because of its religious freedom.

Let's hold this dear. Let's not let go of the First Amendment, the ability to not only believe what you choose to believe in religion, but also to speak out and express as well, even to take action. All of these are fundamental and very important.

So with that, I thank you again, Mr. FORBES, for the opportunity.

Mr. FORBES. Dr. FLEMING, we thank you for your expertise in both the health care area and the military, and thanks for fighting this fight so well.

One of the truly great champions on religious freedom issues has been the chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution. He was actually selected as Christian Statesman of the Year because he truly practices what he preaches, and we are delighted to have with us the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) tonight.

Mr. FRANKS, it's good to have you here, and we would love to hear your comments.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, tonight, as we talk about religious freedom, it is especially appropriate that this group is led by one Congressman RANDY FORBES.

Mr. Speaker, I came into Congress approximately 11 years ago, and Mr. FORBES has been a prescient and noble voice among us during that time. I truly believe that as long as there are men like RANDY FORBES in Congress that America will continue to be a great and hopeful Nation.

□ 2015

Mr. FORBES understands the importance of religious freedom. He understands that religious freedom is truly the cornerstone of all other freedoms.

I want to make sort of a layman's analysis of a quote sometime back from a great English statesman. He said:

> Out of deep dark bondage arises great faith. And that faith leads to great courage. And courage leads ultimately to freedom. And freedom leads to abundance. And abundance leads to apathy. And apathy leads to dependence. And dependence leads back to bondage.

That has been the litany so often of great countries down through the ages, Mr. Speaker. I would just suggest to you tonight that there is a solution to breaking that pattern. That is for us to hold, as we are trying to do this evening, to the great foundations of religious freedom. Because, as we so clearly see in the insights of this great English statesman, that faith oftentimes is the precursor to all other freedoms. It is vitally important that we protect it, and to fail to do so is to imperil our entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that's exactly where we are in many places today. I want to give one special example tonight:

Saeed Abedini is a United States citizen who has been imprisoned in Iran for exercising his Christian faith in a manner that is both legal and protected under Iranian law and international law.

A few days ago, the 36th branch of the Tehran Court of Appeals confirmed Saeed Abedini's prison sentence and he is expected to serve the rest of the 8-year sentence in a hostile Iranian prison.

The following statement is by Naghmeh Abedini, his wife and a resident of Idaho, in reaction to the news that Iran had upheld her husband's prison sentence. She said:

> When I learned that the Iranian Appeals Court confirmed Saeed's 8-year imprisonment I was heartbroken. As tears streamed down my face, I pondered how I could crush the child-like hope with this news as my children tightly closed their eyes and prayed in hope and expectation for their daddy's swift return.
>
> Discouragement and disappointment washed over me. I was discouraged that after a year of travel and numerous media interviews, I felt no closer to Saeed's release. I am also disappointed that the leader of my country, a country founded on religious freedom, has been awkwardly silent when an American citizen is wasting away in an Iranian prison.
>
> For an entire year, my husband has faced threats and abuse daily by radicals in Evin Prison for refusing to deny his Christian faith. And still, President Obama has never spoken a word about him. I am grateful for congressional pressure, but I do hope that as a Nation we realize that if we do not collectively speak out against injustice it will only be a matter of time before all our children will have to face what my children are facing today.

Mr. Speaker, the American people would be outraged to truly know that the Obama administration has responded with deafening silence when an American father, husband, pastor, and an American citizen, Mr. Speaker, was thrown into a harsh prison under an oppressive regime for having the nerve to practice his Christian faith. The Obama administration should be utterly ashamed of its disgusting failure to speak out on behalf of Saeed Abedini and his precious family. No wonder the oppressive Iranian regime holds the Obama administration in such total derision as it arrogantly proceeds to build nuclear weapons with which to threaten the peace and security of the entire free world.

I hope that the American people will hold the Obama administration accountable for its absolutely criminal silence in the face of such heartless injustice forced upon this beloved American pastor, his innocent family, and so many others.

Mr. Speaker, on September 26, Saeed Abedini will have served in Iran's harsh Evin Prison for an entire year. The appeal that Saeed Abedini just lost was his last hope of being released under a heartless and unjust Iranian judicial system that still demands that he serve his 8-year sentence. Now, Saeed's wife, Naghmeh, is faced with ''crushing the child-like hope'' she speaks of of her two young children who have patiently ''prayed in hope and expectation for their daddy's swift return,'' and telling them that it will be a very long time before they see their daddy again.

Mr. Speaker, when I hear the words of Naghmeh Abedini and I roll them over in my mind and I think of my own two little children at home, I am at once heartbroken for the Abedini family and enraged at the lackadaisical attitude and silence of President Obama.

Iran has demonstrated an utter disregard for fundamental religious freedom by continuing to unjustly hold Pastor Abedini, an American citizen, Mr. Speaker—an American citizen—in a hellish Iranian prison for practicing his faith.

Iran's tyrannical attempts to, in the words of Ronald Reagan, ''stifle the freedom and muzzle the self-expression of the people'' have again been exposed to the world after the imprisonment of this beloved American pastor, who at

the time was working to build an orphanage in Iran when he was imprisoned.

Mr. Speaker, Martin Luther King once said: ''Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,'' and Pastor Abedini's case has starkly shown the far-reaching implications of even a single instance of oppressing religious freedom.

By relentlessly refusing to forget this noble and gentle man, Pastor Saeed Abedini, we are upholding the sacred principle of international religious freedom as a ''first freedom'' that, Mr. Speaker, is fundamental to all of humanity.

Mr. FORBES. Congressman FRANKS, we thank you for speaking out for this great pastor whose big sin was that he loved children who did not have parents and he loved his faith and his God. We just thank you for doing that.

Our next speaker is someone who has been recognized for a lot of things—his fight on the Judiciary Committee—but tonight he's here to share and to stand up for First Amendment rights for religious freedom, LOUIE GOHMERT from Texas.

Congressman GOHMERT, thank you for being here.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, my dear friend, RANDY FORBES, for all that you do on behalf of religious freedom. I know it is not merely Christian freedom, but it is religious freedom, and it is under attack. When we look at what the Constitution says, I know it has already been read, but so often we forget the first word. We just blow right past the first word of the First Amendment, and that is that ''Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.''

Why was it that they singled out Congress, because they mentioned States in some of the other amendments. In the 10th Amendment, anything that is not prohibited to the States, that power is reserved to the States and the people.

So why is it that they singled out Congress? It is because this was intended for Congress and not for the States. Because the people that voted for these amendments knew that every one of the States had some laws that dealt with some aspect of Christianity, whether it was the oath that was required to be taken, or in some cases, a belief in Jesus Christ. There were all kinds of State and local university laws that had to do with religion, and that, if you wanted to be part of this, you had to believe this way.

It was supposed to be a restriction on Congress. We've gotten so far afield from that now we think that we are not allowed to even bring up a hymn here in Congress. Whereas, my friend RANDY FORBES knows, and TRENT FRANKS—you all know, right down the hall the man who coined the phrase ''separation of church and State,'' Thomas Jefferson, as President came to church every Sunday he was in Washington, and on some occasions he brought the Marine band to play the hymns. It was the biggest church in Washington for much of the 1800s right down the hall in what was the House Chamber back then.

Now look at what has happened. We see these incursions on the freedom of belief, and Christians are persecuted and forced to endure the slams and the arrows that should never be endured. Like SEAL Team 6, for example, those heroic members that were put in harm's way in a situation they should never have been put in in Afghanistan, after SEAL Team 6 was outed as the one that took out Osama bin Laden. You can see the DVD, a recording of the Ramp Ceremony. They have an imam come up in his language and do a Muslim prayer over the American flag-draped caskets, and we know some of those guys were devout Christians. He says a prayer that when you get the interpretation, basically it condemns them to hell, that they will never defeat the Muslims, the followers of Allah.

It turns out today we see persecution after persecution of Christians. When you look at the underpinnings of this Nation, it was Christians. About a third of the people that signed the Declaration of Independence were ordained Christian ministers.

If you look at what drove Lincoln, it was coming closer and closer to a walk with God. Some of the most powerful Christian messages ever delivered include the second inaugural address of Lincoln. Why? Because the Christian faith that he heard John Quincy Adams right down the hall talk about drove him to come back into politics and to get back involved to try to eliminate slavery. He knew that it was difficult for God to bless America when we were treating brothers and sisters by putting them in chains and bondage.

The next big step toward true Christian brotherhood and sisterhood in America came from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. What was he? He was an ordained Christian minister. And now within 50 years it has become only acceptable to persecute Christians. This administration and so many have taken a stand—yes, it is an outrage that poisonous gas was used by anyone in the Middle East, but you don't hear the administration or others talking enough, including us in Congress, about the persecution of Christians.

One article here says ''Syrian Rebels to Christians: Flee or Die,'' an article by Bob Unruh, who used to be with the AP. He talks about the report. Over and over Christians were told, you either denounce your Christianity or die, and we've done nothing about it. That was written in June.

We have an article September 9. The village of Maaloula has been taken over by Syrian rebels associated with al Qaeda, who have stormed the Christian center and offered local Christians a choice—conversion or death—as they screamed ''Allah Akbar.''

Well, there is too much persecution of Christianity. That was never supposed to be the case. That was what so many said would be the salvation of our little experiment in democracy. It is time to stand for freedom of religion, not freedom to persecute Christians from Washington.

I appreciate my friend very much for yielding.

Mr. FORBES. I thank the gentleman from Texas for his words.

The Wall Street Journal has recently written a big article about our next speaker, about how hard he works for constituents, but tonight he's here to work for the First Amendment and for freedom of religion. That is STEVE PEARCE from New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for leading this discussion.

> Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Now, what would be in the minds of the people who wrote those words? It would do well to look at where they came from. They came from countries where kings ruled. The kings could tell you what church you had to be in. They could tell you what you had to believe, what you had to profess. If it conflicted with what you said, they had the ultimate power over you. And so they came here to establish a new government. They wanted this Constitution, this contract with the people and the government that said the government cannot bridge certain lines. And the establishment of religion and the free practice thereof were protected.

The gentleman from Virginia mentioned early in his comments, there was a young couple in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the State that I represent. She had a way with cameras and started a little in-home photography business. Elaine Huguenin and her husband, Jonathan, just wanted to give expression. But they also wanted to defend their rights to believe what they did, so they made a pact between themselves that they would do nothing that compromised their faith, their religious beliefs. The Constitution protects that.

□ 2030

Very soon after establishing their business, they had an inquiry from a gay couple, asking that they photograph their vows. The young couple in the photography studio refused and were surprised when they were taken before the New Mexico Human Rights Commission. They were equally surprised when that commission found they had no rights of religion in this country. The New Mexico Human Rights Commission said that you are guilty of violating a different law, one that did not comport with the Constitution. They fined them $6,000. The young couple appealed to the New Mexico appeals courts, and just recently, the New Mexico Court of Appeals found also that they were in violation—a court of appeals in this country ignorant of what the Constitution protects.

It's exactly these kinds of things that our Founding Fathers were alarmed about—commissions that would show up and tell you what you had to believe, what you had to profess. Catholics are afraid they're going to have to provide contraceptives from a government of the same mind. Doctors who are opposed to abortion fear that this government is going to tell them what they must do in violation of their consciences.

Are we, the American people, supposed to stand by? I think not. I think it's time for us all—not just Congress, not just your Representatives, but all—to raise their voices and speak out against a government that is too strong and that has forgotten its limitations written into that Constitution, especially under the First Amendment—protecting our free exercise of religion. Speak with us. Stand up and speak with us.

Mr. FORBES. I thank the gentleman for his words tonight.

My dear friend from Virginia, Congressman GRIFFITH, we are glad to have you with us tonight for your comments.

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. I am so glad to be with you this evening.

So many people in Washington and in other parts of the country believe that it was the intent of the Founding Fathers to bleach from our society our religious beliefs, and you have heard others speak this evening that that is not the case. In particular, I would like to share with you, in the short time that we have remaining, the words of Thomas Jefferson from that famous letter to the Danbury, Connecticut, Baptists, because everybody focuses on one phrase and not the entire letter.

He opens with salutations to the Danbury, Connecticut, Baptists, and then begins the meat of the letter:

> Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should ''make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,'' thus building a wall of separation between church and State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the Nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties.

Now, the next paragraph—the closing paragraph—of the letter is very instructive because the man who some now say wanted to bleach religion out ends the letter as President of the United States as follows:

> I reciprocate your kind prayers for the protection and blessing of the common Father and Creator of man, and tender you for yourselves and your religious association, assurances of my high respect and esteem.

Obviously, it was never his intent to bleach out of our society religion, and the Statute for Religious Freedom today still stands on the wall of the House of Delegates where you and I both served.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, we thank you for the time tonight.

Over your head stands the phrase ''In God We Trust.'' A few years ago, when they opened the Visitors Center, they tried to take that phrase out of it. Members of the Prayer Caucus came here and stood, and because of that it's now written and engraved in the walls over there. We believe that, if you can engrave it there and if you can engrave it here, we can engrave it once again in the hearts of the people in this country.

I want to thank you for the time that you've allowed us today. I want to thank the majority leader for yielding us this time. I want to thank our Founders for giving us this great right of freedom of religion, and my prayer and our prayer tonight is that the American people will be wise enough to keep it.

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

THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS—AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. It is an honor and a privilege, Mr. Speaker, to once again have this opportunity to stand here on the floor of the House of Representatives and to anchor the CBC Special Order where, for the next 60 minutes, members of the Congressional Black Caucus have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people on an issue of great significance to us, which is the future of the organized labor movement and how that relates to the economic viability of the African American community and to America as a whole.

Now, today, we've all just returned from the August recess. We are here back at the Capitol, and of course we're in the midst of a very robust period of deliberation as it relates to the administration's request for us to grant authorization for this country to strike militarily against Syria for what appears to be the use of chemical weapons, which is in violation of international law, against the Syrian people. That debate will play itself out over the next few days and, perhaps, even the next few weeks; but while we undertake that solemn obligation to make the best decision for this country and for our constituents as it relates to such a critical issue of war and peace and possible military engagement, we also have a similar responsibility to deal with the domestic issues that continue to impact our constituents as well as the American people.

We know that we are still in the midst of a very sluggish economic recovery and that the American worker has fallen behind relative to the position that that worker was in coming out of World War II and through the sixties and the seventies, into the eighties and the nineties. This is a matter of urgent concern to the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and it should be a matter of urgent concern to everyone who is a Member of this august body. Part of the deterioration of the American worker, I believe, empirically can be shown to be directly related to the deterioration of unionized membership here in this great country. So we will explore those topics.

We are a week removed from the Labor Day celebration, and we are also a few weeks removed from the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, a march that was projected as one both for jobs and for freedom. We often focus on the civil rights aspect of the march—and it produced some tremendous pieces of legislation—but the March on Washington was also about jobs and economic opportunity, and it was put together with the significant assistance of the organized labor movement here in America.

I've been joined by several distinguished colleagues, Members of the House of Representatives, but also of members of the class of 2012—this wonderful freshman class. I believe the first speaker will be the distinguished gentleman—my good friend from the other side of the Hudson River, the always nattily dressed—Representative Donald Payne, Jr.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York for that kind introduction and for his consistent leadership on the CBC's Special Order hours. Tonight's topic is ''African Americans and the Labor Movement.'' It is an American story.

Historically, union members have played a critical role in the civil rights struggles of the past, and the involvement continues today. When Dr. Martin Luther King was jailed for civil disobedience, it was unions and union members who came to the legal and financial aid of Dr. King. African American workers have played a pivotal role in strengthening our unions and our economy. The path to the middle class for African Americans has always been through union jobs. What we see is an erosion of that dream. People's ways of life—what they're used to, the levels at which they're used to living—are eroding. It is because there is an attack on organized labor in this country, for there are forces within this Nation

that are eroding the quality of life for hundreds and thousands of Americans throughout this Nation.

So I am really here to say and to point out to this august body that labor has been the pathway for many Americans—not just for African Americans, but for people of all walks of life—to live the American Dream. To own a home, to feed their children, to send them to school, to take care of their parents, to have health care, job security has all been through labor. We stand here today and count the countless number of times that the labor movement has been there for us in America. This is a kinship that you can expect from a fellow union member.

I have been in two unions in my lifetime. Yes, I'm a Member of Congress today, but there have been times in my life during which I've worked hourly jobs, and it was because of the unions I was able to get a living wage and have the resources to raise my family. So I don't come to you, preaching to you, not knowing how it is to have to get up every morning and punch a clock and look for overtime and hope that you can get it in order to increase the wages that you bring home. The reasons to support unions are clear. Union workers are more likely to have health insurance and are more likely to have pension plans. Receiving this preventative care now helps lower health care costs later.

Let me also say something about the Affordable Care Act at this point in time. It is a great piece of legislation. It will go down in history just as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid have changed this country, because I can see the goal line. It's going to take some time to get there, and, yes, it will have to be tweaked and looked at and changed in some areas; but it is a monumental piece of legislation that is going to change health care in this Nation for millions of people who have never had health care. To my fellow Americans, that lowers the costs for all of you, because you pay for people who do not have health care.

□ 2045

So now you will have millions of Americans paying into their own system which lowers the cost for you.

Today, labor unions are still at the forefront of improving equality in the workplace. Right now in New Jersey, we're fighting to raise the minimum wage. Despite overwhelming support by the people of New Jersey, the Governor of New Jersey vetoed a bill that would have raised the minimum wage to $8.25. But our workers will not be deterred. This November, New Jerseyans will have the chance to right that ship at the ballot box and raise the minimum wage for millions of workers.

In Jersey City, the second largest city in the State, in my district, it is expected the city will require paid sick leave to all workers. This is important to our workers and to our economy because it has been proven that paid sick leave reduces turnover, increases productivity, and lowers health care costs for all.

I spoke about my experience in labor. I worked for a manufacturing firm as a young man of 20 or so. It was a business that manufactured computer forms. It was the only African American company of its kind in the United States of America at that time, and I was proud to work there because my vocation was printing in school. So I was very glad to go there and work in that atmosphere.

But as a 20-year-old does sometimes when you're young and you make mistakes, I was fired by that company. The owner of the company that fired me was my uncle. My father was the hearing officer against me, and my grandfather was a witness against me.

Let me say that no one knows how important it is to be represented, because the union got my job back. In spite of everything that I was up against, the union got my job back. I stand here to let you know I understand what it is to be represented firsthand.

Mr. Speaker, the people of this country and this great State of New Jersey deserve a wage that they can live on.

Several months ago, colleagues of mine in the Congressional Black Caucus took the SNAP challenge and we lived on what a person would have to live on for a day and try to make ends meet and eat. It was an eye-opening experience. I had two bottles of water, a microwave macaroni and cheese, and a half a can of tuna fish is what I had for a day. So if we think people are living well on $4.17 a day, then you have another thought coming.

People need to have a living wage. We know what it costs to live in this Nation. We will continue as the CBC, as a group, to voice our opinion and be heard on these issues that impact our districts, our States, and our Nation.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank my good friend from New Jersey for those very insightful and thoughtful observations.

I think the organized labor movement has a pretty simple objective in that a hard day's work should be compensated by a good day's pay; and anybody that works hard to provide for their family should be able to take care of their family, possibly even with a solidly middle class existence. That seems like that is consistent with the idea of who we are as a country. We, of course, right now have a minimum wage that is so low—$7.25 an hour—that you can work 40 hours a week and a family of four will still fall below the poverty line.

We've seen income inequality reach levels that are as bad as they were during the Great Depression. Part of the reason for these economic phenomena clearly have to do with the decline of Americans and their participation in the workforce as union members. It's something that we just have to confront here in this country in deciding what type of America we're going to become as we move forward into the future.

I've been joined by another extremely distinguished, eloquent, thoughtful colleague from the great State of Ohio, and I'm pleased to yield the floor now to Representative JOYCE BEATTY.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to join and thank my colleague, Mr. JEFFRIES, for leading the Congressional Black Caucus' important discussion on achieving economic security through the labor movement.

Labor unions played an important role in the civil rights movement. Today, the labor movement continues to be an important issue for African Americans, just as important as it was 50 years ago during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

The labor unions and civil rights groups share the struggles of fighting for better pay and equal rights. The overall goal of this movement remains the same. We must invest in education, fair wages, and workers' rights. We must continue to fight for those in our community who are denied economic opportunity and equality. Labor unions are at the forefront of these endeavors. They ensure the gains that workers have made in the past are maintained and that workers' rights will be protected in the future. Union members have played a critical role in the civil rights movement, and their involvement continues today.

Historically, the path of the middle class for African Americans was through a union job, and today unions continue to provide African Americans with economic security. You see, 13.3 percent of all union jobs in the United States are African American, despite African Americans only making up 11.4 percent of the overall domestic workforce. African American union jobs earn up to $10,000, or 31 percent, more per year than nonunion workers.

If we really want to rebuild America's middle class, we need strong unions. Labor unions play a major role in our economy and on behalf of workers. The essence of what labor unions do is to provide workers with a strong voice so they receive a fair share of the economic growth that they help create. They have always been an important player in making sure that the economy works for all Americans.

Labor unions have paved the way for middle class people, for millions of American workers, and pioneered benefits such as paid health care and pensions along the way. Even today, union workers still maintain more benefits and job protection than nonunion workers.

Union jobs continue to offer higher salaries, pensions, health care, and benefits that give families the economic security that they deserve, the security to be able to send their children to college or trade schools. I know this firsthand because my dad was a

union worker. Oftentimes I say that I was able to go to college because of union dollars. This is the American Dream, and unions have helped ensure that more Americans have a chance to live it.

In central Ohio, the Third Congressional District of Ohio that I represent, labor unions are strong and a significant part of the community. During my August recess, I had the opportunity to visit the Sheet Metal Workers Union, Local 24, located in Columbus, Ohio. I also had the opportunity to have a labor town hall meeting where I had the opportunity to speak. Whether it's a teacher educating our children, a skilled tradesman improving our infrastructure, police and first responders keeping us safe, electric workers, those working in transportation, the Postal Service, nurses, automotive workers, local, State, Federal, and municipal government employees, these individuals assist us every day and their work improves our communities and our local economy.

It is so important for us to come here today as Members of Congress and, yes, as members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Let me tell you why. In our current economic climate, unions are more important than ever before. We need fair wages. We need a higher minimum wage. As our economy continues to recover from the worst recession in 80 years, many workers are experiencing decreased wages, forcing them to spend their savings or try to figure out how to make ends meet.

Yes, unions are a vital part of our society and so important as we continue to rebuild America. We must ensure that workers can retire with dignity. We must preserve the ideals and the principles of the middle class. We must make sure that we preserve the values of that civil rights movement 50 years ago and that labor movement that defines our country. When unions are strong and able to provide a voice to American workers, our communities, our States, and our Nation grows.

So tonight I say ''thank you'' to all my friends in labor, because you are making us have a better America.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you, Congresswoman BEATTY, for those very comprehensive, thoughtful, and insightful remarks, and for pointing out, of course, the historic connection between the struggle for civil rights here in America and the organized labor movement.

Of course we know that A. Philip Randolph was very central in the 1963 March on Washington, that great labor leader who, in 1937, formed the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. A. Philip Randolph once made this observation:

> The essence of trade unionism is social uplift. The labor movement traditionally has been the haven for the dispossessed, the despised, the neglected, the downtrodden, and the poor.

He echoed those words several decades ago, but I think they ring true today in America in 2013, and we're thankful for that.

I've been joined by another distinguished colleague, a member of the freshman class, my colleague from the Lone Star State. It's now my honor and my privilege to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas, MARC VEASEY.

□ 2100

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, Mr. JEFFRIES, thank you very much for having us here to talk about the importance of wages and labor unions in our country. I want to thank my friend from the Empire State of New York for putting this together. This is very important and very timely as we try to pull our country out of the economic glut that it was in, as we are turning things around and we're getting job numbers back and things seem to be getting better slowly but surely. But we want to make sure, as things get better, people have a living wage, one where they can earn a good salary and have dignity and respect and be able to feed their families and take care of them.

I was listening to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) talk about his life when he was growing up and the importance that labor unions played in his life. I can tell you, when I was in high school, that I worked at a grocery store and it was a union grocery store, probably the only one in the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area. I remember, we had benefits. We had time and a half. We were paid extra on holidays. We were young people, but we were allowed to make a little extra money. No one got rich off it, but at least when we were working extra on those days that people would normally have off, when we worked those extra hours during the summer and when school was out, we were compensated for it and compensated for it fairly. I am really proud of that.

Also, thinking back to my childhood, I often think about the people who would come over to our house and play dominoes and cards on Friday and Saturday night, and when the men would talk about trying to uplift themselves and getting that better job and better salary, and the companies that they often talked about.

How do you get on there? That was a saying back then: Do you have a friend that can get me on over there? When people were talking about getting on someplace that had a good salary, it was a place that had a union. It was a place that had one of our labor forces fighting for good wages, fighting so your family could have health care insurance, fighting so your family could have dental insurance, and just basic things like that that so many people take for granted every day, but it certainly helped shape the person that I am today.

A strong labor force is the key to economic security. Labor unions have historically sought to fight for workers' rights—to increase wages, raise the standard of living for the middle class, ensure safe working conditions, and increase benefits for both workers and their families.

Unionized workers are more likely to receive paid leave, have employer-provided health insurance, and to participate in employer-provided pension plans. They reduce wage inequality by raising wages for low- and middle-wage workers and blue-collar workers without a college degree. And they raise wages of unionized workers by roughly 20 percent and raise compensation, including both wages and benefits, by about 28 percent.

Today, the labor movement is an important tool for African Americans and, as unions, continue to play a pivotal role in both securing legislative labor protections, such as safety and health, overtime, family and medical leave, and making sure that those rights are enforced on the job.

Labor unions are critically vital to the African American community's economic security. They have been historically and will continue to be in the future. African American union workers' earnings are nearly 24 percent higher than nonunion counterparts, and labor unions provide key bargaining power by organizing the workers to negotiate an agreement with management. This agreement covers things such as a safe place to work, decent wages, and fringe benefits.

Unionized workers are 28 percent more likely to be covered by employer-provided health insurance and are almost 54 percent more likely to have employer-provided pensions and are more likely to receive paid leave.

Fifty years ago, the March on Washington was led with a labor message to increase economic security. Today we must work together to continue that charge. Working people need the collective voice and bargaining power unions provide to keep employers from making the workplace look as it did in the past.

Unions are vital in ensuring that corporations do not focus on creating profits at the expense of their employees.

African Americans are serving in key leadership roles in the larger labor movement. Arlene Holt Baker currently serves as the AFL–CIO's executive vice president, and Lee A. Saunders serves as the president of AFSCME.

Today, labor unions are still on the forefront of efforts to ensure that the gains of the past are maintained and that those who fight for our dignity and equality continue to march on.

I encourage my colleagues in Congress to continue to honor the traditions of the Davis-Bacon wage protections that have helped cement labor agreements and other fair practices that have helped the African American community and all Americans achieve prosperity and economic security.

And as we think about what transpired last month with the March on

Washington and as we commemorated 50 years, we think about all of the great things that Dr. King did in his service to our country while God allowed him to live on this Earth, and one of my favorite quotes by Dr. King is, and I'll close out with this:

As I've said many times and believe with all my heart, the coalition that can have the greatest impact in the circle for human dignity here in America is that of the Negro and the forces of labor because their forces are so closely intertwined.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. JEFFRIES, thank you very much for this time. Let's continue to march on.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you, Representative VEASEY, for your very eloquent thoughts and observations.

Of course, we understood that Dr. King was very close with organized labor, with 1199 in New York, with the retail workers, and a variety of other unions. And of course on that tragic day down in Memphis, Tennessee, when he was assassinated in 1968, he was there in support of striking Black sanitation workers, so he leaves behind a tremendous legacy. Part of that legacy, of course, includes standing up for the rights of workers to organize and fight for decent wages and health care and a pension. These are all things that Dr. King would advocate for were he around today.

We have been joined by one of the leaders of the CBC, someone who was a distinguished civil rights attorney prior to his arrival here in the Congress and a judge, and now he serves as vice chair in the Congressional Black Caucus, one of the most eloquent voices in the CBC, and I am pleased to yield the floor to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Thank you, very much, Mr. JEFFRIES, for those very kind words and thank you for yielding me time this evening to talk about this very important subject. Mr. JEFFRIES, your leadership on this issue, the issue involving strong labor unions and bringing American jobs back to American workers is so critically important, and for that we appreciate your leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the economic success of the United States is something that other nations every day try to emulate. The success of our country is not because of us here in Congress, the policymakers, but it is because of the hard work of so many Americans who helped build a strong and resilient Nation.

The role of African Americans has been particularly important over the years. The role African Americans played in the early economic success of our country is one that is not well known to some people, but it was so vital to building the world power that we are today. Even before the Civil War, Black Americans were critical in helping to build ships and other seagoing vessels that were used to move agricultural goods and equipment to the growing Nation by serving as caulkers, a job that was dominated by African Americans.

Those same shipbuilders formed the Caulker's Association back in 1838 to protect African American caulkers by negotiating for higher wages and safer working conditions from their employers. The Caulker's Association counted Frederick Douglass, who worked as a caulker in Baltimore, as one of its members.

After the end of the Civil War, 4 million former slaves were set free. African Americans who were freed found it very difficult to find work because of racial tension. They were often used by White employers as strikebreakers so that their businesses could continue to operate while White employees were on strike.

Well, as time went on, by 1902, at the turn of the century, more than 40 national unions didn't have any members, not a single one, who were African American. But as the quest for civil rights began in earnest, African Americans would soon find a home—a good home—with labor unions all across the country.

By the 1930s, the Congress of Industrial Organizations welcomed everyone and counted both Blacks and Whites as members and was among the most integrated organizations in the United States at that time. By 1945, more than half a million African Americans were members of unions that comprised the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Labor unions played a critical role—we've heard that tonight—in the civil rights movement, and served as one means by which African Americans could fight for civil rights and fair pay and safe working conditions.

Mr. Speaker, we recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. On August 28, 1963, more than 300,000 people, including myself, witnessed the call for civil and economic rights for African Americans. And on that hot day in August, we heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., deliver his historic ''I Have a Dream'' speech. The march was one of the largest rallies for civil rights in the history of our country, and it was organized in large part—I want to make this point—it was organized in large part by labor unions, including the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the United Auto Workers.

The large role labor unions played in organizing the March on Washington cemented their place in history in providing for racial and economic equality.

In 2012, more than 14 million people were members of a labor union. But you know what? That is down from almost 18 million 30 years ago. That is very sad. Why is that?

The U.S. economy and Federal and State laws have changed since the heyday of industrial manufacturing where unions could organize with relative ease. Jobs that once required a human being are now being performed by a machine. Good paying American jobs have been relocated overseas where labor is cheap and working conditions are not as heavily regulated. And, perhaps most damaging, have been the onslaught of disgraceful antiunion policies that we have sadly seen on television that have been signed into law in States all across the country.

For African Americans, labor unions continue to be vitally important because they are committed to maintaining the hard-fought gains of opportunity and equality. Since their inception, labor unions have helped African Americans fight for equal rights and equal pay and safe working conditions. Now, African Americans are more likely than any other group to be a union member and earn more than 30 percent more than their nonunion counterparts. Labor unions will continue to be a vital part of our economy, and we must do all that we can to ensure that the labor movement thrives with the same intensity as it did 60 years ago.

I urge my friends in labor to continue their work. It is appreciated. I recently visited the A. Philip Randolph Institute. Ms. Clayola Brown is the president. I went to their dinner just a few days ago here in Washington, and I wanted to commend them publicly for the work they are doing. I thank them for invoking the name of A. Philip Randolph who, as Mr. JEFFRIES said earlier, founded the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Let me also recognize the important work of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, headed by my good friend Bill Lucy, who was secretary-treasurer of AFSCME for many years. And now the Reverend Terry Melvin is carrying on the work of Bill Lucy. So I thank my friends in labor and urge them to continue the great work that they are doing in this country.

Mr. JEFFRIES, I thank you for yielding me this time and for your leadership.

□ 2115

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina for those observations and for your continued leadership here in the Congress.

I would ask the Speaker how much time is remaining on this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that's been troubling to me and to many of the people that I represent back home in Brooklyn and parts of Queens has been to witness the attack on organized labor, on unions all across the country. Particularly in 2011, 2012, we witnessed it in Wisconsin, we witnessed it in Ohio, taking place in other parts of the country.

And I think that it's unfortunate that there are some forces out here in the country determined to crush the ability of the American worker to organize and fight collectively for a decent way of life.

And I think it's important to point out some of the reasons why all Americans should be thankful for unions and

for the organized labor movement. I'm just going to highlight quickly 10.

We should be thankful to organized labor because of overtime pay.

We should be thankful because of child labor laws.

We should be thankful because we now have the 40-hour workweek. We should be thankful because of workers' compensation, there to provide a safety net for folks who are injured on the job.

We should be thankful because we now have the presence, as a result, in significant part, of the organized labor movement, for unemployment insurance.

We should of course be thankful because many Americans, as a result of the efforts of organized labor, enjoy pensions, increasingly under assault, increasingly being taken away, but pensions have provided a vehicle for retirement security important to the American way of life and standard of living.

We should be thankful to organized labor because it fought for employer health care insurance coverage, something that many folks in this country still don't have, and that's one of the reasons why I strongly support the Affordable Care Act, an effort to correct that inequity that exists in America. But the fact that many employers do provide health insurance is an outgrowth that resulted from, in large measure, the effort of organized labor.

We should be thankful to organized labor because of the presence of whistleblower protection laws that give, in many instances, workers the capacity to identify something that's wrong, and to be able to move forward and reveal it, often, in some instances, when public funds are being squandered or the law is being broken; to reveal a wrong without having to have the same level of fear that retaliation would take place as a result of simply doing the right thing.

We should be thankful to organized labor because it fought for sexual harassment laws designed to allow the workforce to be an environment where men and women could exist without fear of inappropriate behavior poisoning the atmosphere. We still have a long way to go in that regard, but we've got some good laws on the books designed to protect against repulsive behavior in the workforce.

Lastly, we should be thankful, and this in no way is an exhaustive list, just a representative sample, but we should be thankful for holiday pay, thankful that organized labor fought for the opportunity for many Americans to be able to enjoy Thanksgiving or Christmas or New Year's or other holidays with their families, still have an opportunity to be compensated as a result of the ability to get certain holidays, perhaps most significantly, the Fourth of July, where we celebrate the birthday of this great Nation—off in remembrance of who we are and where we need to go in this country.

We've got a lot of reasons to be thankful to organized labor. Several of my colleagues earlier today referenced their own personal experiences as it relates to the labor movement. And as I was listening to those experiences, from Representative DONALD PAYNE and Representative MARC VEASEY, I thought about the experience of myself and my own family, growing up in Brooklyn to two parents in a working class neighborhood in Crown Heights.

My parents were married in April of 1967. At the time they got married, they were both members of the Social Service Employees Union, SSEU, which subsequently became Local 371 and DC 37. But they were both SSEU members. They got married in April of 1967.

And just a short while thereafter, the union decided to go out on strike because they were fighting for improved conditions, both for the workers and for the clients that Social Service workers served.

My parents, newlyweds at the time, confronted what I imagine was an extremely difficult decision: Do we strike with our union brothers and sisters, even though we'll have no possible means of providing for ourselves, and we don't know how long we'll be out of work, or do we cross that picket line in defiance of the collective action of the SSEU workers who went out on strike?

I'm proud that my parents joined with their union brothers and sisters and went out on strike. And as I look back at that decision, it's a lot of reason for me and for my brother and for our family to be thankful, because when I think about it, in 1973, my younger brother was born with some heart difficulty, and I'm confident, looking back on it, that it was that union-negotiated health care that helped our family get through what was otherwise a very difficult time. And my brother's alive and well and doing wonderful things as a professor at Ohio State University right now.

And then in 1980, my parents bought their first and only home in Crown Heights, the home that my brother and I grew up in, the home that they still live in back in Brooklyn right now. And it was that union-negotiated salary that helped them put together the money to make the down payment and to pay the mortgage all of these years.

Then in 1988, it was time for me to go off to college. And one of the reasons why I was able to come out of college relatively debt-free is because my mother borrowed against her union-negotiated pension in order to send her children to college.

And so the organized labor movement never has to worry about whether I'm going to stand up for them because they've always stood up for me and so many others just like me, as we heard from my colleagues in the freshman class here in the Congress. And that's simply representative of stories that so many folks across America could share.

Now, unfortunately, we know that organized labor is under attack. About 60 years ago, in 1953, about 35 percent of the American workforce had collective bargaining coverage. But as of 2010, we went from about 35 percent in the 1950s to just under 7 percent in 2010.

Where has that gotten us?

I think it's put us, not in a better position, as middle class America or working families; it's put us in a worse position.

And we saw the attacks in Wisconsin, and we saw the attacks on collective bargaining in Ohio that the folks had to roll back after the people of Ohio rose up in opposition.

I was proud, as a member of the State legislature at the time, in 2012, to support the effort to unionize by a group of very courageous cable workers in Brooklyn. Organized by the Communication Workers of America, they voted, in the face of significant pressure to the contrary, to join the union and to organize a chapter in order to fight for better wages and for stronger health care and the possibility of a better retirement.

Unfortunately, the courageous nature of those workers has not been met with a negotiated contract. The collective bargaining process has failed them to date. In fact, more than 20 of them were unceremoniously terminated earlier this year, and they were only brought back in the face of tremendous pressure by public servants at all levels of government.

But more than 18 months later, from the moment in which they voted to join the union, they still are in limbo. They have no contract, and in many ways, their lives have been turned upside down. In fact, every other worker in the company that employed these cable workers has been granted a substantial raise, while these individuals remain in limbo.

We're hopeful that we can do better, that we can bring the NLRB back to life, that it can serve as an objective entity to regulate the relationship between the workforce and employers across America.

There are a lot of employers who want to do the right thing. We should encourage that because it's good for America. And in this economic recovery that we have right now, there are a lot of companies that are doing pretty well. But there are a lot of workers who are still struggling.

One of the things that I think we have to confront here in the Congress is the fact that we have a very schizophrenic economic recovery. The stock market is way up, corporate profit's way up, the productivity of the American worker is way up, yet, unemployment remains stubbornly high, and wages remain stagnant.

How can that be when corporate America is doing so well, when investors in the stock market are doing so well, when objective measures show that the productivity of the American worker has increased significantly?

But the American worker, in terms of their ability to live and pursue the

middle class dream, has, in many ways, been left behind.

These are questions that I'm hopeful this Congress will confront. As we fight our way through sequestration and deal with the debt ceiling and the potential default, God forbid, that we have to confront next month, and we work our way, deliberatively, through the question of whether a military strike in Syria is appropriate, let's not forget the fact that what makes America great is the capacity for people to work hard, to purchase a home, to raise their family in safety, in security, with the ability to live a life where they provide for themselves and for their families and are able to hand to a generation of Americans that come behind them, hopefully, an America that is more prosperous, not less prosperous.

□ 2130

We in the CBC believe that the best way to get there is not to continue to attack organized labor but to recognize what it has done for this country and to strengthen organized labor as we move forward.

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues Congressmen JEFFRIES and HORSFORD for once again leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order Hour.

African Americans have had a long history with the labor movement.

Within the labor community, African Americans joined with individuals of other races to advance efforts to create ladders to prosperity in an environment of economic and racial discrimination.

In the 1800s, such efforts led to African American union visionaries, such as Isaac Myers, who realized the collective power of African Americans within the Trade Union movement.

Under Myers, an organized group of ship caulkers purchased and operated the Chesapeake Marine Railway and Dry Dock Company in Baltimore.

Within months, the cooperative employed 300 African American caulkers and received several government contracts.

Nearly 100 years later, A. Phillip Randolph would organize the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Randolph was instrumental in uniting the African American Civil Rights community and the labor movement with the shared ideals of collective prosperity and economic security.

Randolph proposed a 1941 March on Washington that heavily influenced the economic and social themes echoed by Bayard Rustin, Martin Luther King, Jr., and others who were instrumental in making the 1963 March on Washington a success.

During celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington last month, we recalled the message of social and economic justice that union leaders spoke of in 1963.

Dr. King was noted for saying, "it's not enough to have a right to sit at a lunch counter if you can't afford to buy a meal."

This message echoed the call of labor leaders who asked "what good is it to be able to serve at the counter when you can't afford to buy a meal?"

Sadly, today, we must still ask this question.

As the wealth gap continues to grow, income and food insecurity remain prevalent.

The ladders to prosperity that Myers, Randolph and King spoke of are still inaccessible to many in our society—whether they are African American or another race or ethnicity.

Many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle speak of disbanding labor unions and limiting collective bargaining rights.

I proudly stand with our labor allies to fight these efforts because I know weakened organized labor means continued erosion of the middle class.

The Members of the Congressional Black Caucus will continue to oppose devastating cuts to programs that will only increase economic despair.

Together we will continue to propose and support policies that create economic opportunity for all people rather than for a select few.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I join in support of my colleagues Representatives HAKEEM JEFFRIES and STEVEN HORSFORD in leading tonight's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order on the topic of Achieving Economic Security Through the Labor Movement.

I want to offer special recognition for the men and women of labor who are dedicated to the working people of the 18th Congressional District and the Greater Houston area.

I began my remarks with a special tribute to one of the greatest labor leaders that I have known and to honor the memory of Ronnie Raspberry of Houston, Texas. He passed away in April of this year, and he will be remembered as a champion of working people, one of the great community leaders in the cities of Houston and Harris in Texas.

People like Harris Country AFL–CIO Council President E. Dale Wortham, IBEW, Local 716, Secretary-Treasurer Richard C. Shaw, Steven Flores, a member of the Latino Labor Leadership Council, Tawn E. MacDonald, CWA, Local 6222, Houston Chapter and Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), Zeph Cappo, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) and Scott Vinson, with the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), and Gayle Fallon, President—Houston Federation of Teachers improve the lives of working people in the city of Houston.

This list is not complete with a special mention of Houston Educational Support Personnel Union President Wretha Thomas who works with local school bus drivers to be sure that their rights are included when district negotiate labor agreements.

I want to say a word about Clyde Fitzgerald who was appointed to the Port of Houston Authority Commission by Harris County in June 2013. I cannot complete the Us of outstanding labor leaders in Houston with mentioning Dean E. Corgey who was appointed to the Port of Houston Authority Commission in January 2013. He represents the City of Houston, and serves on the Community Relations and Pension and Benefits Committees.

John Bland with the Transport Workers Union (AFL–CIO) and leader of Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) is doing outstanding job as well.

My thanks to the unions that represents Houston's First responders. I want to recognize Houston Police Officers Union President Ray Hunt and the Immediate Past President J.J. Berry.

I count the International Association of Fire Fighters Houston Local 341 President Jeff Caynon and General President Harold Schaitberger as friends and I am like all Houstonians proud of how that serve the fire fighting community and our city as true selfless public servants.

The most important thing to remember about unions is wrapped up in the answer to one question—What does labor want? Samuel Gompers—Founder of the American Federation of Labor provided the answer:

> More. We want more school houses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning and less vice; more constant work and less crime; more leisure and less greed; more justice and less revenge; in fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures, to make manhood more noble, womanhood more beautiful and childhood more happy and bright. These in brief are the primary demands made by the Trade Unions in the name of labor. These are the demands made by labor upon modern society and in their consideration is involved the fate of civilization. (1893)

Quote: Martin Luther King:

> Unless man [and women are] . . . committed to the belief that all mankind are [our sisters and] . . . brothers, then [we] . . . labor . . . in vain and hypocritically in the vineyards of equality.

The right to earn a living wage, to work in safe conditions, to enjoy a forty hour work week, have health care, be free of discrimination, have sick leave, receive overtime pay, have a pension, be free of sexual harassment have holiday pay and enjoy countless other protections comes as direct result of what Unions mean to working men and women of this nation.

Some would have you believe that the working life of men and women is just the way it is—but in truth it is what the blood, sweat and tears of working people made it to be.

Labor Day is celebrated in recognition of the toil and trials that millions of workers endured before they earned the right to collective bargaining and with that right the power to change the fate of working people for generations. The fruits of their effort extended to those in management as well as the poorest of the poor.

Unions are the reason that the basic standard of living in the United States has risen, without the protection of unions advocating the behalf of workers those gains would be completely lost.

During the last Congress I introduced the New Jobs for America Act, that directs the Secretary of Labor to make grants to state and local governments and Indian tribes to carry out employment training programs to aid unemployed individuals in securing employment in a new area of expertise, particularly in emerging markets and industries

I also co-sponsored the American Jobs Act of 2011 which would have provided tax relief for American workers and businesses, to put workers back on the job while rebuilding and modernizing America, and to provide pathways back to work for Americans looking for jobs.

I supported the Job Opportunities Between our Shores Act or JOBS Act that Amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to direct the Secretary of Labor to make grants to or enter into contracts with eligible entities to carry out demonstration and pilot projects that provide

education and training programs for jobs in advanced manufacturing.

My heart where Fannie Lou Hamer's was during the civil rights movement—which was really more about economic rights to move up in our nation's socio-economic system. People were held down because they were women, black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian, or poor.

It is not a crime if you sweat when you work for a living and we should end the practice of dividing how workers are treated based on how they earn a living.

Fannie Lou Hamer Quotes:

To support whatever is right, and to bring in justice where we've had so much injustice.

That is the reason, we are here tonight—to bring justice where we've had so much injustice in the unwillingness of the current Republican controlled Congress to acknowledge the value of your worth to the American economy by securing for your labor a living minimum wage.

There is not America without the American worker. This is as true today was it was from the nation's earliest beginnings. At our earliest history workers were indentured servants, bonded persons, or slaves. The sweat of their brow carved a nation out of stone, swamp, and dense wilderness to become one the greatest nation the world has ever known.

Historically, the path to the middle class for African Americans was through a union job. African-American workers are more likely to be union members because they know that acting as one is stronger than acting alone. This is the message of the civil rights movement and one that African Americans have learned well over the decades of struggle for equal rights.

Equality also requires equal access to education, employment and pay.

Coretta Scott King Quotes:

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members, . . . a heart of grace and a soul generated by love.

Unionized workers promote greater income equality and prevent wage discrimination.

African American union workers earn up to $10,000 or 31% more per year than non-union members.

In 2011, nearly 20 percent of employed African Americans worked for state, local, or federal government compared to 14.2% of Whites and 10.4 percent of Hispanics.

African Americans are less likely than Hispanics and nearly as likely as Whites to work in the private sector, not including the self-employed.

Few African Americans are self-employed—only 3.8 percent reported being self-employed in 2011—making them almost half as likely to be self-employed as Whites (7.2 percent).

Unionized workers are more likely to receive paid leave, more likely to have employer-provided health insurance, and are more likely to be in employer-provided pension plans.

The tools of unions must be part of the landscape for poor working Americans and the way forward for equity and fairness in income and the benefits of the success of our society.

Unions play a pivotal role by ensuring workers has continued educational access for their current roles as well as encourage workers to pursue higher education. Nationally, 77 percent of union employees in 2009 were covered by pension plans that provide a guaranteed monthly retirement income. Only 20 percent of non-union workers are covered by guaranteed (defined-benefit) pensions 20 percent.

Union workers are 53.9 percent more likely to have employer-provided pensions. These are not isolated facts, when unions are strong and able to represent the people who want to join them, these gains spread throughout the economy and the overall community.

Unions are not just good for workers. They are the best friend that a successful business can have. When workers form unions they are able to boost wages, which helps attract and retain staff for employers. When non-union companies increase their wages, it gives all workers more purchasing power.

The benefits of unions flow to the entire community with a strong middle class have sufficient tax revenues to support schools, hospitals and roads.

Today, labor unions are still on the forefront of efforts to ensure that the gains of the past are maintained and to fight for those still denied opportunity and equality

Unions are a great community and I will tell you why you should be standing up with them for your rights.

In 1968, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King went to Memphis to help sanitation workers who were fighting for their rights and dignity as people who worked hard for a living, but had no living wage.

In 1968 Memphis the color of the skin of two black workers were prevented by Jim Crow laws from finding shelter from a cold rain sought warmth in the back of a sanitation truck and were crushed to death—Martin Luther King could not keep silent nor turn away.

He was killed in Memphis at the Lorraine Motel because of the power of his message to move the hearts and minds of people so that they would fight for the rights and dignity of working people everywhere.

Talking Points:

The 2013 Federal Poverty guidelines stipulate $23,550 for a family of four as poverty level. A $7.25 minimum wage earns $15,080 a year. Even at the poverty level of $23,550 for a family of four, families are unable to make ends meet and often have to sacrifice basic necessities.

Fast food jobs used to be considered entry level jobs and often held by teenagers but now, in the new economy, the average age of a fast food worker is 28, many of which have families to support. A family living on $15,000 a year must sacrifice many basic necessities most of us take for granted—like healthcare, transportation, and food—to say nothing of the luxuries many of us enjoy on a regular basis.

In Houston, nearly 500,000 people make poverty wages or less, or nearly one quarter of all Houstonians. The ripple effects of this amount of people given more spending power would create a tremendous amount of economic activity spurring job creation and new markets for small business. Fast food workers paid a living wage of $15/hr. not only puts food on their tables but also puts more money into the local economy. This is an economic engine that needs to be started.

With 1.07 million restaurant and food service workers, Texas has the second-largest restaurant workforce in the nation. And it leads the nation in projected restaurant job growth between 2013 and 2023, according to the National Restaurant Association. The trade group predicts a nearly 16 percent jump in Texas restaurant and food service jobs in 10 years.

Texas also had the nation's largest collection of minimum-wage workers last year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Texas accounted for nearly 13 percent of such workers across the country, the data showed.

My thanks to my colleagues' Representatives HAKEEM JEFFRIES and STEVEN HORSFORD for hosting this important special order.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the working people of this great Nation.

My fellow members of the Congressional Black Caucus and I are here tonight to honor the Labor Movement. We do so one week after our Nation celebrated its 119th Labor Day, and two weeks after we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Justice. It is only appropriate that we pay homage to both tonight, as the Labor Movement and the Civil Rights Movement are sisters in the fight for dignity, freedom, and justice.

Over the years, Labor Day like many holidays has lost much of its meaning. Today, most Americans simply think of it as the end of summer, or the beginning of school. One last moment to enjoy the beach or the backyard with friends and family.

However, Labor Day is also a day during which we should honor those who paid the ultimate price to secure their children a more perfect union. At Bay View in 1885, at Haymarket in 1886, at Pullman in 1894, and in Memphis in 1968, members of the Labor Movement laid down their lives so that others might earn a living.

My own support for collective bargaining rights started early on with my father, John Conyers Sr., who worked with the United Auto Workers to integrate factories in Detroit, before the Civil Rights Movement took that battle to the buses of Alabama and the lunch counters of North Carolina. His battle—Labor's battle—was one which Dr. Martin Luther King would later recognize as the final frontier for the Civil Rights Movement. Specifically, the availability of jobs that paid a fair wage—wage upon which one could raise a family, plan for old age, and live a life beyond mere survival.

Dr. King once spoke of the Labor Movement as the ''first and pioneer anti-poverty program.'' In his last battle, Dr. King went to Memphis, TN, the city that would claim his life, to stand with the sanitation workers of that city who sought what so many of us take for granted and so many of us only dream of: a fair day's pay, for a fair day's work.

Speaking to the sanitation workers of Memphis, he acknowledged the threats he had received, but he told them that he stood before them unafraid of any man, for he had been to the mountain top, and even if he didn't reach the Promised Land, he knew that others would one day.

Today, we are still on that mountaintop, waiting for the Promised Land. Through the sacrifices of labor and civil rights leaders, we were led out of bondage, but we still have not reached the land promised in the American dream. It is my hope that in the 21st Century, we will see the same progress we saw through the middle part of the 20th Century. I hope to see the middle class prosper, I hope to see management work with labor to produce wonders that we could not hope to achieve without cooperation, and I hope to finally see poverty conquered through the

power of fair wages and honest toil. Together, workers can seize the dream that will slip out of any one person's grasp. Together, workers have the power to ford any river, cross any valley, and come down from the mountain where we have been for too long.

AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM IN THE FACE OF WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENTIVOLIO) for 30 minutes.

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as a former soldier. Like many of my colleagues in this room who served, I took an oath to honor and defend the Constitution of the United States against enemies both domestic and abroad. American soldiers do not swear to defend the President; they don't swear to defend Congress or political parties. They swear to defend the Constitution because this document is the bulwark that protects our freedom.

American soldiers swear to protect this document because our Founding Fathers understood that elected officials, from the President to us here in the House of Representatives, are fallible human beings. They swear to protect this document because they know that the principles it defends are true and its wisdom will last long after we're dead, just as it lasted long before we were born.

The Constitution of the United States of America is the key difference between us and other countries. It is what makes our Nation exceptional. Forged on the anvil of liberty, it has protected our Nation as we have grown from a fledgling Republic into a world superpower. The soldier that we ask to fight on our behalf knows that. We must honor our military by looking to the wisdom of the Constitution whenever we discuss sending our troops to war.

The Constitution itself makes clear that we should go to war ''for the common defense.'' This statement, ''for the common defense,'' was so important that it was used twice by our Founding Fathers: once in the preamble, then again in laying out the duties of Congress.

We live in a fallen world. Bad things happen to innocent people every day across the globe. Drug cartels beheading people in central America, Christians being burned alive in Nigeria, human trafficking in Asia—all of these things are heart-wrenching but none of them involve our common defense.

When I see what is happening in Syria and read the intelligence given to us, I do not see how this terrible civil war involves our common defense. I understand the horrors of the Assad regime and it sickens me. It hurts to see the pictures of dead children brutally gassed by a hateful dictator. Yet the actions our President wishes us to take would do little to prevent such a man from continuing to murder his people, nor would help those our soldiers were sworn to protect—our constituents.

In his farewell address, George Washington said:

> We may choose peace or war, as our interest guided by justice shall counsel.

There is nothing just, or in our interest, in lobbing a few bombs into a country and walking away.

The Secretary of State and the President have both stated that we need to go to war because Assad broke a treaty that the entire world supports. The U.N., they say, cannot act. Mr. Speaker, I am asking the same question my constituents are asking: Why do we spend billions of dollars supporting an international organization for peace that cannot enforce a treaty supported by the entire world? If the U.N. is so hamstrung that it cannot rally the world to stop Assad and we have to unilaterally attack Syria, what exactly is the point of having a U.N.?

The Secretary of State also had the gall to tell both the Senate and the House Foreign Relations Committees that bombing Syria is ''not a war in the classic sense.'' Let me tell you something, Mr. Speaker. If another nation attacked us the way our President wants to attack Syria, everyone in this room would call it war. Let me tell you something else, Mr. Speaker: war has consequences.

The Secretary of State told the House Foreign Relations Committee that the goal of bombing Syria was to ''degrade'' Assad's chemical weapons and cause a stalemate in the fighting. In other words, Assad will still have the capability of using chemical weapons and could very well use them again to break the stalemate we create. Does anyone really think that we will just stop with the first round of bombings? That's not how war works. Wars are a ''yes'' or ''no'' question. You cannot, as Secretary Kerry and the White House suggest, only kind of fight a war. If we break it, we're going to be forced to fix it.

Like I said, I'm an old soldier, and old soldiers need mission plans. When I look at this mission plan, I don't see anything that suggests we will simply be able to walk away after this bombing campaign.

America's role in the world is not to play parent to the rest of the nations, chastising bad actors and picking winners and losers in battles that don't directly threaten us. The point of our Nation is to show the world the wisdom of a free and representative government.

My fellow Members of Congress, we can show that wisdom here today with this vote. We can show the world that our Nation will not plunge itself into war because our President drew an artificial red line and feels embarrassed that a dictator crossed it.

Our military does not belong to the White House. It belongs to the people. I ask you, show the power and wisdom of our Founding Fathers when they granted the representatives of the people with the decision to go to war.

I strongly urge everyone in this room to vote ''no'' on attacking Syria and involving ourselves in their civil war.

God bless America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2013, AT PAGE H5408

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
August 8, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Washington, DC.

SPEAKER BOEHNER: I cannot express what a tremendous honor it has been to serve the people of Louisiana's Fifth Congressional District, and from the bottom of my heart, I am eternally grateful and I thank them for the trust they have placed in me.

I write to you today to officially let you know that, effective September 27, 2013, I will be resigning as a Member of the United States Congress.

I am honored that Governor Jindal has given me the opportunity to serve as a member of his cabinet as his Secretary of Veterans Affairs. I am eager to get started and begin reaching out to our state's veterans in order to make sure they know that our state and nation are grateful for their service.

I look forward to continue serving the great state that I love and the men and women who have given us so much.

Sincerely,

RODNEY ALEXANDER.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
August 8, 2013.

Governor BOBBY JINDAL,
State Capitol, 20th Floor, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA.

GOVERNOR JINDAL, I cannot express what a tremendous honor it has been to serve the people of Louisiana's Fifth Congressional District, and from the bottom of my heart, I am eternally grateful and I thank them for the trust they have placed in me.

I write to you today to officially let you know that, effective September 27, 2013, I will be resigning as a Member of the United States Congress.

I am honored that you have given me the opportunity to serve as a member of your cabinet as your Secretary of Veterans Affairs. I am eager to get started and begin reaching out to our state's veterans in order to make sure they know that our state and nation are grateful for their service.

I look forward to continue serving this great state that I love and the men and women who have given us so much.

Sincerely,

RODNEY ALEXANDER.

COMMUNICATION FROM CONSTITUENT SERVICES LIAISON, THE HONORABLE BRAD WENSTRUP, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Teresa Lewis, Constituent Services Liaison, the Honorable BRAD WENSTRUP, Member of Congress:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and September 10 on account of a family medical emergency.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker on Friday, August 2, 2013:

H.R. 267. An act to improve hydropower, and for other purposes.

H.R. 678. An act to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1171. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to improve veterans service organizations access to Federal surplus personal property.

H.R. 2576. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify requirements relating to the availability of pipeline safety regulatory documents and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. THORNBERRY, on Tuesday, August 6, 2013:

H.R. 1344. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

OMITTED FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2013 AT PAGE H5408

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

2738. A letter from the President Of The United States, transmitting Draft Legislation Regarding Authorization for Use of United States Armed Forces in Connection with the Conflict in Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

2739. A letter from the President Of The United States, transmitting the Continuation of the National Emergency with respect to Export Control Regulations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

2740. A letter from the President Of The United States, transmitting An Executive Order prohibiting the importation into the United States of any jadeite or rubies mined or extracted from Burma; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

2741. A letter from the President Of The United States, transmitting an alternative plan for monthly basic pay increases for members of the uniformed services, pursuant to 37 U.S.C. 1009(e); (H. Doc. No. 113–58); to the Committee on Armed Services and ordered to be printed.

2742. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-41, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2743. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report identifying, for each of the Armed Forces (other than the Coast Guard) and each Defense Agency, the percentage of funds that were expended during the preceding fiscal year for performance of depot-level maintenance and repair workloads by the public and private sectors; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2744. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Rhett A. Hernandez, United States Army, and his advancement on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2745. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report concerning efforts made by the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies to employ an adequate number of Americans during 2012, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276c-4; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2746. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-36, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2747. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, certification regarding the proposed transfer of major defense equipment (Transmittal No. RSAT-13-3520); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2748. A letter from the Associate Director for PP&I, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Amendments to Counter-terrorism Sanctions Regulations Implemented by OFAC received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2749. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting four reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2750. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2751. A letter from the President Of The United States, transmitting an alternative plan for locality pay increases payable to civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule (GS) and certain other pay systems for 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5305(a)(3); (H. Doc. No. 113—57); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and ordered to be printed.

2752. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Recreational Management Measures for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Fishing Year 2013 [Docket No.: 130403319-3545-02] (RIN: 0648-BD13) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2753. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications [Docket No.: 121210694-3514-02] (RIN: 0648-XC392) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2754. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery; Framework Adjustment 48; Final Rule; Correction [Docket No.: 120814336-3495-03] (RIN: 0648-BC27) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2755. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery Off the Southern Atlantic States; Amendment 9 [Docket No.: 120919470-3513-02] (RIN: 0648-BC58) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2756. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Snapper-Grouper Fishery off the Southern Atlantic States; Regulatory Amendment 13 [Docket No.: 120815345-3525-02] (RIN: 0648-BC41) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2757. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program [Docket No.: 120806311-3530-02] (RIN: 0648-BC25) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2758. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XC739) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2759. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2013 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish [Docket No.: 100812345-2142-03] (RIN: 0648-XC728) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2760. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Adjusted Closure of the 2013 Gulf of Mexico Recreational Sector for Red Snapper [Docket No.: 130212129-3474-02] (RIN: 0648-XC715) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2761. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revisions to Framework Adjustment 50 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and Sector Annual Catch Entitlements; Updated Annual Catch Limits for Sectors and the Common Pool for Fishing Year 2013 [Docket No.: 130219149-3524-03] (RIN: 0648-BC97) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2762. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Shark Management Measures; Amendment 5a [Docket No.: 110831548-3536-02] (RIN: 0648-BB29) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2763. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting a report on applications for delayed-notice search warrants and extensions during fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2764. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's 2013 annual report on recommendations made by the Intelligent Transportation Systems Program Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2765. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Department of Energy FY 2012 Methane Hydrate Program Report to Congress'', pursuant to Section 968 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

2766. A letter from the Assistant Secretary For Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Certification of Factual Information to Import Administration During Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings [Docket No.: 0612243022-3538-03] (RIN: 0625-AA66) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2767. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2013-52] received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2768. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2013 Section 43 Inflation Adjustment [Notice 2013-50] received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2769. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting Third Quarterly Report of FY 2013 under The Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

2770. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting Second Quarterly Report of FY 2013 on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2844. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens; with an amendment (Rept. 113–189). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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 Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 3064. A bill to establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. GARRETT:

H.R. 3065. A bill to repeal the War Powers Resolution; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COTTON:

H.R. 3066. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to prohibit a government subsidy or contribution for the premiums of a health plan by a Member of Congress or Members' staff or congressional leadership or committee staff; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. LATTA, Mr. BARR, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. LANCE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. TIPTON):

H.R. 3067. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to prohibit a government subsidy for the purchase of a health plan by a Member of Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 3068. A bill relating to members of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. PETERS of Michigan):

H.R. 3069. A bill to improve public safety through increased law enforcement presence and enhanced public safety equipment and programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 3070. A bill to amend section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to reform access to certain business records for foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. GINGREY of Georgia:

H.R. 3071. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide that no Government contribution may be made toward the cost of Exchange coverage for any Member of Congress or congressional staff; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 3072. A bill to provide for the establishment of the Local Food for Healthy Families Program; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.J. Res. 58. A joint resolution prohibiting the use of funds available to any United States Government department or agency for the use of force in, or directed at, Syria by the United States Armed Forces; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MARINO, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. FORTENBERRY):

H. Con. Res. 51. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need for investigation and prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, whether committed by officials of the Government of Syria, or members of other groups involved in civil war in Syria, and calling on the President to direct the United States representative to the United Nations to use the voice and vote of the United States to immediately promote the establishment of a Syrian war crimes tribunal,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H. Res. 335. A resolution to refer H.R. 3068, a bill making congressional reference to the United States Court of Federal Claims pursuant to sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code, the Indian trust-related claims of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan as well as its individual members; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H. Res. 336. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week beginning September 8, 2013, as ''National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 337. A resolution recognizing the contributions of musician Chuck Brown, the Godfather of Go-Go, to music and to the District of Columbia and expressing support for the designation of a Chuck Brown Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 3064.

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. GARRETT:

H.R. 3065.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 (The Congress shall have power . . . to declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water).

By Mr. COTTON:

H.R. 3066.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9—No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law;

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 3067.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

No Obamacare Subsidies for Members of Congress Act

Article I Section 1: All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.

Article I Section 6 Clause 1: The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury 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. BENISHEK:

H.R. 3068.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 which allows Congress to regulate trade amongst the Indian Tribes. This bill is enacted pursuant to treaties lawfully entered into and ratified pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article II, Section 2, Clause 2. This bill is enacted pursuant to Article III Section 2 which grants Congress power to regulate jurisdiction in courts inferior to the United States Supreme Court.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 3069.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clauses 1 and 18.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 3070.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia:

H.R. 3071.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

United States Constitution Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 3072.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 gives Congress the power to creates laws that provide for the general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.J. Res. 58.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1, 11, and 12

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 23: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 24: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 38: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 73: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 75: Mr. FINCHER.

H.R. 148: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 176: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 199: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 262: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 301: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. RADEL, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 303: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 320: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 383: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 449: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 495: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 508: Mr. CARNEY and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 521: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 525: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 565: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 647: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. FARR, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 685: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. YOHO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. JENKINS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MARINO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. PETRI, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. PERRY, Mr. HOLT, Ms. HAHN, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 688: Ms. LEE of California and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 690: Mr. WELCH, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 705: Mr. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 721: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 725: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 744: Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 755: Mr. RADEL, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. CASSIDY.

H.R. 792: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 801: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 833: Mr. RADEL.

H.R. 920: Mr. BRIDENSTINE and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 946: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 961: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 980: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 984: Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 997: Mr. LAMALFA and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 1008: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1024: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1077: Mr. COBLE, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 1078: Mr. BARR and Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 1095: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1130: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 1155: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. STOCKMAN.

H.R. 1173: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1199: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1238: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1239: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1249: Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 1250: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 1251: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 1252: Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 1254: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 1281: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 1286: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 1384: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1461: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. PITTS.

H.R. 1563: Mr. VARGAS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1572: Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 1591: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 1598: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1623: Ms. WATERS and Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 1726: Mr. DENT, Mr. PETRI, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 1734: Mr. WELCH and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 1735: Mr. FLORES, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FLEMING, and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 1771: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 1775: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 1779: Mr. GOSAR, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. JONES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SALMON, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MARINO, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 1798: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1830: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 1842: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1843: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 1869: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 1890: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1893: Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1921: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. CHU, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1941: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 1945: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 1976: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 2023: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 2030: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 2039: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 2043: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 2045: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 2046: Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 2086: Mr. HORSFORD and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2129: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2146: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 2202: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 2224: Mr. HOLT, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 2274: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 2328: Mr. PETRI, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. YOHO, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2330: Mr. MARINO and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 2347: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.
H.R. 2349: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. ENYART, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 2415: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 2468: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2478: Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 2485: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 2495: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 2502: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ISRAEL, and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2504: Mr. HIMES, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 2512: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 2520: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2522: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2527: Ms. WATERS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 2548: Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. LONG, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 2549: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2557: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 2575: Mrs. NOEM, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. MCKEON, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 2590: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 2591: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. ESTY.
H.R. 2606: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 2682: Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. TERRY, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. COOK, Mr. SANFORD, and Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 2689: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 2697: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2707: Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 2717: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. RADEL.
H.R. 2720: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 2728: Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 2760: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 2772: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. FARR, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 2775: Mr. RENACCI, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 2805: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 2837: Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 2847: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HOLT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CHU, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 2871: Mr. HARPER and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 2894: Mr. JOYCE, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 2901: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 2916: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 2936: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2967: Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 2969: Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H.R. 2997: Mr. RADEL and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 3023: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 3043: Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 3050: Ms. MENG and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.J. Res. 19: Mr. ROONEY, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. YOUNG of Florida.
H.J. Res. 21: Mr. CLAY and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.J. Res. 55: Mr. CARTER, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. NUNNELEE, and Mr. BARR.
H. Con. Res. 34: * * *
H. Con. Res. 48: Mr. PRICE of Georgia and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H. Res. 30: Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. RENACCI.
H. Res. 35: Mr. PITTENGER.
H. Res. 36: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. REED, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. TERRY, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. PAULSEN.
H. Res. 75: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H. Res. 101: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H. Res. 109: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H. Res. 123: Ms. LOFGREN.
H. Res. 131: Mr. PITTENGER.
H. Res. 147: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H. Res. 187: Mr. CICILLINE.
H. Res. 188: Ms. MENG.
H. Res. 227: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H. Res. 238: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H. Res. 254: Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SCHOCK, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H. Res. 293: Mr. JONES, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. WELCH.
H. Res. 302: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H. Res. 313: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. CAMP

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Ways and Means in H.R. 2775, to condition the provision of premium and cost-sharing subsidies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act upon a certification that a program to verify household income and other qualifications for such subsidies is operational, and for other purposes, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.

OFFERED BY MR. UPTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 2775 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.