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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 1, 2014.

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.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY, GOVERNOR BRENDAN T. BYRNE

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

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of the Honorable Brendan T. Byrne, the 47th Governor of New Jersey, who today celebrates his 90th birthday. He has lived longer than any governor in the history of our State.

Governor Byrne was born on April 1, 1924, in West Orange, Essex County, and currently lives in the Short Hills section of Millburn Township, Essex County, in the congressional district I have the honor of serving.

He graduated from West Orange High School in 1942 and served during World War II in the Army Air Corps, where he advanced to the rank of lieutenant and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and four Air Medals.

One of his fingers was frostbitten as the result of the conditions during his heroic air service over Germany late in the war.

Governor Byrne was graduated from Princeton University in 1949, majoring in public and international affairs, our first Governor to receive an undergraduate degree from Princeton since Woodrow Wilson in 1879, 70 years earlier. Governor Byrne received his law degree from Harvard University in 1951.

In the 1950s, as a young man, he served as a close aide to Governor Robert B. Meyner, who appointed him Essex County prosecutor in 1959. Governor Richard J. Hughes reappointed him prosecutor in 1964 and named him president of the State Board of Public Utilities in 1968.

Respected by both political parties, he was appointed by Republican Governor William T. Cahill to our superior court in 1970.

He was overwhelmingly elected Governor in 1973 and reelected in an uphill political campaign in 1977. During his tenure, the Pinelands Protection Act became law, and casino hotel development began in Atlantic City. Impeccably honest, he served as our Governor with great distinction. His dry wit is a joy to hear and deeply appreciated by countless New Jerseyans.

I was honored to have Governor Byrne as a professor when I was a student at the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University in the early 1980s and recall fondly his superb teaching skills and generosity of spirit and time as the class met weekly at Morven, the historic Governor's residence in Princeton, built by Richard Stockton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Governor Byrne is a wonderful father and grandfather, teacher and mentor, colleague and friend. His dynamic and vivacious wife, Ruthi Zinn Byrne, is known to many New Jerseyans for her significant charitable activities. They are an integral part of the fabric of New Jersey.

On his 90th birthday, I congratulate Governor Brandon T. Byrne and wish him many years ahead of good health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO GARLAND TUCKER

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

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, last year, we mourned the loss of a true servant of our community, Garland Scott Tucker, Jr. Garland dedicated his life to sharing his love of Christ. In family life, in business, and in his community, Garland was grounded and guided by his faith.

Garland was born in Raleigh in 1919. After graduating from UNC Chapel Hill, he joined the family business, Tucker Furniture, in 1941 and moved to Wilson the next year to manage the eastern North Carolina stores.

He eventually became president of the company, a position he would hold until his retirement in 1985. In 1954, he joined the board of directors at BB&T and served as chairman from 1979 to 1987. During that time, BB&T would grow from a community bank into a major player throughout the Southeast.

Beyond a very successful business career, Garland was a true family man. He married Jean Barnes Wilson in 1946, and over the course of their 67-year marriage, they had four children, Garland III, Edwin, Sarah, and Macon, who in turn blessed Garland with 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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Garland's life was marked by his commitment to sharing his faith with others and serving those in need. The primary focus of his civic engagement was his support for Gideons International and the Salvation Army. Through both organizations, he was able to improve his local community and the world at large.

Garland served Gideons International in a number of different capacities, spanning local, national, and international involvement with their mission. In his time, he served as one of three members for their finance committee and also one of 20 members of the international cabinet, which serves as the governing body for the entire organization.

At the peak of his responsibilities, Garland was responsible for the distribution of Bibles across 41 countries, including countries in Europe, South America, the Caribbean, and the Near East.

At the local level, Garland was an engaged and active member of the Salvation Army, both in Wilson and Raleigh. While a Wilson resident, he served as chairman of the Salvation Army's board of directors for several years and similarly joined the Salvation Army's board in Raleigh when he moved back to Raleigh in 1996.

His time spent volunteering for the Salvation Army was so meaningful that, in 2012, he was honored with one of their highest honors, the William Booth Award. Named for the Salvation Army's founder, the award is given to those who have made an international impact to the betterment of humanity.

Garland's faith guided him each and every day to follow Christ's example and help those around the world who are in need. In word and deed, Garland dedicated his 94 years to making a mark here, nationally, and internationally, enriching the lives of everyone he met and all those across the world who were impacted by his work.

AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, last week in a hearing of the Armed Services Committee, we listened to the concerns of Army Secretary John McHugh and Chief of Staff of the Army, General Ray Odierno.

They appeared before the committee to tell us about the serious problems facing the United States Army, specifically, the difficult budget situation the Army is currently facing.

It was my intention to ask the following question regarding the funding that is being cut from the Army: Why are we continuing to spend billions of dollars in Afghanistan when the money could be going to support our servicemembers?

As I did last week, I would like to read a short paragraph from the World Affairs Journal entitled, ''Money Pit: The Monstrous Failure of U.S. Aid to Afghanistan.'' The article states that, in 2012, the United States budgeted $11.2 billion for Afghan military training, with another $5.8 billion for 2013.

The article goes on to say:

> In Afghanistan, a big problem is illiteracy. Almost 3 years ago, when Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell IV, took command of the NATO training mission, he noted that ''overall literacy'' among Afghan military and police stood ''at about 14 percent.'' How can an illiterate policeman read a license plate, the General asked, how can a soldier fill out a form, read an equipment manual?
>
> Now, even though these concerns have been on the table for years, the special inspector general for Afghan reconstruction said in last summer's report: The literacy rate of Afghan security forces as a whole is 11 percent.

Again, I want to repeat that, in 2012, the United States budgeted $11.2 billion for Afghan military training, with another $5.8 billion for 2013.

Madam Speaker, for the United States to continue funding these Afghan security forces would be a mistake. It would put our servicemembers' lives in danger, and it would waste the American people's hard-earned tax dollars.

Why are we, in Congress, not putting a stop to this abuse, especially considering this money flows freely overseas with little to no accountability?

Last Friday, I had the privilege of speaking to around 100 people at an event in my district, and truly, almost everyone agreed with me that spending money we do not have in Afghanistan is a waste.

Every nation that has tried to govern Afghanistan has failed, and this is no exception. It is my hope, along with my colleague, JIM MCGOVERN, who has continuously worked with me on this issue, that the House leadership will allow debate on this failed policy in Afghanistan this spring or summer.

We need to take the money that we are spending overseas, and we need it to benefit our own security forces and the problems facing the American people here at home.

When I look at the bridges and the potholes and education and other needs in America and we are cutting those programs, why do we continue to borrow billions of dollars from foreign governments to prop up the Afghan leadership? It is nothing but a failed policy.

In closing, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform, and I continue to ask God to continue to bless America.

OBAMACARE DEADLINE: APRIL FOOLS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today marks the legal deadline of registration for the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as ObamaCare.

On March 12, 2014, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius testified before a House Ways and Means Committee. When asked, are you going to delay enrollment beyond March 31, she definitively answered, no, sir.

Well, Madam Speaker, April Fools.

Millions of Americans are finding ObamaCare today to be a very expensive and harmful April Fools' prank. One of those individuals is Sondra, a constituent from Clinton County, located in the Fifth District of Pennsylvania.

Sondra emailed the following on Friday:

> I was just on the marketplace, and I can't believe the prices. I also am wrong about ObamaCare including eye and dental. I see that it does not. I thought this was supposed to be better than what I would find privately. Not to my surprise.
>
> Even with the tax credits, it is going to cost us just as much. It seems they doubled the price on there to eat up the tax credits. This whole thing has us so upset.
>
> We only make between $30,000–$40,000 a year, and our health insurance is going to go from $320 a month for both of us to doubling, at the least. We will pay more and get less coverage and pay way more out of pocket.
>
> How does our President think this is helping us, the working poor? This is a class we never hear anyone talk about. We hear about the poor, middle class, and the wealthy, but not the working poor. We are the ones who make too much to get a handout, not that we want one, but not enough to really make ends meet due to our poor economy and rapidly rising inflation.
>
> Honestly, it would pay me to quit my job because we would get all the help we need because our income would be so low, and with my chronic health issues of diabetes, thyroid disease, and arthritis, I would get Pennsylvania medical assistance.
>
> How sad is it that our President has put the working poor in that option? I could honestly just cry not knowing how we will be able to pay for this health care penalty. We had what we needed and could afford.
>
> Now, we can't afford it even with the government help, and we have less coverage for higher premiums. How does this make any sense? Ugh. Sorry for the rant.

□ 1215

Madam Speaker, Americans deserve solutions to assure access to affordable, quality health care that they determine that they need. As for ObamaCare, there are far too many winners and mostly losers like Sondra and her family, so it is fitting and accurate on this April 1 day to say: ObamaCare? April fools.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2014.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 1, 2014 at 8:58 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2183.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4302.

Appointments:

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2014.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 1, 2014 at 9:52 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 407.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We use this moment to be reminded of Your presence, and to tap the resources needed by the men and women of this assembly to do their work as well as it can be done. May they be led by Your spirit in the decisions they make. May they possess Your power as they steady themselves amid the pressures of persistent problems.

The issues facing our Nation this week are monumental to us, but a part of the long history of political and policy debate that have created a great narrative of participative democracy. Send Your spirit of wisdom upon the people's House, that the Members might work as one to move our Nation forward to a brighter future.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 2 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. BYRNE) at 4 p.m.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2014.

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

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I hereby resign my position as a member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Sincerely,

MARK TAKANO,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

REPORT REGARDING ICELAND'S COMMERCIAL WHALING ACTIVITIES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113–101)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Natural Resources and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

On January 31, 2014, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell certified under section 8 of the Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967 (the ''Pelly Amendment'') (22 U.S.C. 1978), that nationals of Iceland are conducting trade in whale meat and products that diminishes the effectiveness of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This message constitutes my notification to the Congress consistent with subsection (b) of the Pelly Amendment.

This is the third certification by United States Government agencies of Iceland for their continued whaling activities. In 2004, Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans made a certification regarding Iceland under the Pelly Amendment because its scientific whaling program diminished the effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). When Iceland resumed commercial whaling in 2006, Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez continued Iceland's certification. In 2011, Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke increased actions to be taken by members of the Cabinet, Federal departments and agencies, and U.S. delegations by again certifying Iceland for diminishing the effectiveness of the IWC.

A single Icelandic company, Hvalur hf, conducts fin whaling. Iceland does not consume most of these fin whales; rather, they are exported, mainly to Japan. Iceland's commercial harvest of fin whales escalated dramatically in 2009 and 2010, was suspended in 2011 and 2012 due to difficulties in the Japanese market after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and resumed in 2013. Between 1987 and 2008, Iceland hunted a total of 7 fin whales. In 2009, Iceland hunted 125 fin whales, followed by 148 in 2010, zero in the years 2011–2012, and 134 fin whales in 2013. On December 16, 2013, Iceland set its 2014–2019 fin whale quota at 154 fin whales per year, an increase in its previous yearly whaling quota. According to the IWC, a harvest of 46 fin whales in the North Atlantic is biologically sustainable.

Iceland's actions jeopardize the survival of the fin whale, which is listed in CITES among the species most threatened with extinction, and they undermine multilateral efforts to ensure

greater worldwide protection for whales. Specifically, Iceland's continued commercial whaling and recent trade in whale products diminish the effectiveness of CITES because: (1) Iceland's commercial harvest of fin whales undermines the goal of CITES to ensure that international trade in species of animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild; and (2) Iceland's current fin whale harvest and quota exceeds catch levels that the IWC's scientific body advised were sustainable.

In her letter of January 31, 2014, Secretary Jewell expressed her concern for Iceland's actions, and I share these concerns. Just as the United States made the transition from a commercial whaling nation to a whale watching nation, we must enhance our engagement to facilitate this change by Iceland.

To ensure that this issue continues to receive the highest level of attention, I have directed: (1) relevant U.S. agencies to raise concerns with Iceland's trade in whale parts and products in appropriate CITES fora and processes, and, in consultation with other international actors, to seek additional measures to reduce such trade and enhance the effectiveness of CITES; (2) relevant senior Administration officials and U.S. delegations meeting with Icelandic officials to raise U.S. objections to commercial whaling and Iceland's ongoing trade in fin whale parts and products and to urge a halt to such action, including immediate notification of this position to the Government of Iceland; (3) the Department of State and other relevant agencies to encourage Iceland to develop and expand measures that increase economic opportunities for the nonlethal uses of whales in Iceland, such as responsible whale watching activities and educational and scientific research activities that contribute to the conservation of whales; (4) the Department of State to re-examine bilateral cooperation projects, and where appropriate, to base U.S. cooperation with Iceland on the Icelandic government changing its whaling policy, abiding by the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling, and not engaging in trade in whale parts and products in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of CITES; (5) the Department of State to inform the Government of Iceland that the United States will continue to monitor the activities of Icelandic companies that engage in commercial whaling and international trade in whale parts and products; (6) Cabinet secretaries and other senior Administration officials to evaluate the appropriateness of visits to Iceland in light of Iceland's resumption of fin whaling and ongoing trade in fin whale parts and products; (7) relevant departments and agencies to examine other options for responding to continued whaling by Iceland; and (8) all relevant departments and agencies to report on their actions, within 6 months of certification, and any updates as needed beyond, through the Departments of State and the Interior. In addition, previous Pelly certifications of Iceland, and the direction to take actions pursuant to those certifications, remain in effect. I concur with the recommendation, as presented by the Secretary of the Interior, to pursue the use of nontrade measures and that the actions outlined above are the appropriate course of action to address this issue. Accordingly, I am not directing the Secretary of the Treasury to impose trade measures on Icelandic products for the whaling activities that led to the certification by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Departments of State, Commerce, and the Interior will continue to monitor and encourage Iceland to revise its policies regarding commercial whaling. Further, within 6 months, I have directed relevant departments and agencies to report to me through the Departments of State, Commerce, and the Interior on their actions. I believe that continuing focus on Icelandic whaling activities is needed to encourage Iceland to halt commercial whaling and support international conservation efforts.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 1, 2014*.

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.

PROVISION OF COSTS OF LOAN GUARANTEES FOR UKRAINE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4152) to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ALIEN.—The term ''alien'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

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

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Appropriations, and the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(3) MATERIALLY ASSISTED.—The term ''materially assisted'' means the provision of assistance that is significant and of a kind directly relevant to acts described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of section 8(a) or acts described in section 9(a)(1).

(4) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SEC. 3. UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD UKRAINE.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to condemn the unjustified military intervention of the Russian Federation in the Crimea region of Ukraine and its concurrent occupation of that region, as well as any other form of political, economic, or military aggression against Ukraine;

(2) to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to, and to remind Russia of its ongoing commitment to, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, which was executed jointly with the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom and explicitly secures the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and borders of Ukraine, and to demand the immediate cessation of improper activities, including the seizures of airfields and other locations, and the immediate return of Russian forces to their barracks;

(3) to work with United States partners in the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and at the United Nations to ensure that all nations recognize and not undermine, nor seek to undermine, the independence, sovereignty, or territorial or economic integrity of Ukraine;

(4) to use all appropriate economic elements of United States national power, in coordination with United States allies, to protect the independence, sovereignty, and territorial and economic integrity of Ukraine;

(5) to support the people of Ukraine in their desire to forge closer ties with Europe, including signing an Association Agreement with the European Union as a means to address endemic corruption, consolidate democracy, and achieve sustained prosperity;

(6) to use the voice and vote of the United States to secure sufficient resources through the International Monetary Fund to support needed economic structural reforms in Ukraine under conditions that will reinforce a sovereign decision by the Government of Ukraine to sign and implement an association agreement with the European Union;

(7) to help the Government of Ukraine prepare for the presidential election in May 2014;

(8) to reinforce the efforts of the Government of Ukraine to bring to justice those responsible for the acts of violence against peaceful protestors and other unprovoked acts of violence related to the antigovernment protests in that began on November 21, 2013;

(9) to support the efforts of the Government of Ukraine to recover and return to the Ukrainian state funds stolen by former President Yanukovych, his family, and other current and former members of the Ukrainian government and elites;

(10) to support the continued professionalization of the Ukrainian military;

(11) to condemn economic extortion by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, Moldova, Lithuania, and other countries in the region designed to obstruct closer ties between the European Union and the countries of the Eastern Partnership and to reduce the harmful consequences of such extortion;

(12) to condemn the continuing and longstanding pattern and practice by the Government of the Russian Federation of physical and economic aggression toward neighboring countries;

(13) to enhance and extend our security cooperation with, security assistance to, and military exercises conducted with, states in Central and Eastern Europe, including North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member countries, NATO aspirants, and appropriate Eastern Partnership countries;

(14) to reaffirm United States defense commitments to its treaty allies under Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty;

(15) that the continued participation of the Russian Federation in the Group of Eight (G–8) nations should be conditioned on the Government of the Russian Federation respecting the territorial integrity of its neighbors and accepting and adhering to the norms and standards of free, democratic societies as generally practiced by every other member nation of the G–8 nations;

(16) to explore ways for the United States Government to assist the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to diversify their energy sources and achieve energy security; and

(17) to ensure the United States maintains its predominant leadership position and influence within the International Monetary Fund, and to guarantee the International Monetary Fund has the resources and governance structure necessary to support structural reforms in Ukraine and respond to and prevent a potentially serious financial crisis in Ukraine or other foreign economic crises that threatens United States national security.

SEC. 4. PROVISION OF COSTS OF LOAN GUARANTEES FOR UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—From the unobligated balance of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available under the heading ''ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND'' under the heading ''FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT'' in title III of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2014 (division K of Public Law 113–76) and in Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for preceding fiscal years (other than amounts designated pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A))), amounts shall be made available for the costs (as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a)) of loan guarantees for Ukraine that are hereby authorized to be provided under this Act.

(b) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.—Amounts made available for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine pursuant to subsection (a) shall not be considered ''assistance'' for the purpose of provisions of law limiting assistance to Ukraine.

SEC. 5. RECOVERY OF ASSETS LINKED TO GOVERNMENTAL CORRUPTION IN UKRAINE.

(a) ASSET RECOVERY.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall assist, on an expedited basis as appropriate, the Government of Ukraine to identify, secure, and recover assets linked to acts of corruption by Viktor Yanukovych, members of his family, or other former or current officials of the Government of Ukraine or their accomplices in any jurisdiction through appropriate programs, including the Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative of the Department of Justice.

(b) COORDINATION.—Any asset recovery efforts undertaken pursuant to subsection (a) shall be coordinated through the relevant bilateral or multilateral entities, including, as appropriate, the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the World Bank Group and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network, and the Global Focal Point Initiative of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

(c) INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall assist the Government of Ukraine, the European Union, and other appropriate countries, on an expedited basis, with formal and informal investigative assistance and training, as appropriate, to support the identification, seizure, and return to the Government of Ukraine of assets linked to acts of corruption.

(d) PRIORITY ASSIGNED.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall ensure that the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury assists the Government of Ukraine, the European Union, and other appropriate countries under section 314(a) of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (31 U.S.C. 5311 note).

SEC. 6. DEMOCRACY, CIVIL SOCIETY, GOVERNANCE, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINE AND OTHER STATES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, directly or through nongovernmental organizations—

(1) improve democratic governance, transparency, accountability, rule of law, and anticorruption efforts in Ukraine;

(2) support efforts by the Government of Ukraine to foster greater unity among the people and regions of the country;

(3) support the people and Government of Ukraine in preparing to conduct and contest free and fair elections, including through domestic and international election monitoring;

(4) assist in diversifying Ukraine's economy, trade, and energy supplies, including at the national, regional, and local levels;

(5) strengthen democratic institutions and political and civil society organizations in Ukraine;

(6) expand free and unfettered access to independent media of all kinds in Ukraine and assist with the protection of journalists and civil society activists who have been targeted for free speech activities;

(7) support political and economic reform initiatives by Eastern Partnership countries; and

(8) support the efforts of the Government of Ukraine, civil society, and international organizations to enhance the economic and political empowerment of women in Ukraine and to prevent and address violence against women and girls in Ukraine, and support the inclusion of women in Ukraine in any negotiations to restore Ukraine's security, independence, sovereignty, or territorial or economic integrity.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a). Amounts appropriated for the activities set forth in subsection (a) shall be used pursuant to the authorization and requirements contained in this section. Additional amounts may be authorized to be appropriated under other provisions of law.

(c) STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a).

(d) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to subsection (b) may not be obligated until 15 days after the date on which the President has provided notice of intent to obligate such funds to the appropriate congressional committees.

(2) WAIVER.—The President may waive the notification requirement under paragraph (1) if the President determines that failure to do so would pose a substantial risk to human health or welfare, in which case notification shall be provided as early as practicable, but in no event later than three days after taking the action to which such notification requirement was applicable in the context of the circumstances necessitating such waiver.

SEC. 7. ENHANCED SECURITY COOPERATION WITH UKRAINE AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, subject to the availability of appropriations—

(1) enhance security cooperation efforts and relationships amongst countries in Central and Eastern Europe and among the United States, the European Union, and countries in Central and Eastern Europe;

(2) provide additional security assistance, including defense articles and defense services (as those terms are defined in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794)) and military training, to countries in Central and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine; and

(3) support greater reform, professionalism, and capacity-building efforts within the military, intelligence, and security services in Central and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the President a total of $100,000,000 for fiscal years 2015 through 2017 to carry out this section. Amounts appropriated for the activities set forth in subsection (a) shall be used pursuant to the authorization and requirements contained in this section. Additional amounts may be authorized to be appropriated under other provisions of law.

(c) STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a).

(d) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to subsection (b) may not be obligated until 15 days after the date on which the President has provided notice of intent to obligate such funds to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(2) WAIVER.—The President may waive the notification requirement under paragraph (1) if the President determines that failure to do so would pose a substantial risk to human health or welfare, in which case notification shall be provided as early as practicable, but in no event later than three days after taking the action to which such notification requirement was applicable in the context of the circumstances necessitating such waiver.

SEC. 8. SANCTIONS ON PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE OR UNDERMINING THE PEACE, SECURITY, STABILITY, SOVEREIGNTY, OR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to—

(1) any person, including a current or former official of the Government of Ukraine or a person acting on behalf of that Government, that the President determines has perpetrated, or is responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, significant acts of violence or gross human rights abuses in Ukraine against persons associated with the antigovernment protests in Ukraine that began on November 21, 2013;

(2) any person that the President determines has perpetrated, or is responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, significant acts that are intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine, including acts of economic extortion;

(3) any official of the Government of the Russian Federation, or a close associate or family

member of such an official, that the President determines is responsible for, complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, acts of significant corruption in Ukraine, including the expropriation of private or public assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, bribery, or the facilitation or transfer of the proceeds of corruption to foreign jurisdictions; and

(4) any individual that the President determines materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the commission of acts described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—In the case of an alien determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a), denial of a visa to, and exclusion from the United States of, the alien, and revocation in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), of any visa or other documentation of the alien.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (1)(A) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out paragraph (1)(A) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under paragraph (1)(A) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ''good'' has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

(4) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a person if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(2) on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a notice of and a justification for the waiver.

(d) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 9. SANCTIONS ON PERSONS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION COMPLICIT IN OR RESPONSIBLE FOR SIGNIFICANT CORRUPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized and encouraged to impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to—

(1) any official of the Government of the Russian Federation, or a close associate or family member of such an official, that the President determines is responsible for, or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, acts of significant corruption in the Russian Federation, including the expropriation of private or public assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, bribery, or the facilitation or transfer of the proceeds of corruption to foreign jurisdictions; and

(2) any individual who has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, an act described in paragraph (1).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—In the case of an alien determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a), denial of a visa to, and exclusion from the United States of, the alien, and revocation in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), of any visa or other documentation of the alien.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (1)(A) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out paragraph (1)(A) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under paragraph (1)(A) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ''good'' has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

(4) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a person if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(2) on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a notice of and a justification for the waiver.

(d) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 10. ANNUAL REPORT ON MILITARY AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than June 1, 2015, and June 1 of each year thereafter through 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the specified congressional committees a report, in both classified and unclassified form, on the current and future military power of the Russian Federation (in this section referred to as ''Russia''). The report shall address the current and probable future course of military-technological development of the Russian military, the tenets and probable development of the security strategy and military strategy of the Government of Russia, and military organizations and operational concepts, for the 20-year period following submission of such report.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the security situation in regions neighboring Russia.

(2) The goals and factors shaping the security strategy and military strategy of the Government of Russia.

(3) Trends in Russian security and military behavior that would be designed to achieve, or that are consistent with, the goals described in paragraph (2).

(4) An assessment of the global and regional security objectives of the Government of Russia, including objectives that would affect the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Middle East, or the People's Republic of China.

(5) A detailed assessment of the sizes, locations, and capabilities of the nuclear, special operations, land, sea, and air forces of the Government of Russia.

(6) Developments in Russian military doctrine and training.

(7) An assessment of the proliferation activities of the Government of Russia and Russian entities, as a supplier of materials, technologies, or expertise relating to nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction or missile systems.

(8) Developments in the asymmetric capabilities of the Government of Russia, including its strategy and efforts to develop and deploy cyberwarfare and electronic warfare capabilities, details on the number of malicious cyber incidents originating from Russia against Department of Defense infrastructure, and associated activities originating or suspected of originating from Russia.

(9) The strategy and capabilities of space and counterspace programs in Russia, including trends, global and regional activities, the involvement of military and civilian organizations, including state-owned enterprises, academic institutions, and commercial entities, and efforts to develop, acquire, or gain access to advanced technologies that would enhance Russian military capabilities.

(10) Developments in Russia's nuclear program, including the size and state of Russia's stockpile, its nuclear strategy and associated doctrines, its civil and military production capacities, and projections of its future arsenals.

(11) A description of the anti-access and area denial capabilities of the Government of Russia.

(12) A description of Russia's command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance modernization

program and its applications for Russia's precision guided weapons.

(13) In consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of State, developments regarding United States-Russian engagement and cooperation on security matters.

(14) Other military and security developments involving Russia that the Secretary of Defense considers relevant to United States national security.

(c) SPECIFIED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''specified congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of this important legislation to support the Ukrainian people and to stand up to Russian aggression.

Just a few days ago, the House of Representatives acted decisively in passing similar legislation authored by me and by Mr. ELIOT ENGEL of New York, our ranking member. We authored that bill, and I might add that Mr. ENGEL, himself, and his forefathers came from Ukraine, and suffered under that region's long and tortured history. The bill passed by 399–19 on the House floor. I prefer the more comprehensive bill backed by the House, but with today's vote, we will send this bill to the Senate, demonstrating bipartisan support for Ukraine at this critical time.

Importantly, this bill expands the sanctions available to be imposed on Russia's leaders for their actions. The President should be using all of this authority, in conjunction with our European allies, putting as much pressure in place as quickly as we can. Our targets must include those who exercise influence over Russian policy, including the so-called ''oligarchs'' and others who have amassed enormous wealth through government corruption.

Ukraine faces many challenges that will not be resolved quickly or easily. This legislation responds quickly to help Ukrainians help themselves, helping to strengthen civil society and combat corruption. The task of righting Ukraine is made all the more difficult given the threat of Russian troops on its borders, and while the Russian Army threatens Ukraine's east, it is Russia's considerable energy resources that allow Moscow to hold all of Ukraine hostage. For many years, Moscow has used its supply of oil and gas to blackmail Ukraine and to blackmail other countries, including some of our NATO allies in Eastern Europe. This morning, Gazprom announced that it would hike the price for natural gas to Ukraine by 44 percent, an announcement deliberately timed to worsen that country's economic situation.

We can remove this weapon from Russia's arsenal by lifting the self-imposed barriers on U.S. energy exports. The greatly enhanced supply of oil and natural gas added to the world market, if we were to ship into Ukraine, into Hungary, and into the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland—all of these countries have written to the Speaker of the House, requesting us to do that—would undermine Russia's stranglehold on other countries and would reduce the revenues that comprise 52 percent of Moscow's budget for its military and its government. That would get Putin's attention, imposing a cost for aggression.

I will add that Mr. ENGEL and myself will be traveling with a bipartisan delegation to Ukraine in a few weeks. Let me urge all Members to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 4152.

Let me first open by commending our chair once again, Congressman ROYCE, for making such a statesmanlike statement. I agree with everything he said in that our bipartisan work in support of Ukraine and our bipartisan work on the entire Foreign Affairs Committee has been a treasure for both sides of the aisle and, certainly, for me as ranking member and for Mr. ROYCE as chair. I thank him again for working with us in such a bipartisan fashion.

Last Thursday, the House passed H.R. 4278, the Ukraine Support Act, by the overwhelming margin of 399–19. Think about what that means. We have said that Congress can't agree on anything, and it has been said that Congress can't agree on anything, that we can't work together and that nothing gets done. This proves it wrong, as 399–19 is pretty bipartisan and is a very strong showing to the world and to our country as well that we get together when things are important. What is happening in Ukraine is very, very important.

At that time, I made an extended statement about how important it is for the United States to stand with the people of Ukraine and to make it clear to Putin and his cronies that there will be serious consequences for Russia's aggression. With Russian forces massing on Ukraine's borders, tension and fear are spreading throughout the region, and our legislation sends a clear signal that Congress will not stand for further violations.

Today, we consider the Senate version of our Ukraine legislation. This bill originated in the House as a measure to provide loan guarantees to Ukraine, and it passed this body on March 6 by a vote of 385–23, again another overwhelming bipartisan majority. The Senate then took up this legislation, stripped out our text, inserted the Ukraine bill, authored by Foreign Relations Committee Chairman MENENDEZ and Ranking Member CORKER, and sent it back to the House.

Like the House bill, this legislation authorizes assistance to Ukraine as it attempts to right its struggling economy, increase energy security, strengthen civil society, and prepare for democratic elections this spring. It supports enhanced security cooperation with Ukraine and with other countries in the region, and it provides assistance to help Ukraine recover stolen assets. It also imposes sanctions on those responsible for violating Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, for looting Ukraine's economy, and for violating human rights in Ukraine.

While the two bills are very similar, I wish that a number of provisions in the House legislation had been included in the Senate bill. For example, our bill would provide immediate assistance to Ukraine as it attempts to right its struggling economy, increase energy security, strengthen civil society and the rule of law, and prepare for democratic elections this spring, while the Senate bill does not authorize assistance until the next fiscal year, which doesn't begin until October 1. The House bill includes an important provision supporting efforts to professionalize Ukraine's law enforcement, and the House bill includes language that would require the extra scrutiny of Russian banks that may be involved in nefarious activities in Ukraine or in other parts of the world.

But in the interest of time, I support the House passage of this measure so we can get it to the President for his signature as soon as possible. The most important thing here is that both the House and Senate are united in sending a strong, bipartisan signal of support to the people of Ukraine and in providing needed assistance at a critical moment. So I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and the author of the original House-passed version of this bill, H.R. 4152.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to again rise in support of this bill, H.R. 4152, a bill that I did introduce and that the House originally passed almost a month ago to provide loan guarantees for Ukraine.

The bill has now come back to us from the Senate, as has been said, with additional authorizations for security and democracy assistance. It also sends, I think, a very clear message that the United States will not tolerate the Russian incursion into Ukraine, human rights abuses, or corruption by imposing sanctions, visa bans, and asset freezes.

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As we all know, Ukraine is facing an extraordinarily difficult economic situation. The International Monetary Fund has now said they will step in with a financing package, but the United States and our partners must also help during this time of need.

By giving the administration the ability to provide loan guarantees from funds already appropriated, this bill will provide some stability for Ukraine throughout this tumultuous time.

This is a critical bill at an important moment. The Congress must stand with the government of Ukraine. We must get this bill passed and to the President's desk as soon as possible. We have already waited too long while other issues, such as the IMF, got unnecessarily entangled with aid and sanctions proposals.

Mr. Speaker, we must pass this bill today and I hope overwhelmingly. I urge a ''yes'' vote.

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

In closing, let me stress once again that this bill sends a strong message of support to the people of Ukraine at a critical moment. We are the greatest country in the world. We have interests all over the world. I think that it is important that we don't shirk from those interests, but rise to the top with them.

When there are problems around the world, the United States needs to be there. It doesn't mean being the policeman of the world, but it means standing with our friends and allies against brutal aggression. When countries stand up for democracy, they look to the United States as the role model and the leader.

Today, we are leading. Today, we are acting as a role model. Today, we are helping the beleaguered people of Ukraine.

The coming weeks and months will be very difficult for Ukraine. The country faces significant challenges as it seeks to return to political and economic health, so it is very important that the people of Ukraine know that the U.S. stands with them. They should know that we will support them as they seek to build a more democratic, prosperous, and just state and society.

They will know that we support them in urging them to look westward rather than eastward. That is what Russia fears. They fear that these countries will look westward. They will look west and see the Western allies and see what we have to offer.

Then they look eastward, and they see Putin as a bully, someone who will do whatever it necessary to keep them in line, and they don't want that.

Putin may think that he is rebuilding the old Soviet Union, but we will continue to press forward with democracy and stand foursquare with the people of Ukraine in their quest for democracy.

I urge all my colleagues to vote for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

This bill does come at a critical time.

In closing, I will just say that U.S. officials are pressing President Putin to respect Ukrainian sovereignty, but this diplomacy will only have a chance if it is backed up by a combination of the threat of tough sanctions that are being implemented to their fullest and by the message of more energy independence for Ukraine.

I am very pleased to have worked closely with Ranking Member ENGEL and many other Members on this bipartisan legislation. It represents, as Mr. ENGEL indicated, what Congress can accomplish on the floor of this House in terms of policy when we unite to advance U.S. interests.

By our action here today, we will send a clear message of American resolve. That message will be heard in Kiev, it will be heard in Moscow, and it is going to be heard around the globe.

I urge all Members to support this 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 California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 4152.

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. ROYCE. 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.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING TO UKRAINE AND NEIGHBORING REGIONS

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2183) United States international programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2183

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

(a) Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) The Russian Government has deliberately blocked the Ukrainian people's access to uncensored sources of information and has provided alternative news and information that is both inaccurate and inflammatory;

(2) United States international programming exists to advance the United States interests and values by presenting accurate and comprehensive news and information, which is the foundation for democratic governance;

(3) The opinions and views of the Ukrainian people, especially those people located in the eastern regions and Crimea, are not being accurately represented in Russian dominated mass media;

(4) Russian forces have seized more than five television stations in Crimea and taken over transmissions, switching to a 24/7 Russian propaganda format; this increase in programming augments the already robust pro-Russian programming to Ukraine;

(5) United States international programming has the potential to combat this anti-democratic propaganda.

(b) PROGRAMMING.—Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Incorporated, and the Voice of America service to Ukraine and neighboring regions shall—

(1) provide news and information that is accessible, credible, and accurate;

(2) emphasize investigative and analytical journalism to highlight inconsistencies and misinformation provided by Russian or pro-Russian media outlets;

(3) prioritize programming to areas where access to uncensored sources of information is limited or non-existent, especially populations serviced by Russian supported media outlets;

(4) increase the number of reporters and organizational presence in eastern Ukraine, especially in Crimea;

(5) promote democratic processes, respect for human rights, freedom of the press, and territorial sovereignty; and

(6) take necessary preparatory steps to continue and increase programming and content that promotes democracy and government transparency in Russia.

(c) PROGRAMMING SURGE.—RFE/RL, Incorporated, and Voice of America programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions shall—

(1) prioritize programming to eastern Ukraine, including Crimea, and Moldova, and to ethnic and linguistic Russian populations, as well as to Tatar minorities;

(2) prioritize news and information that directly contributes to the target audiences' understanding of political and economic developments in Ukraine and Moldova, including countering misinformation that may originate from other news outlets, especially Russian supported news outlets;

(3) provide programming content 24 hours a day, seven days a week to target populations, using all available and effective distribution outlets, including—

(A) at least 8 weekly hours of total original television and video content in Ukrainian, Russian, and Tatar languages, not inclusive of live video streaming coverage of breaking news, to be distributed on satellite, digital, and through regional television affiliates by the Voice of America; and

(B) at least 14 weekly hours the total audio content in Ukrainian, Russian, and Tatar languages to be distributed on satellite, digital, and through regional radio affiliates of RFE/RL, Incorporated;

(4) expand the use, audience, and audience engagement of mobile news and multimedia platforms by RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of America, including through Internet-based social networking platforms; and

(5) partner with private sector broadcasters and affiliates to seek and start co-production for new, original content, when possible, to increase distribution.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014, in addition to funds otherwise made available for such purposes, up to $10,000,000 to carry out programming in the Ukrainian, Balkan, Russian, and Tatar language services of RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of America, for the purpose of bolstering existing United States programming to the people of Ukraine and neighboring regions, and increasing programming capacity and jamming circumvention technology to overcome any disruptions to service.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall submit to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Foreign Relations and Appropriations of the Senate a detailed report on plans to increase broadcasts pursuant to subsections (a) and (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of S. 2183, legislation to bolster U.S.-backed international broadcasting to Ukraine and the surrounding region. This legislation passed the House overwhelmingly last week as part of H.R. 4278. It was authored by myself and Mr. ENGEL.

While the Senate did not act on the full House package of legislation to support Ukraine, I am pleased that the Senate did recognize and act on this important piece of legislation. With its passage, this bill goes to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is central to our effort to counter Russian aggression and to send the type of support we need for the democratic development of Ukraine.

Throughout the crisis, Russians and Ukrainians alike have been bombarded by portrayals of Ukrainian protesters and the interim government, as you can hear on the Russian propaganda broadcast, what they call fascist mercenaries.

This, of course, is a rather deplorable attempt to draw a connection between those who yearn for freedom in Ukraine to the brutal Nazi invasion of the second World War. Overwhelmingly, the country of Ukraine voted for independence.

In this false narrative, which really is sort of a big lie, stark images of chaos and violence are used to persuade viewers that ethnic and linguistic Russians are under attack in Ukraine.

Footage of a border crossing between Ukraine and Poland has been used to support the outlandish claims that Ukrainian refugees are fleeing into Russia.

In Crimea, Russian forces have seized control over at least a dozen television and radio stations that are now used to broadcast misleading and false news and information around the clock.

Russian propaganda right now is in overdrive. A survey by Russia's only independent polling service, Levada, earlier this month showed that 63 percent of Russians believe state media portrays an objective picture of Ukraine.

This bill puts us on the offensive in this information battle. It does so by requiring Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Voice of America to increase broadcasts to the people of eastern Ukraine and Crimea, prioritizing programming to populations that are being inundated with Russian propaganda and combating the misinformation they are receiving.

This bill also supports efforts to circumvent Russian jamming. The Russian government has targeted Ukrainian television and radio stations, jamming their signals and disrupting their ability to reach Ukrainian audiences while the Russian propaganda broadcasts come in relentlessly.

In addition, this bill supports U.S. international broadcasting to the Balkans and Moldova, two regions that are subject to the wider Russian propaganda campaign.

The free flow of information forms the foundation for a strong democratic society. Russian propaganda kills democratic prospects. This is the problem with the fact that the state and Russia has now taken over all independent media.

As they struggle to build democracy, this bill will help provide the people of Ukraine with news and information that is accessible, credible, and accurate. It will basically be surrogate broadcasting.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2183, a bill to provide surge news broadcasts to the people of Ukraine and the surrounding region, in order to counter Russian propaganda.

I want to, again, concur with everything that Chairman ROYCE said. I agree with every word he mentioned. I am, again, very happy to have been working closely with him on this legislation in a bipartisan fashion.

Chairman ROYCE feels as I do, particularly strongly about broadcasting. It is something that is very important. It is something that helped to win the cold war.

It is something that we are able to get into countries, so they hear the truth when they are denied the truth from their own governments, and that is what this bill does.

Over the past few weeks, the people of Ukraine, Russia, and much of Eastern Europe have been bombarded by the state-controlled and directed Russian media. Among other things, these so-called reports claim that fascists and neo-Nazis have taken control of the government in Kiev, that they have been attacking ethnic Russians in Ukraine and similarly in Crimea, and that they have engaged in widespread anti-Semitic acts.

Despite the complete lack of evidence, President Putin and other Russian officials have repeatedly referred to these alleged events to justify the invasion of Crimea and their massing of troops on Ukraine's border.

It is important to note that a number of prominent Jewish leaders in Ukraine, including Chief Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich, have recently made clear that the Russian allegations about ant-Semitic acts in Ukraine are false and that this baseless propaganda has been used as a pretext for the illegal annexation of Crimea.

I will insert in the record a letter from Ukrainian Jewish leaders debunking the fabrications emanating from Russia.

The legislation before us today, which is very similar to a provision included in the bipartisan Ukraine Support Act that passed the House last week, is a critical piece of our comprehensive approach to address the crisis in Ukraine.

S. 2183 directs Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Voice of America to significantly increase radio, TV, and Internet programming in Ukraine and other countries in the region.

It also requires RFE/RL and Voice of America to expand their network of reporters in eastern Ukraine and Crimea and focus on news and information that directly rebuts misinformation from the Kremlin-controlled Russian media.

I would note, Mr. Speaker, that this legislation originated in the House as part of the Foreign Affairs Committee's Ukraine Support Act and was broken off in the Senate to create a separate bill.

In the interest of expediting passage, I will support the bill, but in the future, I might expect that Congress would follow a different process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 2183 to help ensure that the people of Ukraine, Moldova, the Balkan States, and other countries in the region have access to objective and comprehensive news.

I reserve the balance of my time.

OPEN LETTER OF UKRAINIAN JEWS TO RUSSIAN FEDERATION PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION VLADIMIR VLADIMIROVICH PUTIN

Mr. PRESIDENT: We are Jewish citizens of Ukraine: businessmen, managers, public figures, scientists and scholars, artists and musicians. We are addressing you on behalf of the multi-national people of Ukraine, Ukraine's national minorities, and on behalf of the Jewish community.

You have stated that Russia wants to protect the rights of the Russian-speaking citizens of the Crimea and all of Ukraine and

that these rights have been trampled by the current Ukrainian government. Historically, Ukrainian Jews are also mostly Russian-speaking. Thus, our opinion on what is happening carries no less weight than the opinion of those who advise and inform you.

We are convinced that you are not easily fooled. This means that you must be consciously picking and choosing lies and slander from the entire body of information on Ukraine. And you know very well that Victor Yanukovich's statement used to describe the situation after the latest treaty had been signed—". . . Kyiv is full of armed people who have begun to ransack buildings, places of worship, and churches. Innocent people are suffering. People are being robbed and killed in the streets . . ."—is simply a lie, from the first word to the very last.

The Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine are not being humiliated or discriminated against, their civil rights have not been infringed upon. Meanderings about "forced Ukrainization" and "bans on the Russian language" that have been so common in Russian media are on the heads of those who invented them. Your certainty about the growth of anti-Semitism in Ukraine, which you expressed at your press-conference, also does not correspond to the actual facts. Perhaps you got Ukraine confused with Russia, where Jewish organizations have noticed growth in anti-Semitic tendencies last year.

Right now, after Ukraine has survived a difficult political crisis, many of us have wound up on different sides of the barricades. The Jews of Ukraine, as all ethnic groups, are not absolutely unified in their opinion towards what is happening in the country. But we live in a democratic country and can afford a difference of opinion.

They have tried to scare us (and are continuing their attempts) with "Bandera followers" and "Fascists" attempting to wrest away the helm of Ukrainian society, with imminent Jewish pogroms. Yes, we are well aware that the political opposition and the forces of social protests who have secured changes for the better are made up of different groups. They include nationalistic groups, but even the most marginal do not dare show anti-Semitism or other xenophobic behavior. And we certainly know that our very few nationalists are well-controlled by civil society and the new Ukrainian government—which is more than can be said for the Russian neo-Nazis, who are encouraged by your security services.

We have a great mutual understanding with the new government, and a partnership is in the works. There are quite a few national minority representatives in the Cabinet of Ministers: the Minister of Internal Affairs is Armenian, the Vice Prime Minister is a Jew, two ministers are Russian. The newly-appointed governors of Ukraine's region are also not exclusively Ukrainian.

Unfortunately, we must admit that in recent days stability in our country has been threatened. And this threat is coming from the Russian government, namely—from you personally. It is your policy of inciting separatism and crude pressure placed on Ukraine that threatens us and all Ukrainian people, including those who live in Crimea and the Ukrainian South-East. Southeastern Ukrainians will soon see that for themselves.

Vladimir Vladimirovich, we highly value your concern about the safety and rights of Ukrainian national minorities. But we do not wish to be "defended" by sundering Ukraine and annexing its territory. We decisively call for you not to intervene in internal Ukrainian affairs, to return the Russian armed forces to their normal fixed peacetime location, and to stop encouraging pro-Russian separatism.

Vladimir Vladimirovich, we are quite capable of protecting our rights in a constructive dialogue and in cooperation with the government and civil society of a sovereign, democratic, and united Ukraine. We strongly urge you not to destabilize the situation in our country and to stop your attempts of delegitimizing the new Ukrainian government.

Signed:

Josef Zisels, Chairman of the Association of Jewish Communities and Organizations of Ukraine (VAAD) Ukraine, Executive Vice President of the Congress of National Communities of Ukraine; Alexander Suslensky, D.Sc., Vice President of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine, businessman; Andrei Adamovsky, First Vice President of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine, member of the "Hillel" Jewish Student organization Observation Council (citizen of Russia); Evgen Chervonenko, Vice President of the European Jewish Congress, businessman; Rabbi Alex Dukhovny, Head Rabbi of the Ukrainian Progressive Judaism communities; Rabbi Reuven Stamov, Head Rabbi of the Ukrainian Traditional Judaism communities; Alexander Paskhaver, Member of the VAAD Ukraine Coordation Council, economist; Leonid Finberg, Director of the NaUKMA Center for the Studies of History and Culture of Eastern European Jewry, VAAD Ukraine Vice Chairman; Anatoliy Podolsky, Director of the Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies, Vice Chairman of VAAD Ukraine; Igor Kuperberg, Chairman of the Zionist Federation of Ukraine, Vice Chairman of VAAD Ukraine; Semen Belman, Vice President of the Jewish Council of Ukraine, President of the Chernigiv Jewish Community; Alexander Gaidar, Leader of the Union of Ukrainian Progressive Judaism Religious Communities; Vyacheslav Likhachev, CNCU Chief expert in monitoring and analysing xenophobia and anti-Semitism, member of the VAAD Ukraine Coordination Council (citizen of Russia and Israel); Michael Gold, Editor-in-chief of the VAAD Ukraine newspaper "Hadashot"; Galina Haraz, Engineer (citizen of Ukraine and Israel); Igor Turov, PhD in history, Director of the Jewish Studies Certificate Program of VAAD Ukraine, VAAD Ukraine, Presidium member; Diana Gold, VAAD Ukraine Presidium member; Alexander Roitburg, Artist; Evgen Greben, Director of the "Maccabi" Jewish Cultural and Sports Society (Kyiv); Grigoriy Pickman; "B'nei B'rith Leopolis" President; Igor Kerez, VAAD Ukraine Trustee Board member; businessman; (Signatures still being collected); March 4, 2014.

□ 1630

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), a very respected member of our Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from New York.

Let me begin first by thanking and extending my commendation to the distinguished chairman of our committee, Mr. ROYCE, and our distinguished ranking member, Mr. ENGEL. They have comported the Foreign Affairs Committee in a civil and bipartisan, collegial fashion that I think is a model for this Congress, and I wish we could emulate that in more of our committee work and here on the floor of the House of Representatives. They understand, both of them, that foreign policy has to be bipartisan, that the United States' interest must trump partisan issues and interests, and I thank them both for their leadership and their inspiration.

I rise in strong support of these two bipartisan bills which contain provisions supported by our committee and the full House in recent weeks.

The House initially passed a bill to provide loan guarantees to Ukraine on March 6, and with today's vote, the bill finally will go to the President for his signature. It authorizes $150 million in aid to Ukraine, and another $100 million for this fiscal year for increased U.S. security cooperation among NATO states in response to the situation in Ukraine. This compromise legislation will also codify and expand the sanctions imposed last month by the Obama administration against certain Russian and Ukrainian officials who have undermined the Ukrainian Government or committed human rights abuses.

The second bill authorizes up to $10 million for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Voice of America to increase their broadcasts into eastern Ukraine—including the Crimea, Moldova, and other nearby ethnic Russian communities—consistent with the House-passed bill.

As the ranking member just noted, the power of radio certainly was something we saw during the cold war era, where truth could be beamed into homes, people had the courage to listen, and it actually changed minds, hearts, and, ultimately, the politics of the entire Soviet-dominated region.

Mr. Speaker, the United States and its allies cannot allow the flagrant violation of sovereignty that occurred by Russia in Crimea in violation of the international law, blatantly, to stand. Doing so would be an abrogation of our moral responsibility as a world power, and it would be turning our backs on the lessons we should have learned from the catastrophic events of the previous century.

Mr. Putin's claims that Russian speakers in Crimea were in jeopardy is nothing more than a fabrication and a ruse. Russia's interests were never threatened in the Crimea after the revolution in Kiev.

The current treaty with Crimea provided Russia with naval and military privileges and bases through the year 2042. That treaty was never threatened by Kiev. That treaty was never abrogated until the Russians' lower chamber of Parliament voted to abrogate that treaty, as a matter of fact.

Putin has learned nothing from history and is, in fact, bent, apparently, on repeating it. Crimea was settled by Stalin to have a Russian majority. He expelled and executed much of the native population of Crimea.

Mr. Putin seems to have learned nothing from that history, other than there is power at the end of the barrel of a gun. And the so-called referendum in Crimea was also, frankly, carried out with the assistance of bused-in thugs and at the end of the barrel of a

gun. I guess, as I have said before with respect to Mr. Putin, once a KGB agent, always a KGB agent.

If Mr. Putin's goal was to deter Ukraine and other former Soviet satellite nations from turning to the West, he has failed miserably. Ukraine and its neighbors are now looking at this aggression and turning even more to the West for their orientation and their support. As they do, the United States and its allies must be there to stand with them against this naked aggression, a raw and reckless act by the Russian Government.

I urge my colleagues to support these two bills. Speak with one voice on behalf of the United States Congress, and send a decisive message to the aggressive Mr. Putin and his Russian Government.

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

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

In closing, I would like to say that information is power, and we must not yield the media landscape to intentional efforts by the state-controlled and directed Russian media to mislead the people of Ukraine and the surrounding countries by providing false and deceptive information. These reports, as was mentioned, have been used as a pretext to the annexation of Crimea and possible incursions into eastern Ukraine and even Moldova and, I might say, even Georgia. That is why this bill is necessary to ensuring that there is access to objective news and information.

I again urge the Congress to pass this with an overwhelming, bipartisan majority.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad state of affairs. There was one television station left in Russia that had some measure of independence, that wasn't state-controlled. Russia, President Putin, went after that institution, and now it is no longer broadcasting.

Russia has been waging an intense, aggressive, and very blunt disinformation campaign. Not only is that campaign directed at disinformation to people in Ukraine, but they have also spun tales of sinister plotting by the West. This measure, S. 2183, responds by directing U.S. international broadcasters to advance access to uncensored sources of information, the truth, about what is happening on the ground in Ukraine, to use stringers and reporters and to operate as a surrogate radio broadcast source in order to get news and information to people that are otherwise subject to the Russian propaganda, state-run propaganda that is coming into the country. I think it is important that this be done because the Ukrainian stations themselves have now been jammed by the Russians, by the Russian Government.

The former head of Radio Free Europe once described the mission of his broadcasts as one that ''irritates authoritarian regimes, inspires democrats, and creates greater space for civil society.'' We need to create greater space for civil society in Eastern Europe today. We need to provide a platform to inspire those who want to see democratic governance, and that is exactly the type of response that is needed.

For years, this type of broadcasting has been pivotal in helping young democracies push back against media lies and distortions and get off of their feet. We know from listening to Vaclav Havel and Lech Walesa how important this broadcasting can be. It is the type of broadcasting needed now in Ukraine and the surrounding region more than ever.

So I urge the House to pass S. 2183 and ensure that Russian attempts to undermine democracy in Ukraine through an intense propaganda campaign do not go unanswered.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2183.

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. ROYCE. 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.

WEATHER FORECASTING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2413) to prioritize and redirect NOAA resources to a focused program of investment on near-term, affordable, and attainable advances in observational, computing, and modeling capabilities to deliver substantial improvement in weather forecasting and prediction of high impact weather events, such as tornadoes and hurricanes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2413

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 ''Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. PUBLIC SAFETY PRIORITY.

In accordance with NOAA's critical mission to provide science, service, and stewardship, the Under Secretary shall prioritize weather-related activities, including the provision of improved weather data, forecasts, and warnings for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy, in all relevant line offices.

SEC. 3. WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING INNOVATION.

(a) PROGRAM.—The Assistant Administrator for OAR shall conduct a program to develop improved understanding of and forecast capabilities for atmospheric events and their impacts, placing priority on developing more accurate, timely, and effective warnings and fore-casts of high impact weather events that endanger life and property.

(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The program described in subsection (a) shall focus on the following activities:

(1) Improving the fundamental understanding of weather consistent with section 2, including the boundary layer and other atmospheric processes affecting high impact weather events.

(2) Improving the understanding of how the public receives, interprets, and responds to warnings and forecasts of high impact weather events that endanger life and property.

(3) Research and development, and transfer of knowledge, technologies, and applications to the NWS and other appropriate agencies and entities, including the American weather industry and academic partners, related to—

(A) advanced radar, radar networking technologies, and other ground-based technologies, including those emphasizing rapid, fine-scale sensing of the boundary layer and lower troposphere, and the use of innovative, dual-polarization, phased array technologies;

(B) aerial weather observing systems;

(C) high performance computing and information technology and wireless communication networks;

(D) advanced numerical weather prediction systems and forecasting tools and techniques that improve the forecasting of timing, track, intensity, and severity of high impact weather, including through—

(i) the development of more effective mesoscale models;

(ii) more effective use of existing, and the development of new, regional and national cloud-resolving models;

(iii) enhanced global weather models; and

(iv) integrated assessment models;

(E) quantitative assessment tools for measuring the impact and value of data and observing systems, including OSSEs (as described in section 8), OSEs, and AOAs;

(F) atmospheric chemistry and interactions essential to accurately characterizing atmospheric composition and predicting meteorological processes, including cloud microphysical, precipitation, and atmospheric electrification processes, to more effectively understand their role in severe weather; and

(G) additional sources of weather data and information, including commercial observing systems.

(4) A technology transfer initiative, carried out jointly and in coordination with the Assistant Administrator for NWS, and in cooperation with the American weather industry and academic partners, to ensure continuous development and transition of the latest scientific and technological advances into NWS operations and to establish a process to sunset outdated and expensive operational methods and tools to enable cost-effective transfer of new methods and tools into operations.

(c) EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program under this section, the Assistant Administrator for OAR shall collaborate with and support the non-Federal weather research community, which includes institutions of higher education, private entities, and nongovernmental organizations, by making funds available through competitive

grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that not less than 30 percent of the funds authorized for research and development at OAR by this Act should be made available for this purpose.

(d) REPORT.—The Under Secretary shall transmit to Congress annually, concurrently with NOAA's budget request, a description of current and planned activities under this section.

SEC. 4. TORNADO WARNING IMPROVEMENT AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary, in collaboration with the American weather industry and academic partners, shall establish a tornado warning improvement and extension program.

(b) GOAL.—The goal of such program shall be to reduce the loss of life and economic losses from tornadoes through the development and extension of accurate, effective, and timely tornado forecasts, predictions, and warnings, including the prediction of tornadoes beyond one hour in advance.

(c) PROGRAM PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Administrator for OAR, in consultation with the Assistant Administrator for NWS, shall develop a program plan that details the specific research, development, and technology transfer activities, as well as corresponding resources and timelines, necessary to achieve the program goal.

(d) BUDGET FOR PLAN.—Following completion of the plan, the Assistant Administrator for OAR, in consultation with the Assistant Administrator for NWS, shall transmit annually to Congress a proposed budget corresponding to the activities identified in the plan.

SEC. 5. HURRICANE WARNING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary, in collaboration with the American weather industry and academic partners, shall establish a hurricane warning improvement program.

(b) GOAL.—The goal of such program shall be to develop and extend accurate hurricane forecasts and warnings in order to reduce loss of life, injury, and damage to the economy.

(c) PROGRAM PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Administrator for OAR, in consultation with the Assistant Administrator for NWS, shall develop a program plan that details the specific research, development, and technology transfer activities, as well as corresponding resources and timelines, necessary to achieve the program goal.

(d) BUDGET FOR PLAN.—Following completion of the plan, the Assistant Administrator for OAR, in consultation with the Assistant Administrator for NWS, shall transmit annually to Congress a proposed budget corresponding to the activities identified in the plan.

SEC. 6. WEATHER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Assistant Administrator for OAR, in coordination with the Assistant Administrators for NWS and NESDIS, shall issue a research and development plan to restore and maintain United States leadership in numerical weather prediction and forecasting that—

(1) describes the forecasting skill and technology goals, objectives, and progress of NOAA in carrying out the program conducted under section 3;

(2) identifies and prioritizes specific research and development activities, and performance metrics, weighted to meet the operational weather mission of NWS;

(3) describes how the program will collaborate with stakeholders, including the American weather industry and academic partners; and

(4) identifies, through consultation with the National Science Foundation, American weather industry, and academic partners, research necessary to enhance the integration of social science knowledge into weather forecast and warning processes, including to improve the communication of threat information necessary to enable improved severe weather planning and decisionmaking on the part of individuals and communities.

SEC. 7. OBSERVING SYSTEM PLANNING.

The Under Secretary shall—

(1) develop and maintain a prioritized list of observation data requirements necessary to ensure weather forecasting capabilities to protect life and property to the maximum extent practicable;

(2) undertake, using OSSEs, OSEs, AOAs, and other appropriate assessment tools, ongoing systematic evaluations of the combination of observing systems, data, and information needed to meet the requirements listed under paragraph (1), assessing various options to maximize observational capabilities and their cost-effectiveness;

(3) identify current and potential future data gaps in observing capabilities related to the requirements listed under paragraph (1); and

(4) determine a range of options to address gaps identified under paragraph (3).

SEC. 8. OBSERVING SYSTEM SIMULATION EXPERIMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In support of the requirements of section 7, the Assistant Administrator for OAR shall undertake OSSEs to quantitatively assess the relative value and benefits of observing capabilities and systems. Technical and scientific OSSE evaluations—

(1) may include assessments of the impact of observing capabilities on—

(A) global weather prediction;

(B) hurricane track and intensity forecasting;

(C) tornado warning lead times and accuracy;

(D) prediction of mid-latitude severe local storm outbreaks; and

(E) prediction of storms that have the potential to cause extreme precipitation and flooding lasting from 6 hours to 1 week; and

(2) shall be conducted in cooperation with other appropriate entities within NOAA, other Federal agencies, the American weather industry, and academic partners to ensure the technical and scientific merit of OSSE results.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—OSSEs shall quantitatively—

(1) determine the potential impact of proposed space-based, suborbital, and in situ observing systems on analyses and forecasts, including potential impacts on extreme weather events across all parts of the Nation;

(2) evaluate and compare observing system design options; and

(3) assess the relative capabilities and costs of various observing systems and combinations of observing systems in providing data necessary to protect life and property.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—OSSEs—

(1) shall be conducted prior to the acquisition of major Government-owned or Government-leased operational observing systems, including polar-orbiting and geostationary satellite systems, with a lifecycle cost of more than $500,000,000; and

(2) shall be conducted prior to the purchase of any major new commercially provided data with a lifecycle cost of more than $500,000,000.

(d) PRIORITY OSSES.—Not later than June 30, 2014, the Assistant Administrator for OAR shall complete OSSEs to assess the value of data from both Global Positioning System radio occultation and a geostationary hyperspectral sounder global constellation.

(e) RESULTS.—Upon completion of all OSSEs, results shall be publicly released and accompanied by an assessment of related private and public sector weather data sourcing options, including their availability, affordability, and cost effectiveness. Such assessments shall be developed in accordance with section 50503 of title 51, United States Code.

SEC. 9. COMPUTING RESOURCES PRIORITIZATION REPORT.

Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the NOAA Chief Information Officer, in coordination with the Assistant Administrator for OAR and the Assistant Administrator for NWS, shall produce and make publicly available a report that explains how NOAA intends to—

(1) aggressively pursue the newest, fastest, and most cost effective high performance computing technologies in support of its weather prediction mission;

(2) ensure a balance between the research requirements to develop the next generation of regional and global models and its highly reliable operational models;

(3) take advantage of advanced development concepts to, as appropriate, make its next generation weather prediction models available in beta-test mode to its operational forecasters, the American weather industry, and its partners in academic and government research;

(4) identify opportunities to reallocate existing advanced computing resources from lower priority uses to improve advanced research and operational weather prediction; and

(5) harness new computing power in OAR and NWS for immediate improvement in forecasting and experimentation.

SEC. 10. COMMERCIAL WEATHER DATA.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 60161 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: ''This prohibition shall not extend to—

''(1) the purchase of weather data through contracts with commercial providers; or

''(2) the placement of weather satellite instruments on cohosted government or private payloads.''.

(b) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Under Secretary, shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a strategy to enable the procurement of quality commercial weather data. The strategy shall assess the range of commercial opportunities, including public-private partnerships, for obtaining both surface-based and space-based weather observations. The strategy shall include the expected cost effectiveness of these opportunities as well as provide a plan for procuring data, including an expected implementation timeline, from these nongovernmental sources, as appropriate.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The strategy shall include—

(A) an analysis of financial or other benefits to, and risks associated with, acquiring commercial weather data or services, including through multiyear acquisition approaches;

(B) an identification of methods to address planning, programming, budgeting, and execution challenges to such approaches, including—

(i) how standards will be set to ensure that data is reliable and effective;

(ii) how data may be acquired through commercial experimental or innovative techniques and then evaluated for integration into operational use;

(iii) how to guarantee public access to all forecast-critical data to ensure that the American weather industry and the public continue to have access to information critical to their work; and

(iv) in accordance with section 50503 of title 51, United States Code, methods to address potential termination liability or cancellation costs associated with weather data or service contracts; and

(C) an identification of any changes needed in the requirements development and approval processes of the Department of Commerce to facilitate effective and efficient implementation of such strategy.

SEC. 11. WEATHER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Under Secretary shall establish a Federal Advisory Committee to—

(1) provide advice for prioritizing weather research initiatives at NOAA to produce real improvement in weather forecasting;

(2) provide advice on existing or emerging technologies or techniques that can be found in private industry or the research community that could be incorporated into forecasting at NWS to improve forecasting;

(3) identify opportunities to improve communications between weather forecasters, emergency management personnel, and the public; and

(4) address such other matters as the Under Secretary or the Advisory Committee believes would improve innovation in weather forecasting.

(b) COMPOSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary shall appoint leading experts and innovators from all relevant fields of science and engineering that inform meteorology, including atmospheric chemistry, atmospheric physics, hydrology, social science, risk communications, electrical engineering, and computer modeling.

(2) NUMBER.—The Advisory Committee shall be composed of at least 12 members, with the chair of the Advisory Committee chosen by the Under Secretary from among the members.

(3) RESTRICTION.—The Under Secretary may not appoint a majority of members who are employees of NOAA-funded research centers.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Advisory Committee shall transmit annually to the Under Secretary a report on progress made by NOAA in adopting the Advisory Committee's recommendations. The Under Secretary shall transmit a copy of such report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(d) DURATION.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Committee until the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 12. INTERAGENCY WEATHER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COORDINATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish an Inter-agency Committee for Advancing Weather Services to improve coordination of relevant weather research and forecast innovation activities across the Federal Government. The Interagency Committee shall—

(1) include participation by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, NOAA and its constituent elements, the National Science Foundation, and such other agencies involved in weather forecasting research as the President determines are appropriate;

(2) identify and prioritize top forecast needs and coordinate those needs against budget requests and program initiatives across participating offices and agencies; and

(3) share information regarding operational needs and forecasting improvements across relevant agencies.

(b) CO-CHAIR.—The Federal Coordinator for Meteorology shall serve as a co-chair of this panel.

(c) FURTHER COORDINATION.—The Director shall take such other steps as are necessary to coordinate the activities of the Federal Government with those of the American weather industry, State governments, emergency managers, and academic researchers.

SEC. 13. OAR AND NWS EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Administrator for OAR and the Assistant Administrator for NWS may establish a program to detail OAR personnel to the NWS and NWS personnel to OAR.

(b) GOAL.—The goal of this program is to enhance forecasting innovation through regular, direct interaction between OAR's world-class scientists and NWS's operational staff.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The program shall allow up to 10 OAR staff and NWS staff to spend up to 1 year on detail. Candidates shall be jointly selected by the Assistant Administrator for OAR and the Assistant Administrator for NWS.

(d) REPORT.—The Under Secretary shall report annually to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on participation in such program and shall highlight any innovations that come from this interaction.

SEC. 14. VISITING FELLOWS AT NWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Administrator for NWS may establish a program to host postdoctoral fellows and academic researchers at any of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction.

(b) GOAL.—This program shall be designed to provide direct interaction between forecasters and talented academic and private sector researchers in an effort to bring innovation to forecasting tools and techniques available to the NWS.

(c) SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT.—Such fellows shall be competitively selected and appointed for a term not to exceed 1 year.

SEC. 15. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AOA.—The term ''AOA'' means an Analysis of Alternatives.

(2) NESDIS.—The term ''NESDIS'' means the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service.

(3) NOAA.—The term ''NOAA'' means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(4) NWS.—The term ''NWS'' means the National Weather Service.

(5) OAR.—The term ''OAR'' means the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

(6) OSE.—The term ''OSE'' means an Observing System Experiment.

(7) OSSE.—The term ''OSSE'' means an Observing System Simulation Experiment.

(8) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term ''Under Secretary'' means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

SEC. 16. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2014.—There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014—

(1) $83,000,000 to OAR to carry out this Act, of which—

(A) $65,000,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes; and

(B) $18,000,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs; and

(2) out of funds made available for research and development in NWS, an additional amount of $14,000,000 for OAR to carry out the joint technology transfer initiative described in section 3(b)(4).

(b) ALTERNATIVE FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014.—If the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–25) is repealed or replaced with an Act that increases allocations, subsection (a) shall not apply, and there are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014—

(1) $96,500,000 to OAR to carry out this Act, of which—

(A) $77,500,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes; and

(B) $19,000,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs; and

(2) out of funds made available for research and development in NWS, an additional amount of $16,000,000 for OAR to carry out the joint technology transfer initiative described in section 3(b)(4).

(c) FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2017.—For each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017, there are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) $100,000,000 to OAR to carry out this Act, of which—

(A) $80,000,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes; and

(B) $20,000,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs; and

(2) an additional amount of $20,000,000 for the joint technology transfer initiative described in section 3(b)(4).

(d) LIMITATION.—No additional funds are authorized to carry out this Act, and the amendments made by this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2413, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2413, the Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2014, will greatly improve our severe weather forecasting capabilities. I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE) for his work on this bill.

Severe weather routinely affects large portions of the United States. This past year has been no different. The United States needs a world-class weather prediction system that helps protect American lives and property.

Our leadership has slipped in severe weather forecasting. European weather models routinely predict America's weather better than we can. We need to make up for lost ground. H.R. 2413 improves weather observation systems

and advances computing and next generation modeling capabilities. The enhanced prediction of major storms is of great importance to protecting the public from injury and loss of property.

This legislation is the result of multiple hearings, a subcommittee markup, and Member negotiations. Again, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for taking the lead on this issue. I also want to thank the former chairman of the Environment Subcommittee, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART), and the Environment Subcommittee ranking member, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), for their contributions to this bipartisan bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2413, the Weather Forecasting Improvement Act. This bill is a bipartisan agreement by members of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

I am pleased to join my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, the bill's sponsor, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Subcommittee Chair SCHWEIKERT, former subcommittee chair, Mr. STEWART, and Chairman SMITH in support of this bill. I want to thank them, as well as Ranking Member JOHNSON, for their work on this important bill. Members on both sides of the aisle can be assured that this bill represents a truly bipartisan effort and is built on extensive discussions with and advice from the weather community.

After devastating tornadoes in his district, Mr. BRIDENSTINE introduced a well-intentioned bill that went a long way toward improving the tools available to NOAA for evaluating emerging forecast technologies. His emphasis on tornado research was appropriate and helpful. At the subcommittee markup, Mr. GRAYSON added a valuable amendment for a focused hurricane research program.

Representative STEWART, then the chairman of the Environment Subcommittee, worked with my staff and me on a manager's amendment to add to the tools and programs in the original bill. We drew on expert advice from the weather enterprise and from extensive reports from the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration.

Experts told us that, to improve weather forecasting, the research at the Office of Oceans and Atmospheric Research, or OAR, and the forecasting at the National Weather Service had to be better coordinated. This legislation contains important provisions to improve that coordination. This bill encourages NOAA to integrate research and operations in a way that models the successful innovation structure used by the Department of Defense.

The bill we are considering today also creates numerous opportunities for the broader weather community to provide input to NOAA, and their insights as well. At every opportunity, we charge the agency to consult with the American weather industry and researchers as they develop research plans and undertake new initiatives. We also press NOAA to get serious about exploring private sector solutions to their data needs.

The bill makes clear that we expect the historical support for extramural research to continue. The engine of weather forecasting innovation has not always been found within NOAA, but is often found in the external research community and labs that work with NOAA. That collaboration must continue and will continue under this legislation.

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In addition, the bill includes an explicit focus on tapping the expertise of social scientists on how to best communicate risks and warnings to the public. Witnesses who came before the Science Committee emphasized the importance of this work. The best forecasting skill and technology in the world won't be as effective unless the messages to the public result in the right safety response.

The bill before us today is designed to improve public safety, enhance the American economy, and transform the innovation culture at NOAA. I am confident that its passage will improve weather forecasting and tangibly benefit our constituents.

I can assure Members on both sides of the aisle that weather research is strengthened in this bill but not at the expense of other important work at NOAA.

During the committee process, we heard from witness after witness who stressed that weather forecasting involves many different scientific disciplines. This integrated multidisciplinary approach reflects an understanding that we cannot choose to strengthen one area of research at OAR without endangering the progress in the other areas because they are all interconnected. Physical and chemical laws do not respect OAR's budgetary boundaries of climate, weather, and oceans, and this bill only addresses organizational issues in weather at NOAA.

Thank you, again, to Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member JOHNSON for giving us the support to work out a compromise. I want to reiterate my thanks to Mr. BRIDENSTINE for his willingness to work with us and accept changes to the original bill. I particularly want to thank Representative CHRIS STEWART, the former chair of the Environment Subcommittee, whose attitude throughout the process was collaborative and constructive, allowing us to arrive at the bipartisan bill we have before us today. Chairman SCHWEIKERT, who took on the chairmanship of the subcommittee when Mr. STEWART went to the Committee on Appropriations, has brought with him that same collaborative spirit. Finally, I want to thank the very hardworking staff on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, weather is not a partisan issue. The American public needs and deserves the best weather forecasting service we can provide. This bill has broad support in the weather community among research institutions, established businesses, and emerging companies. Supporters include the American Commercial Space Weather Association, University Consortium for Atmospheric Research, GeoOptics, PlanetiQ, and the Weather Coalition.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE), who is a member of the Science Committee and is the author of this bill.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, on May 20 of last year, a massive tornado struck Moore, Oklahoma, with very little warning. The Moore tornado killed 24 Oklahomans, injured 377, and resulted in an estimated $2 billion worth of damage. A warning was issued only 15 minutes before the tornado touched down, just 15 minutes. In fact, 15 minutes is the standard in America. Mr. Speaker, America can do better than 15 minutes.

The Weather Forecasting Improvement Act is the first step toward restoring America's leadership in weather and weather forecasting and prediction. I would like to thank Chairman LAMAR SMITH and the Science Committee staff for their very hard work.

H.R. 2413, the Weather Forecasting Improvement Act, is critical legislation that will save lives and protect property and critical infrastructure.

I would also like to thank the former Environment Subcommittee chairman, CHRIS STEWART, now a member of the Appropriations Committee, and my friend and colleague from Oregon, Representative SUZANNE BONAMICI, for making this truly a very bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is about priorities. When America is over $17 trillion in debt, the answer is not more spending, but to prioritize necessary spending toward its best uses. Saving lives and protecting property should be the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's top priority. This bill codifies that priority.

H.R. 2413 directs NOAA to prioritize weather-related activities and rebalances NOAA's funding priorities to bring weather-related activities to a higher amount. The bill completes this reprioritization in a fiscally responsible manner. H.R. 2413 does not increase NOAA's overall authorization. I would like to repeat that. H.R. 2413 does not increase NOAA's overall authorization. It doesn't spend one more dime.

Mr. Speaker, this bill helps get weather research projects out of the lab and into the field, thereby speeding up the development and fielding of life-saving weather forecasting technology.

By requiring coordination and prioritization across the range of NOAA agencies, H.R. 2413 will help get weather prediction and forecasting technologies off the drawing board and into the field.

This bill authorizes dedicated tornado and hurricane warning programs to coordinate research and development activities. It directs the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research to prioritize its research and development. And it codifies technology transfer between OAR—the researchers—and the National Weather Service—the operators—a vital link that ensures next-generation weather technologies are implemented.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps most importantly, H.R. 2413 enhances NOAA's collaboration with the private sector and with universities. Oklahoma is on the cutting edge of weather research, prediction, and forecasting with absolutely world-class institutions such as the National Weather Center and the National Severe Storms Laboratory at the University of Oklahoma.

And I would like to anchor here, just to brag for a second, about what is happening at the University of Oklahoma. As a Navy pilot, I have seen firsthand phased array radar technology being used to detect, track, and target enemy aircraft many, many miles away. What this technology is now being used for at the University of Oklahoma is to detect and track clouds and very small particles in clouds. Those particles can provide reflected radar energy that goes into a data assimilation system, into a numerical weather model, and we can now predict tornadoes over an hour in advance, which is a goal of this piece of legislation.

Saving lives and property requires us to be able to warn people based on the forecast of a tornado, not just based on the detection of a tornado, moving from 15 minutes to over an hour in advance to detect tornadoes. Not only is this possible, it has been done. And they are doing it currently at the University of Oklahoma.

Mr. Speaker, this bill also clarifies that NOAA can purchase weather data through contracts with commercial providers and place weather satellite instruments on private payloads. Leveraging the private sector will lead to lower costs for better weather data; again, saving lives and property.

Mr. Speaker, the imbalance of NOAA's resources is leaving America further behind our international competitors. The Science Committee received compelling testimony showing that the European Union has better capabilities in some areas of numerical weather prediction, forecasting, and risk communication, and other countries, such as Britain and Japan, are closing in fast.

Misallocating resources can have terrible consequences, as my constituents and the people of Oklahoma understand all too well every tornado season.

The Weather Forecasting Improvement Act is a first step toward rebalancing NOAA's priorities, moving new technologies from the lab bench to the field, and leveraging formidable capabilities developed in the private sector and at universities. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), who is also chairman of the Environment Subcommittee of the Science Committee.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. I thank Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member BONAMICI, and the sponsor of our bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is actually one of those moments where you are going over a piece of legislation—and I am very proud of everyone who has worked on it, and maybe this language is a little too strong, but in many ways, it sort of removes, whether it be excuses or statutory straitjackets, away from NOAA, away from OAR. And the optionality of, how do you design data sets, how do you reach out to the cloud, to the world around you, and gather their technology, and how they are doing weather forecasting.

You have just heard Chairman BRIDENSTINE speak of big weather events, whether they be tornadoes that affect his district—but think of the Members who have had input into this piece of legislation. I am from the desert Southwest. We have someone from the wet and rainy Northwest. We have had people from around the country that represent very, very different types of climates in their districts, and that is, actually, something that is really special about this piece of legislation.

I have a level of enthusiasm. Last month was my birthday, and my wife bought me this weather station that sits on the side of the house, and it talks to the WiFi, which talks to the cloud. And their goal is to set up hundreds of thousands of data points that are collected by enthusiasts, like myself, across the country and put that data together.

Can you imagine a world where NOAA actually becomes the hub of so many data sets? Then it has the optionality of reaching out and finding what technology, what mechanics are out there to put it together and help us, from our little microclimates that I may have in my neighborhood to the terrible storm that may be threatening the Florida coast.

This is the future, and this bill actually moves us towards that future.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on the committee. I really appreciate working with them.

I want to make clear that when we worked on this—this is a reprioritization of how the Office of Oceanic and Atmosphere Research lays out its own weather research efforts. The key reprioritization is to put in place a clear process that ties the needs of forecasters at the National Weather Service to the research initiatives at OAR.

I am glad that my colleagues have worked on this important bill. This legislation will make real and measurable improvements in weather research and weather forecasting, and I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE), Ms. BONAMICI, and DAVID SCHWEIKERT for their hard work on this bill. I appreciate all of the effort they have put into it. It is a wonderful product. It is going to save lives. It is going to save property, and it is going to benefit many, many Americans.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2413, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to prioritize and redirect NOAA resources to a focused program of investment on affordable and attainable advances in observational, computing, and modeling capabilities to deliver substantial improvement in weather forecasting and prediction of high impact weather events, such as those associated with hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, floods, storm surges, and wildfires, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4005) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4005

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 102. Authorized levels of military strength and training.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

Sec. 201. Commissioned officers.
Sec. 202. Prevention and response workforces.
Sec. 203. Centers of expertise.
Sec. 204. Agreements.

Sec. 205. Coast Guard housing.
Sec. 206. Determinations.
Sec. 207. Annual Board of Visitors.
Sec. 208. Repeal of limitation on medals of honor.
Sec. 209. Mission need statement.
Sec. 210. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.
Sec. 211. Inventory of real property.
Sec. 212. Active duty for emergency augmentation of regular forces.
Sec. 213. Acquisition workforce expedited hiring authority.
Sec. 214. Icebreakers.
Sec. 215. Multiyear procurement authority for Offshore Patrol Cutters.
Sec. 216. Maintaining Medium Endurance Cutter mission capability.
Sec. 217. Coast Guard administrative savings.
Sec. 218. Technical corrections to title 14.
Sec. 219. Flag officers.
Sec. 220. Aviation capability in the Great Lakes region.
Sec. 221. e-LORAN.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

Sec. 301. Treatment of fishing permits.
Sec. 302. International ice patrol reform.
Sec. 303. Repeal.
Sec. 304. Donation of historical property.
Sec. 305. Small shipyards.
Sec. 306. Drug testing reporting.
Sec. 307. Recourse for noncitizens.
Sec. 308. Penalty wages.
Sec. 309. Crediting time in the sea services.
Sec. 310. Treatment of abandoned seafarers.
Sec. 311. Clarification of high-risk waters.
Sec. 312. Uninspected passenger vessels in the Virgin Islands.
Sec. 313. Offshore supply vessel third-party inspection.
Sec. 314. Survival craft.
Sec. 315. Technical correction to title 46.
Sec. 316. Enforcement.
Sec. 317. Severe marine debris events.
Sec. 318. Minimum tonnage.
Sec. 319. Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee.
Sec. 320. Report on effect of LNG export carriage requirements on job creation in the United States maritime industry.

TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Sec. 401. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 402. Terms of Commissioners.

TITLE V—COMMERCIAL VESSEL DISCHARGE REFORM

Sec. 501. Short title.
Sec. 502. Discharges incidental to the normal operation of certain vessels.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 601. Distant water tuna fleet.
Sec. 602. Vessel determination.
Sec. 603. Lease authority.
Sec. 604. National maritime strategy.
Sec. 605. IMO Polar Code negotiations.
Sec. 606. Valley View Ferry.
Sec. 607. Competition by United States flag vessels.
Sec. 608. Survey.
Sec. 609. Fishing safety grant programs.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2015 and 2016 for necessary expenses of the Coast Guard as follows:

(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard—

(A) $6,981,036,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

(B) $6,981,036,000 for fiscal year 2016.

(2) For the acquisition, construction, rebuilding, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore and offshore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto—

(A) $1,546,448,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

(B) $1,546,448,000 for fiscal year 2016;

to remain available until expended.

(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including personnel and training costs, equipment, and services—

(A) $140,016,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

(B) $140,016,000 for fiscal year 2016.

(4) For environmental compliance and restoration of Coast Guard vessels, aircraft, and facilities (other than parts and equipment associated with operation and maintenance)—

(A) $16,701,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

(B) $16,701,000 for fiscal year 2016;

to remain available until expended.

(5) To the Commandant of the Coast Guard for research, development, test, and evaluation of technologies, materials, and human factors directly related to improving the performance of the Coast Guard's mission with respect to search and rescue, aids to navigation, marine safety, marine environmental protection, enforcement of laws and treaties, ice operations, oceanographic research, and defense readiness—

(A) $19,890,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

(B) $19,890,000 for fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZED LEVELS OF MILITARY STRENGTH AND TRAINING.

(a) ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH.—The Coast Guard is authorized an end-of-year strength for active duty personnel of 43,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 and 2016.

(b) MILITARY TRAINING STUDENT LOADS.—The Coast Guard is authorized average military training student loads for each of fiscal years 2015 and 2016 as follows:

(1) For recruit and special training, 2,500 student years.

(2) For flight training, 165 student years.

(3) For professional training in military and civilian institutions, 350 student years.

(4) For officer acquisition, 1,200 student years.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

SEC. 201. COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Section 42(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''7,200'' and inserting ''6,700''.

SEC. 202. PREVENTION AND RESPONSE WORKFORCES.

Section 57 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2) by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) waterways operations manager shall have knowledge, skill, and practical experience with respect to marine transportation system management; or

''(5) port and facility safety and security specialist shall have knowledge, skill, and practical experience with respect to the safety, security, and environmental protection responsibilities associated with maritime ports and facilities.'';

(2) in subsection (c) by striking ''or marine safety engineer'' and inserting ''marine safety engineer, waterways operations manager, or port and facility safety and security specialist''; and

(3) in subsection (f)(2) by striking ''investigator or marine safety engineer.'' and inserting ''investigator, marine safety engineer, waterways operations manager, or port and facility safety and security specialist.''.

SEC. 203. CENTERS OF EXPERTISE.

Section 58(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) MISSIONS.—Any center established under subsection (a) may—

''(1) promote, facilitate, and conduct—

''(A) education;

''(B) training; and

''(C) activities authorized under section 93(a)(4); and

''(2) be a repository of information on operations, practices, and resources related to the mission for which the center was established.''.

SEC. 204. AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 93(a)(4) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking '', investigate'' and inserting ''and investigate''; and

(2) by striking '', and cooperate and coordinate such activities with other Government agencies and with private agencies''.

(b) AUTHORITY.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 102. Agreements

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out section 93(a)(4), the Commandant may—

''(1) enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with Federal entities and other public or private entities, including academic entities; and

''(2) impose on and collect from an entity subject to an agreement or contract under paragraph (1) a fee to assist with expenses incurred in carrying out such section.

''(b) DEPOSIT AND USE OF FEES.—Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts. The fees may be used, to the extent provided in advance in an appropriation law, only to carry out activities under section 93(a)(4).''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''102. Agreements.''.

SEC. 205. COAST GUARD HOUSING.

(a) COMMANDANT; GENERAL POWERS.—Section 93(a)(13) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the Treasury'' and inserting ''the fund established under section 687''.

(b) LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY.—Section 672a(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the Treasury'' and inserting ''the fund established under section 687''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 687(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) Monies received under section 93(a)(13).

''(5) Amounts received under section 672a(b).''.

SEC. 206. DETERMINATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 103. Determinations

''The Secretary may only make a determination that a waterway, or any portion thereof, is navigable for purposes of the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard through a rulemaking that is conducted in a manner consistent with subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''103. Determinations.''.

SEC. 207. ANNUAL BOARD OF VISITORS.

Section 194 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 194. Annual Board of Visitors

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A Board of Visitors to the Coast Guard Academy is established to

review and make recommendations on the operation of the Academy.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the Board shall consist of the following:

''(A) The chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, or the chairman's designee.

''(B) The chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, or the chairman's designee.

''(C) 3 Members of the Senate designated by the Vice President.

''(D) 4 Members of the House of Representatives designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

''(E) 6 individuals designated by the President.

''(2) LENGTH OF SERVICE.—

''(A) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—A Member of Congress designated under subparagraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (1) as a member of the Board shall be designated as a member in the First Session of a Congress and serve for the duration of that Congress.

''(B) INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT.—Each individual designated by the President under subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) shall serve as a member of the Board for 3 years, except that any such member whose term of office has expired shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

''(3) DEATH OR RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER.—If a member of the Board dies or resigns, a successor shall be designated for any unexpired portion of the term of the member by the official who designated the member.

''(c) ACADEMY VISITS.—

''(1) ANNUAL VISIT.—The Board shall visit the Academy annually to review the operation of the Academy.

''(2) ADDITIONAL VISITS.—With the approval of the Secretary, the Board or individual members of the Board may make other visits to the Academy in connection with the duties of the Board or to consult with the Superintendent of the Academy.

''(d) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—The Board shall review, with respect to the Academy—

''(1) the state of morale and discipline;

''(2) the curriculum;

''(3) instruction;

''(4) physical equipment;

''(5) fiscal affairs; and

''(6) other matters relating to the Academy that the Board determines appropriate.

''(e) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of an annual visit of the Board under subsection (c)(1), the Board shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the actions of the Board during such visit and the recommendations of the Board pertaining to the Academy.

''(f) ADVISORS.—If approved by the Secretary, the Board may consult with advisors in carrying out this section.

''(g) REIMBURSEMENT.—Each member of the Board and each adviser consulted by the Board under subsection (f) shall be reimbursed, to the extent permitted by law, by the Coast Guard for actual expenses incurred while engaged in duties as a member or adviser.''.

SEC. 208. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON MEDALS OF HONOR.

Section 494 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''medal of honor,'' each place that it appears.

SEC. 209. MISSION NEED STATEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 569 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 569. Mission need statement

''(a) IN GENERAL.—On the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2016 under section 1105 of title 31, on the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2019 under such section, and every 4 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an integrated major acquisition mission need statement.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

''(1) INTEGRATED MAJOR ACQUISITION MISSION NEED STATEMENT.—The term 'integrated major acquisition mission need statement' means a document that—

''(A) identifies current and projected gaps in Coast Guard mission capabilities using mission hour targets;

''(B) explains how each major acquisition program addresses gaps identified under subparagraph (A) if funded at the levels provided for such program in the most recently submitted capital investment plan; and

''(C) describes the missions the Coast Guard will not be able to achieve, by fiscal year, for each gap identified under subparagraph (A).

''(2) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term 'major acquisition program' has the meaning given that term in section 569a(e).

''(3) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—The term 'capital investment plan' means the plan required under section 663(a)(1).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 569 and inserting the following:

''569. Mission need statement.''.

SEC. 210. TRANSMISSION OF ANNUAL COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 662 the following:

''§ 662a. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a Coast Guard authorization request with respect to such fiscal year.

''(b) COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'Coast Guard authorization request' means a proposal for legislation that, with respect to the Coast Guard for the relevant fiscal year—

''(1) recommends end strengths for personnel for that fiscal year, as described in section 661;

''(2) recommends authorizations of appropriations for that fiscal year, including with respect to matters described in section 662; and

''(3) addresses any other matter that the Secretary determines is appropriate for inclusion in a Coast Guard authorization bill.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 662 the following:

''662a. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.''.

SEC. 211. INVENTORY OF REAL PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 679. Inventory of real property

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2014, the Commandant shall establish an inventory of all real property, including submerged lands, under the control of the Coast Guard, which shall include—

''(1) the size, the location, and any other appropriate description of each unit of such property;

''(2) an assessment of the physical condition of each unit of such property, excluding lands;

''(3) an estimate of the fair market value of each unit of such property;

''(4) a determination of whether each unit of such property should be—

''(A) retained to fulfill a current or projected Coast Guard mission requirement; or

''(B) subject to divestiture; and

''(5) other information the Commandant considers appropriate.

''(b) INVENTORY MAINTENANCE.—The Commandant shall—

''(1) maintain the inventory required under subsection (a) on an ongoing basis; and

''(2) update information on each unit of real property included in such inventory not later than 30 days after any change relating to such property.

''(c) RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than March 30, 2015, and every 5 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

''(1) a list of all real property under the control of the Coast Guard and the location of such property by property type;

''(2) recommendations for divestiture with respect to any units of such property, including an estimate of—

''(A) the fair market value of any property recommended for divestiture; and

''(B) the costs or savings associated with divestiture; and

''(3) recommendations for consolidating any units of such property, including—

''(A) an estimate of the costs or savings associated with each recommended consolidation; and

''(B) a discussion of the impact that such consolidation would have on Coast Guard mission effectiveness.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''679. Inventory of real property.''.

SEC. 212. ACTIVE DUTY FOR EMERGENCY AUGMENTATION OF REGULAR FORCES.

Section 712(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''not more than 60 days in any 4-month period and''.

SEC. 213. ACQUISITION WORKFORCE EXPEDITED HIRING AUTHORITY.

Section 404(b) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 124 Stat. 2951) is amended by striking ''2015'' and inserting ''2017''.

SEC. 214. ICEBREAKERS.

(a) COAST GUARD POLAR ICEBREAKERS.—Section 222 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat. 1560) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading by striking ''; BRIDGING STRATEGY''; and

(B) by striking ''Commandant of the Coast Guard'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea.'';

(2) by adding at the end of subsection (d) the following:

''(3) RESULT OF NO DETERMINATION.—If in the analysis submitted under this section

the Secretary does not make a determination under subsection (a)(5) regarding whether it is cost-effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, then—

''(A) the Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea; or

''(B) the Secretary may make such determination, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and take actions in accordance with this subsection as though such determination was made in the analysis previously submitted.'';

(3) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) STRATEGIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the analysis required under subsection (a) is submitted, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

''(A) a strategy to meet the Coast Guard's Arctic ice operations needs through September 30, 2050; and

''(B) unless the Secretary makes a determination under this section that it is cost-effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, a bridging strategy for maintaining the Coast Guard's polar icebreaking services until at least September 30, 2024.

''(2) REQUIREMENT.—The strategies required under paragraph (1) shall include a business case analysis comparing the leasing and purchasing of icebreakers to maintain the needs and services described in that paragraph.''.

(b) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not expend amounts appropriated for the Coast Guard for any of fiscal years 2015 through 2024, for—

(A) design activities related to a capability of a Polar-Class Icebreaker that is based on an operational requirement of another Federal department or agency, except for amounts appropriated for design activities for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016; or

(B) long-lead-time materials, production, or post-delivery activities related to such a capability.

(2) OTHER AMOUNTS.—Amounts made available to the Secretary under an agreement with another Federal department or agency and expended on a capability of a Polar-Class Icebreaker that is based on an operational requirement of that or another Federal department or agency shall not be treated as amounts expended by the Secretary for purposes of the limitation established under paragraph (1).

SEC. 215. MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR OFFSHORE PATROL CUTTERS.

In fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may enter into, in accordance with section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, multiyear contracts for the procurement of Offshore Patrol Cutters and associated equipment.

SEC. 216. MAINTAINING MEDIUM ENDURANCE CUTTER MISSION CAPABILITY.

Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a schedule and plan for decommissioning, not later than September 30, 2029, each of the 210-foot, Reliance-Class Cutters operated by the Coast Guard on the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) a schedule and plan for enhancing the maintenance or extending the service life of each of the 270-foot, Famous-Class Cutters operated by the Coast Guard on the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) to maintain the capability of the Coast Guard to carry out sea-going missions with respect to such Cutters at the level of capability existing on September 30, 2013; and

(B) for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the final Offshore Patrol Cutter is scheduled and planned to be commissioned under paragraph (4);

(3) an identification of the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters capable of sea state 5 operations that, if 8 National Security Cutters are commissioned, are necessary to return the sea state 5 operating capability of the Coast Guard to the level of capability that existed prior to the decommissioning of the first High Endurance Cutter in fiscal year 2011;

(4) a schedule and plan for commissioning the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters identified under paragraph (3); and

(5) a schedule and plan for commissioning, not later than September 30, 2034, a number of Offshore Patrol Cutters not capable of sea state 5 operations that is equal to—

(A) 25; less

(B) the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters identified under paragraph (3).

SEC. 217. COAST GUARD ADMINISTRATIVE SAVINGS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF OUTDATED AND DUPLICATIVE REPORTS.—

(1) MARINE INDUSTRY TRAINING.—Section 59 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant'' and inserting ''The Commandant''; and

(B) by striking subsection (b).

(2) OPERATIONS AND EXPENDITURES.—Section 651 of title 14, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 17 of such title, are repealed.

(3) DRUG INTERDICTION.—Section 103 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 (14 U.S.C. 89 note), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents in section 2 of that Act, are repealed.

(4) NATIONAL DEFENSE.—Section 426 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (14 U.S.C. 2 note), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents in section 1(b) of that Act, are repealed.

(5) LIVING MARINE RESOURCES.—Section 4(b) of the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act of 2010 (16 U.S.C. 1828 note) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''No report shall be required under this subsection, including that no report shall be required under section 224 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 or section 804 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006, for fiscal years beginning after fiscal year 2013.''.

(b) CONSOLIDATION AND REFORM OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) MARINE SAFETY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 2116(d)(2)(B) of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(B) on the program's mission performance in achieving numerical measurable goals established under subsection (b), including—

''(i) the number of civilian and military Coast Guard personnel assigned to marine safety positions; and

''(ii) an identification of marine safety positions that are understaffed to meet the workload required to accomplish each activity included in the strategy and plans under subsection (a); and''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 57 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(i) by striking subsection (e); and

(ii) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (e), (f), and (g) respectively.

(2) MINOR CONSTRUCTION.—Section 656(d)(2) of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget under section 1105 of title 31 each year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing each project carried out under paragraph (1), in the most recently concluded fiscal year, for which the amount expended under such paragraph for such project was more than $1,000,000. If no such project was carried out during a fiscal year, no report under this paragraph shall be required with respect to that fiscal year.''.

(3) RESCUE 21.—Section 346 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (14 U.S.C. 88 note) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 346. MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL DISTRESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEM.

''(a) REPORT.—Not later than March 30, 2014, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the implementation of the Rescue 21 project in Alaska and in Coast Guard sectors Upper Mississippi River, Lower Mississippi River, and Ohio River Valley.

''(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

''(1) describe what improvements are being made to the distress response system in the areas specified in subsection (a), including information on which areas will receive digital selective calling and direction finding capability;

''(2) describe the impediments to installing digital selective calling and direction finding capability in areas where such technology will not be installed;

''(3) identify locations in the areas specified in subsection (a) where communication gaps will continue to present a risk to mariners after completion of the Rescue 21 project;

''(4) include a list of all reported marine accidents, casualties, and fatalities occurring in the locations identified under paragraph (3) since 1990; and

''(5) provide an estimate of the costs associated with installing the technology necessary to close communication gaps in the locations identified under paragraph (3).''.

SEC. 218. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 14.

Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in section 93(b)(1) by striking ''Notwithstanding subsection (a)(14)'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding subsection (a)(13)'';

(2) in section 197(b) by striking ''of Homeland Security''; and

(3) in section 573(c)(3)(A) by inserting ''and shall maintain such cutter in such class'' before the period at the end.

SEC. 219. FLAG OFFICERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 295 the following:

''§ 296. Flag officers

''During any period in which the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy, section 1216(d) of title 10 does not

apply with respect to flag officers of the Coast Guard.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 295 the following:

''296. Flag officers.''.

SEC. 220. AVIATION CAPABILITY IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION.

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may—

(1) request and accept through a direct military-to-military transfer under section 2571 of title 10, United States Code, such H–60 helicopters as may be necessary to establish a year-round operational capability in the Coast Guard's Ninth District; and

(2) use funds provided under section 101 of this Act to convert such helicopters to Coast Guard MH–60T configuration.

SEC. 221. E-LORAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not carry out activities related to the dismantling or disposal of infrastructure that supported the former LORAN system until the later of—

(1) the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) the date on which the Secretary provides to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate notice of a determination by the Secretary that such infrastructure is not required to provide a positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to activities necessary for the safety of human life.

(c) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with Federal entities and other public or private entities, including academic entities, to develop a positioning, timing, and navigation system, including an enhanced LORAN system, to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

SEC. 301. TREATMENT OF FISHING PERMITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 313 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 31310. Treatment of fishing permits

''(a) LIMITATION ON MARITIME LIENS.—This chapter—

''(1) does not establish a maritime lien on a fishing permit; and

''(2) does not authorize any civil action to enforce a maritime lien on a fishing permit.

''(b) TREATMENT OF FISHING PERMITS UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.—A fishing permit—

''(1) is governed solely by the State or Federal law under which it is issued; and

''(2) shall not be treated as part of a vessel, or as an appurtenance or intangible of a vessel, for any purpose under Federal law.

''(c) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as imposing any limitation upon the authority of the Secretary of Commerce—

''(1) to modify, suspend, revoke, or impose a sanction on any fishing permit issued by the Secretary of Commerce; or

''(2) to bring a civil action to enforce such a modification, suspension, revocation, or sanction.

''(d) FISHING PERMIT DEFINED.—In this section the term 'fishing permit' means any authorization of a person or vessel to engage in fishing that is issued under State or Federal law.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 31309 the following:

''31310. Treatment of fishing permits.''.

SEC. 302. INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 80301 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) PAYMENTS.—Payments received pursuant to subsection (b)(1) shall be credited to the appropriation for operating expenses of the Coast Guard.

''(d) LIMITATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A Coast Guard vessel or aircraft may not be used to carry out an agreement under subsection (a) in fiscal year 2015 and any fiscal year thereafter unless payments are received by the United States Government pursuant to subsection (b)(1) in the preceding fiscal year in a total amount that is not less than difference between—

''(A) the cost incurred by the Coast Guard in maintaining the services; minus

''(B) the amount of the proportionate share of the expense generated by vessels documented under the laws of the United States.

''(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), Coast Guard aircraft may be used to carry out an agreement under subsection (a) if the President determines it necessary in the interest of national security.

''(3) NOTIFICATION.—The President shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of a determination made under paragraph (2) within 15 days after such determination.''.

(b) REPEAL.—Section 80302 of title 46, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 803 of such title, are repealed on October 1, 2014.

SEC. 303. REPEAL.

Chapter 555 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by repealing section 55501;

(2) by redesignating section 55502 as section 55501; and

(3) in the analysis by striking the items relating to sections 55501 and 55502 and inserting the following:

''55501. United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System.''.

SEC. 304. DONATION OF HISTORICAL PROPERTY.

Section 51103 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) DONATION FOR HISTORICAL PURPOSES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may convey the right, title, and interest of the United States Government in any property administered by the Maritime Administration, except real estate or vessels, if—

''(A) the Secretary determines that such property is not needed by the Maritime Administration; and

''(B) the recipient—

''(i) is a nonprofit organization, a State, or a political subdivision of a State;

''(ii) agrees to hold the Government harmless for any claims arising from exposure to hazardous materials, including asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls, or lead paint, after conveyance of the property;

''(iii) provides a description and explanation of the intended use of the property to the Secretary for approval;

''(iv) has provided to the Secretary proof, as determined by the Secretary, of resources sufficient to accomplish the intended use provided under clause (iii) and to maintain the property;

''(v) agrees that when the recipient no longer requires the property, the recipient shall—

''(I) return the property to the Secretary, at the recipient's expense and in the same condition as received except for ordinary wear and tear; or

''(II) subject to the approval of the Secretary, retain, sell, or otherwise dispose of the property in a manner consistent with applicable law; and

''(vi) agree to any additional terms the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(2) REVERSION.—The Secretary shall include in any conveyance under this subsection terms under which all right, title, and interest conveyed by the Secretary shall revert to the Government if the Secretary determines the property has been used other than as approved by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(B)(iii).''.

SEC. 305. SMALL SHIPYARDS.

Section 54101(i) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2009 through 2013'' and inserting ''2015 and 2016''.

SEC. 306. DRUG TESTING REPORTING.

Section 7706 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''an applicant for employment by a Federal agency,'' after ''Federal agency,''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by—

(A) inserting ''or an applicant for employment by a Federal agency'' after ''an employee''; and

(B) striking ''the employee.'' and inserting ''the employee or the applicant.''.

SEC. 307. RECOURSE FOR NONCITIZENS.

Section 30104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before the first sentence; and

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

''(b) RESTRICTION ON RECOVERY FOR NONRESIDENT ALIENS EMPLOYED ON FOREIGN PASSENGER VESSELS.—A claim for damages or expenses relating to personal injury, illness, or death of a seaman who is a citizen of a foreign nation, arising during or from the engagement of the seaman by or for a passenger vessel duly registered under the laws of a foreign nation, may not be brought under the laws of the United States if—

''(1) such seaman was not a permanent resident alien of the United States at the time the claim arose;

''(2) the injury, illness, or death arose outside the territorial waters of the United States; and

''(3) the seaman or the seaman's personal representative has or had a right to seek compensation for the injury, illness, or death in, or under the laws of—

''(A) the nation in which the vessel was registered at the time the claim arose; or

''(B) the nation in which the seaman maintained citizenship or residency at the time the claim arose.''.

SEC. 308. PENALTY WAGES.

(a) FOREIGN AND INTERCOASTAL VOYAGES.—Section 10313(g) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''all claims in a class action suit by seamen'' and inserting ''each claim by a seaman''; and

(B) by striking ''the seamen'' and inserting ''the seaman''; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking ''class action''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking '', by a seaman who is a claimant in the suit,'' and inserting ''by the seaman''.

(b) COASTWISE VOYAGES.—Section 10504(c) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''all claims in a class action suit by seamen'' and inserting ''each claim by a seaman''; and

(B) by striking ''the seamen'' and inserting ''the seaman''; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking ''class action''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking '', by a seaman who is a claimant in the suit,'' and inserting ''by the seaman''.

SEC. 309. CREDITING TIME IN THE SEA SERVICES.

(a) ENDORSEMENTS FOR VETERANS.—Section 7101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) The Secretary may issue a license under this section in a class under subsection (c) to an applicant that—

''(1) has at least 3 months of qualifying service on vessels of the uniformed services (as that term is defined in section 101(a) of title 10) of appropriate tonnage or horsepower within the 7-year period immediately preceding the date of application; and

''(2) satisfies all other requirements for such a license.''.

(b) SEA SERVICE LETTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 427 the following:

''§ 428. Sea service letters

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide a sea service letter to a member or former member of the Coast Guard who—

''(1) accumulated sea service on a vessel of the armed forces (as such term is defined in section 101(a) of title 10); and

''(2) requests such letter.

''(b) DEADLINE.—Not later than 30 days after receiving a request for a sea service letter from a member or former member of the Coast Guard under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide such letter to such member or former member if such member or former member satisfies the requirement under subsection (a)(1).''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 427 the following:

''428. Sea service letters.''.

(c) CREDITING OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SERVICE, TRAINING, AND QUALIFICATIONS.—

(1) MAXIMIZING CREDITABILITY.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, in implementing United States merchant mariner license, certification, and document laws and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, shall maximize the extent to which United States Armed Forces service, training, and qualifications are creditable toward meeting the requirements of such laws and such Convention.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the steps taken to implement this subsection.

SEC. 310. TREATMENT OF ABANDONED SEAFARERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 18. TREATMENT OF ABANDONED SEAFARERS.

''(a) ABANDONED SEAFARERS FUND.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a separate account to be known as the Abandoned Seafarers Fund.

''(2) CREDITING OF AMOUNTS TO FUND.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be credited to the Fund the following:

''(i) Penalties deposited in the Fund under section 9, except as provided in subparagraph (B).

''(ii) Amounts reimbursed or recovered under subsection (d).

''(B) LIMITATION.—Amounts may be credited to the Fund under subparagraph (A)(i) only if the unobligated balance of the Fund is less than $2,000,000.

''(3) REPORT REQUIRED.—On the date on which the President submits each budget for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that describes—

''(A) the amounts credited to the Fund under paragraph (2) for the preceding fiscal year; and

''(B) amounts in the Fund that were expended for the preceding fiscal year.

''(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FROM FUND.—Amounts in the Fund may be appropriated to the Secretary for use to—

''(1) pay necessary support of—

''(A) a seafarer that—

''(i) enters, remains, or is paroled into the United States; and

''(ii) is involved in an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter that is related to the administration or enforcement of this Act by the Coast Guard; and

''(B) a seafarer that the Secretary determines was abandoned in the United States and has not applied for asylum under section 208 or 235 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158, 1225); and

''(2) reimburse a vessel owner or operator that has provided necessary support of a seafarer who has been paroled into the United States to facilitate an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter that is related to the administration or enforcement of this Act by the Coast Guard, for the costs of such necessary support.

''(c) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

''(1) to create a private right of action or any other right, benefit, or entitlement to necessary support for any person; or

''(2) to compel the Secretary to pay or reimburse the cost of necessary support.

''(d) REIMBURSEMENT; RECOVERY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A vessel owner or operator shall reimburse the Fund an amount equal to the total amount paid from the Fund for necessary support of a seafarer, if—

''(A) the vessel owner or operator—

''(i) during the course of an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter under this Act that the Coast Guard referred to a United States attorney or the Attorney General, fails to provide necessary support of a seafarer who was paroled into the United States to facilitate the investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication; and

''(ii) subsequently is—

''(I) convicted of a criminal offense related to such matter; or

''(II) required to reimburse the Fund pursuant to a court order or negotiated settlement related to such matter; or

''(B) the vessel owner or operator abandons a seafarer in the United States, as determined by the Secretary based on substantial evidence.

''(2) ENFORCEMENT.—If a vessel owner or operator fails to reimburse the Fund under paragraph (1), the Secretary may—

''(A) proceed in rem against the vessel on which the affected seafarer served in the Federal district court for the district in which the vessel is found; and

''(B) withhold or revoke the clearance required under section 60105 of title 46, United States Code, for the vessel.

''(3) REMEDY.—A vessel may obtain clearance from the Secretary after it is withheld or revoked under paragraph (2)(B) if the vessel owner or operator—

''(A) reimburses the Fund the amount required under paragraph (1); or

''(B) provides a bond, or other evidence of financial responsibility sufficient to meet the amount required to be reimbursed under paragraph (1).

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ABANDONS; ABANDONED.—Each of the terms 'abandons' and 'abandoned' means—

''(A) a vessel owner's or operator's unilateral severance of ties with a seafarer; and

''(B) a vessel owner's or operator's failure to provide necessary support of a seafarer.

''(2) FUND.—The term 'Fund' means the Abandoned Seafarers Fund established under this section.

''(3) NECESSARY SUPPORT.—The term 'necessary support' means normal wages and expenses the Secretary considers reasonable for lodging, subsistence, clothing, medical care (including hospitalization), repatriation, and any other support the Secretary considers to be appropriate.

''(4) SEAFARER.—The term 'seafarer' means an alien crewman who is employed or engaged in any capacity on board a vessel subject to this Act.''; and

(2) in section 9, by adding at the end the following:

''(g) Any penalty collected under subsection (a) or (b) that is not paid under that subsection to the person giving information leading to the conviction or assessment of such penalties shall be deposited in the Abandoned Seafarers Fund established under section 18, subject to the limitation in subsection (a)(2)(B) of such section.''.

SEC. 311. CLARIFICATION OF HIGH-RISK WATERS.

Section 55305(e) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''provide armed personnel aboard'' and inserting ''reimburse, subject to the availability of appropriations, the owners or operators of''; and

(B) by inserting ''for the cost of providing armed personnel aboard such vessels'' before ''if''; and

(2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

''(2) In this subsection, the term 'high-risk waters' means waters—

''(A) so designated by the Commandant of the Coast Guard in the maritime security directive issued by the Commandant and in effect on the date on which an applicable voyage begins; and

''(B) in which the Secretary of Transportation determines an act of piracy is likely to occur based on documented acts of piracy that occurred in such waters during the 12-month period preceding the date on which an applicable voyage begins.''.

SEC. 312. UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSELS IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4105 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) In applying this title with respect to an uninspected vessel of less than 24 meters overall in length that carries passengers to or from a port in the United States Virgin Islands, the Secretary shall substitute '12 passengers' for '6 passengers' each place it appears in section 2101(42) if the Secretary determines that the vessel complies with—

''(1) the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Motor Vessels (commonly

referred to as the 'Yellow Code'), as published by the U.K. Maritime and Coastguard Agency and in effect on January 1, 2014; or

''(2) the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Sailing Vessels (commonly referred to as the 'Blue Code'), as published by such agency and in effect on such date.''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 4105(c) of title 46, United States Code, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1) of this section, is amended by striking ''Within twenty-four months of the date of enactment of this subsection, the'' and inserting ''The''.

SEC. 313. OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSEL THIRD-PARTY INSPECTION.

Section 3316 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g), and by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f)(1) Upon request of an owner or operator of an offshore supply vessel, the Secretary shall delegate the authorities set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) with respect to such vessel to a classification society to which a delegation is authorized under that paragraph. A delegation by the Secretary under this subsection shall be used for any vessel inspection and examination function carried out by the Secretary, including the issuance of certificates of inspection and all other related documents.

''(2) If the Secretary determines that a certificate of inspection or related document issued under authority delegated under paragraph (1) of this subsection with respect to a vessel has reduced the operational safety of that vessel, the Secretary may terminate the certificate or document, respectively.

''(3) Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, and for each year of the subsequent 2-year period, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

''(A) the number of vessels for which a delegation was made under paragraph (1);

''(B) any savings in personnel and operational costs incurred by the Coast Guard that resulted from the delegations; and

''(C) based on measurable marine casualty and other data, any impacts of the delegations on the operational safety of vessels for which the delegations were made, and on the crew on those vessels.''.

SEC. 314. SURVIVAL CRAFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 3104. Survival craft

''(a) REQUIREMENT TO EQUIP.—The Secretary shall require that a passenger vessel be equipped with survival craft that ensures that no part of an individual is immersed in water, if—

''(1) such vessel is built or undergoes a major conversion after January 1, 2016; and

''(2) operates in cold waters as determined by the Secretary.

''(b) HIGHER STANDARD OF SAFETY.—The Secretary may revise part 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect before January 1, 2016, if such revision provides a higher standard of safety than is provided by the regulations in effect on or before the date of enactment of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014.

''(c) INNOVATIVE AND NOVEL DESIGNS.—The Secretary may, in lieu of the requirements set out in part 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, allow a passenger vessel to be equipped with a life saving appliance or arrangement of an innovative or novel design that—

''(1) ensures no part of an individual is immersed in water; and

''(2) provides an equal or higher standard of safety than is provided by such requirements as in effect before such date of enactment.

''(d) BUILT DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'built' has the meaning that term has under section 4503(e).''.

(b) REVIEW; REVISION OF REGULATIONS.—

(1) REVIEW.—Not later than December 31, 2015, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a review of—

(A) the number of casualties for individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly as a result of immersion in water, reported to the Coast Guard over the preceding 30-year period, by vessel type and area of operation;

(B) the risks to individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly as a result of immersion in water, by passenger vessel type and area of operation;

(C) the effect that carriage of survival craft that ensure that no part of an individual is immersed in water has on—

(i) passenger vessel safety, including stability and safe navigation;

(ii) improving the survivability of individuals, including individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly; and

(iii) the costs, the incremental cost difference to vessel operators, and the cost effectiveness of requiring the carriage of such survival craft to address the risks to individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly;

(D) the efficacy of alternative safety systems, devices, or measures in improving survivability of individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly; and

(E) the number of small businesses and nonprofit vessel operators that would be affected by requiring the carriage of such survival craft on passenger vessels to address the risks to individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly.

(2) REVISION.—Based on the review conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary may revise regulations concerning the carriage of survival craft pursuant to section 3104(c) of title 46, United States Code.

SEC. 315. TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO TITLE 46.

Section 2116(b)(1)(D) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 93(c)'' and inserting ''section 93(c) of title 14''.

SEC. 316. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DETERMINATION OF COVERED PROGRAMS.—Section 55305(d) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

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

''(1) The Secretary of Transportation shall annually review programs administered by other departments and agencies and determine whether each such program is subject to the requirements of this section.'';

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (5), and by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) The Secretary shall have the sole responsibility to make determinations described in paragraph (1).

''(3) A determination made by the Secretary under paragraph (1) regarding a program shall remain in effect until the Secretary determines that such program is no longer subject to the requirements of this section.

''(4) Each department or agency administering a program determined by the Secretary under paragraph (1) to be subject to the requirements of this section shall administer such program in accordance with this section and any rules or guidance issued by the Secretary. The issuance of such rules or guidance is not a prerequisite to the issuance of final determinations under paragraph (1).'';

(C) in paragraph (5)(A), as so redesignated, by striking ''section;'' and inserting ''section, to determine compliance with the requirements of this section;''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) On the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

''(A) lists the programs determined under paragraph (1) to be subject to the requirements of this section; and

''(B) describes the results of the most recent annual review required by paragraph (5)(A), including identification of the departments and agencies that transported cargo in violation of this section and any action the Secretary took under paragraph (5) with respect to each violation.''.

(2) DEADLINE FOR FIRST REVIEW.—The Secretary of Transportation shall complete the first review and make the determinations required under the amendment made by paragraph (1)(A) by not later than December 31, 2015.

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—Section 55305(d) of title 46, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7) The Secretary may prescribe rules, including interim rules, necessary to carry out paragraph (5). An interim rule prescribed under this paragraph shall remain in effect until superseded by a final rule.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3511(c) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (46 U.S.C. 55305 note) is repealed.

SEC. 317. SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.

(a) NOAA MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM.—Section 3 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking ''AND CONTRACTS'' and inserting ''CONTRACTS, AND OTHER AGREEMENTS'';

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purposes set forth in section 2, the Administrator, acting through the Program, may—

''(A) enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with Federal agencies, States, local governments, regional agencies, interstate agencies, and other entities, including agreements to use the personnel, services, equipment, or facilities of such entities on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis; and

''(B) make grants to—

''(i) State, local, and tribal governments; and

''(ii) institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and commercial organizations with the expertise or responsibility to identify, determine sources of, assess, prevent, reduce, and remove marine debris.'';

(C) by striking paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) and inserting the following:

''(4) GRANTS.—

''(A) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under paragraph (1)(B), an entity specified in that paragraph shall submit to the

Administrator a marine debris project proposal.

''(B) REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—The Administrator shall—

''(i) review each marine debris project proposal submitted under subparagraph (A) to determine if the proposal meets grant criteria established by the Administrator and supports the purposes set forth in section 2;

''(ii) after considering any written comments and recommendations with respect to the review conducted under clause (i), approve or disapprove a grant for the proposal; and

''(iii) provide notification of that approval or disapproval to the entity that submitted the proposal.

''(C) REPORTING.—Each entity receiving a grant under paragraph (1)(B) shall provide reports to the Administrator as required by the Administrator. Each report provided shall include all information determined necessary by the Administrator for evaluating the progress and success of the project for which the grant was provided and describe the impact of the grant on the identification, determination of sources, assessment, prevention, reduction, or removal of marine debris.

''(D) TRAINING.—The Administrator may require a recipient of a grant under this subsection to provide training to persons engaged in marine debris response efforts funded by such grant with respect to the potential impacts of marine debris, including nonindigenous species related to the debris, on the economy of the United States, the marine environment, and navigation safety.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.—

''(1) GRANT PREFERENCE.—In evaluating proposals for grants under subsection (c), the Administrator may give preference in approving grants to proposals that address a severe marine debris event.

''(2) REQUEST FOR A DECLARATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the Governor of a State may request that the Administrator declare a severe marine debris event in such State or a region that includes such State.

''(B) RESPONSE TO REQUESTS.—Not later than 30 days after the Administrator receives a request under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall either—

''(i) declare a severe marine debris event with respect to the request; or

''(ii) submit a response to the Governor who submitted the request, explaining why the Administrator has not declared a severe marine debris event with respect to the request.''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 7 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1956) is amended—

(1) by moving paragraph (5) to appear before paragraph (6);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) NONINDIGENOUS SPECIES.—The term 'nonindigenous species' has the meaning given that term in section 1003 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4702).''.

(c) SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENT DETERMINATION.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may provide funds to an eligible entity impacted by the covered severe marine debris event to assist such entity with the costs of any activity carried out to address the effects of such event.

(B) FUNDING.—The Administrator may provide funds under subparagraph (A) using any funds provided by the Government of Japan for activities to address the effects of the covered severe marine debris event.

(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the following definitions apply:

(i) COVERED SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENT.—The term ''covered severe marine debris event'' means the events, including marine debris, resulting from the March 2011 Tohoku earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

(ii) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means any State (as defined in section 7 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1956)), local, or tribal government.

(2) REPEAL.—The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213) is amended—

(A) in the table of contents in section 1(b) by striking the item relating to section 609; and

(B) by striking section 609.

SEC. 318. MINIMUM TONNAGE.

Section 55305 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) MINIMUM TONNAGE.—With respect to commodities transported under the activities specified in section 55314(b), the percentage specified in subsection (b) of this section shall be treated as 75 percent.''.

SEC. 319. MERCHANT MARINE PERSONNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 81 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 8108. Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as 'the Committee'). The Committee—

''(1) shall act solely in an advisory capacity to the Secretary through the Commandant of the Coast Guard on matters relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards, and other matters as assigned by the Commandant;

''(2) shall review and comment on proposed Coast Guard regulations and policies relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards;

''(3) may be given special assignments by the Secretary and may conduct studies, inquiries, workshops, and fact finding in consultation with individuals and groups in the private sector and with State or local governments;

''(4) shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations reflecting its independent judgment to the Secretary;

''(5) shall meet not less than twice each year; and

''(6) may make available to the Congress recommendations that the Committee makes to the Secretary.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist of not more than 19 members who are appointed by and serve terms of a duration determined by the Secretary. Before filling a position on the Committee, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register soliciting nominations for membership on the Committee.

''(2) REQUIRED MEMBERS.—The Secretary shall appoint as members of the Committee—

''(A) 9 United States citizens with active licenses or certificates issued under chapter 71 or merchant mariner documents issued under chapter 73, including—

''(i) 3 deck officers who represent the viewpoint of merchant marine deck officers, of whom—

''(I) 2 shall be licensed for oceans any gross tons;

''(II) 1 shall be licensed for inland river route with a limited or unlimited tonnage;

''(III) 2 shall have a master's license or a master of towing vessels license;

''(IV) 1 shall have significant tanker experience; and

''(V) to the extent practicable—

''(aa) 1 shall represent the viewpoint of labor; and

''(bb) another shall represent a management perspective;

''(ii) 3 engineering officers who represent the viewpoint of merchant marine engineering officers, of whom—

''(I) 2 shall be licensed as chief engineer any horsepower;

''(II) 1 shall be licensed as either a limited chief engineer or a designated duty engineer; and

''(III) to the extent practicable—

''(aa) 1 shall represent a labor viewpoint; and

''(bb) another shall represent a management perspective;

''(iii) 2 unlicensed seamen, of whom—

''(I) 1 shall represent the viewpoint of able-bodied seamen; and

''(II) another shall represent the viewpoint of qualified members of the engine department; and

''(iv) 1 pilot who represents the viewpoint of merchant marine pilots;

''(B) 6 marine educators, including—

''(i) 3 marine educators who represent the viewpoint of maritime academies, including—

''(I) 2 who represent the viewpoint of State maritime academies and are jointly recommended by such State maritime academies; and

''(II) 1 who represents either the viewpoint of the State maritime academies or the United States Merchant Marine Academy; and

''(ii) 3 marine educators who represent the viewpoint of other maritime training institutions, 1 of whom shall represent the viewpoint of the small vessel industry;

''(C) 2 individuals who represent the viewpoint of shipping companies employed in ship operation management; and

''(D) 2 members who are appointed from the general public.

''(c) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Committee shall elect one of its members as the Chairman and one of its members as the Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman shall act as Chairman in the absence or incapacity of the Chairman, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chairman.

''(d) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Committee may establish and disestablish subcommittees and working groups for any purpose consistent with this section, subject to conditions imposed by the Committee. Members of the Committee and additional persons drawn from the general public may be assigned to such subcommittees and working groups. Only Committee members may chair subcommittee or working groups.

''(e) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate on September 30, 2020.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''8108. Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee.''.

(b) COMPETITIVENESS OF THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the

Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee established under the amendment made by subsection (a) shall—

(A) review—

(i) the merchant mariner licensing, certification, and documentation programs and STCW Convention implementation programs of the 3 flag-states; and

(ii) State maritime academy problems regarding implementation of the STCW Convention; and

(B) report to the Commandant of the Coast Guard—

(i) a description of each specific provision for which United States merchant mariner license, certification, and document and STCW Convention implementation requirements are more stringent than the requirements of such flag-state programs, and a recommendation of whether such United States provision should be retained, modified, or eliminated;

(ii) a description of which United States merchant mariner license, certification, and document evaluation requirements must be complied with separately from similar STCW Convention evaluation requirements, any statutory requirement for such separate compliance, and steps that can be taken by the Coast Guard or by the Congress to minimize such redundant requirements; and

(iii) a description of problems State maritime academies are having in implementing the STCW Convention and recommendations on how to address such problems.

(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within 6 months from the date the Commandant receives the report under paragraph (1)(B), the Commandant shall forward to the Congress a copy of the report with recommendations for actions to implement the report's recommendations.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) 3 FLAG STATES.—The term ''3 flag states'' means the 3 countries that are parties to the Annex to the International Maritime Organization Maritime Safety Committee Circular MSC.1/Circ.1163/Rev.8 dated January 7, 2013, and, of all such countries, have the greatest vessel tonnage documented under the laws of each respective country.

(B) STCW CONVENTION.—The term ''STCW Convention'' means the amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 that entered into force on January 1, 2012.

SEC. 320. REPORT ON EFFECT OF LNG EXPORT CARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS ON JOB CREATION IN THE UNITED STATES MARITIME INDUSTRY.

No later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the number of jobs, including vessel construction and vessel operating jobs, that would be created in the United States maritime industry each year in 2015 through 2025 if liquified natural gas exported from the United States were required to be carried—

(1) before December 31, 2018, on vessels documented under the laws of the United States; and

(2) after such date, on vessels documented under the laws of the United States and constructed in the United States.

TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Maritime Commission $24,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 and 2016.

SEC. 402. TERMS OF COMMISSIONERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) TERMS.—The term of each Commissioner is 5 years. When the term of a Commissioner ends, the Commissioner may continue to serve until a successor is appointed and qualified, but for a period not to exceed one year. Except as provided in paragraph (3), no individual may serve more than 2 terms.''; and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (5), and inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) VACANCIES.—A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy is appointed only for the unexpired term of the individual being succeeded. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy may serve 2 terms in addition to the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of that individual was appointed.

''(4) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—

''(A) LIMITATION ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH REGULATED ENTITIES.—A Commissioner may not have a pecuniary interest in, hold an official relation to, or own stocks or bonds of any entity the Commission regulates under chapter 401 of this title.

''(B) LIMITATION ON OTHER ACTIVITIES.—A Commissioner may not engage in another business, vocation, or employment.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(1) does not apply with respect to a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission appointed and confirmed by the Senate before the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE V—COMMERCIAL VESSEL DISCHARGE REFORM

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Commercial Vessel Discharge Reform Act of 2014''.

SEC. 502. DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF CERTAIN VESSELS.

Section 2(a) of Public Law 110–299 (33 U.S.C. 1342 note) is amended by striking ''during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 18, 2014,''.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 601. DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.

Section 421 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–241; 120 Stat. 547) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

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

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) only applies to a foreign citizen who holds a credential to serve as an officer on a fishing vessel or vessel of similar tonnage.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''An equivalent credential'' and inserting ''A credential''; and

(2) by striking subsections (c), (e), and (f) and redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

SEC. 602. VESSEL DETERMINATION.

The vessel assigned United States official number 1205366 is deemed a new vessel effective on the date of delivery of the vessel after January 1, 2012, from a privately owned United States shipyard, if no encumbrances are on record with the Coast Guard at the time of the issuance of the new certificate of documentation for the vessel.

SEC. 603. LEASE AUTHORITY.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard may lease under section 93(a)(13) of title 14, United States Code, submerged lands and tidelands under the control of the Coast Guard without regard to the limitation under that section with respect to lease duration.

(b) LIMITATION.—The Commandant may lease submerged lands and tidelands under subsection (a) only if—

(1) lease payments are—

(A) received exclusively in the form of cash;

(B) equal to the fair market value of the leased submerged lands or tidelands, as determined by the Commandant; and

(C) deposited in the fund established under section 687 of title 14, United States Code; and

(2) the lease does not provide authority to or commit the Coast Guard to use or support any improvements to such submerged lands or tidelands, or obtain goods or services from the lessee.

SEC. 604. NATIONAL MARITIME STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a national maritime strategy.

(b) CONTENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify—

(A) Federal regulations and policies that reduce the competitiveness of United States flag vessels in the international trade; and

(B) the impact of reduced cargo flow due to reductions in the number of members of the United States Armed Forces stationed or deployed outside of the United States; and

(2) include recommendations to—

(A) make United States flag vessels more competitive in shipping routes between United States and foreign ports;

(B) increase the use of United States flag vessels to carry cargo imported to and exported from the United States;

(C) assure compliance by Federal agencies with chapter 553 of title 46, United States Code;

(D) increase the use of third-party inspection and certification authorities to inspect and certify vessels;

(E) increase the use of short sea transportation routes designated under section 55601(c) of title 46, United States Code, to enhance intermodal freight movements; and

(F) enhance United States shipbuilding capability.

SEC. 605. IMO POLAR CODE NEGOTIATIONS.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and thereafter with the submission of the budget proposal submitted for each of fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018 under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report on—

(1) the status of the negotiations at the International Maritime Organization regarding the establishment of a draft international code of safety for ships operating in polar waters, popularly known as the Polar Code, and any amendments proposed by such a code to be made to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships;

(2) the coming into effect of such a code and such amendments for nations that are parties to those conventions;

(3) impacts, for coastal communities located in the Arctic (as that term is defined

in the section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111)) of such a code or such amendments, on—

(A) the costs of delivering fuel and freight; and

(B) the safety of maritime transportation; and

(4) actions the Secretary must take to implement the requirements of such a code and such amendments.

SEC. 606. VALLEY VIEW FERRY.

(a) EXEMPTION.—Section 8902 of title 46, United States Code, shall not apply to the vessel John Craig (United States official number D1110613) when such vessel is operating on the portion of the Kentucky River, Kentucky, located at approximately mile point 158, in Pool Number 9, between Lock and Dam Number 9 and Lock and Dam Number 10.

(b) APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall apply on and after the date on which the Secretary determines that a licensing requirement has been established under Kentucky State law that applies to an operator of the vessel John Craig.

SEC. 607. COMPETITION BY UNITED STATES FLAG VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an assessment of authorities under subtitle II of title 46, United States Code, that have been delegated to the Coast Guard that impact the ability of vessels documented under the laws of the United States to effectively compete in the carriage of merchandise and passengers in the international trade.

(b) REVIEW OF DIFFERENCES WITH IMO STANDARDS.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall include a review of differences between United States laws, policies, regulations, and guidance governing the inspection of vessels documented under the laws of the United States and standards set by the International Maritime Organization governing the inspection of vessels.

(c) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commandant enters into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences under subsection (a), the Commandant shall submit the assessment required under such subsection to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 608. SURVEY.

Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a survey of the parcel of real property under the administrative control of the Coast Guard, consisting of approximately 1.95 acres (measured at the mean low-water mark) located at the entrance to Gig Harbor, Washington, and commonly known as the Gig Harbor Sand Spit Area.

SEC. 609. FISHING SAFETY GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) FISHING SAFETY TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4502(i)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2010 through 2014'' and inserting ''2015 and 2016''.

(b) FISHING SAFETY RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4502(j)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2010 through 2014'' and inserting ''2015 and 2016''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4005.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 4005 is the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014. It reauthorizes funding for the Coast Guard through fiscal year 2016 at levels that are fiscally sound and will reverse the misguided cuts proposed by this administration. The President proposed to slash the service's acquisition budget by over 20 percent, reduce the number of servicemembers by over 1,300, undermine readiness by cutting programmed hours for aircraft, and jeopardize the success of research and rescue missions by taking fixed-wing aircraft crews off of immediate alert status.

□ 1700

The President's budget request will only worsen the Coast Guard's growing gaps in mission performance, increase acquisition delays, drive up the costs of the new assets, and deny our servicemembers the critical resources needed to perform their duties.

H.R. 4005 provides sufficient funding to ensure these cuts do not happen and the service has what it needs to successfully conduct its missions.

In 2012—that is the last year we have the numbers for—the Coast Guard responded to over 19,700 search and rescue cases; saved over 3,500 lives; conducted over 20,000 safety, security, and environmental inspections of U.S. and foreign flag commercial vessels, more importantly; and interdicted over 2,900 undocumented migrants and 163 metric tons of illegal drugs.

The Coast Guard is our first line of defense in this country. H.R. 4005 is going to fund the eighth national security cutter. That is the last one. It is a 425-foot frigate that the Navy is even jealous of.

It funds six fast response cutters over the next 2 years. It also prepares us to buy the new offshore patrol cutter, and it also transfers 14 C–27Js from the Air Force to the Coast Guard for not a penny—not a dime—not a penny—totally free—transfers it from the Air Force to the Coast Guard. It can put those into effect.

The bill also makes several reforms to Coast Guard authorities, as well as laws governing shipping and navigation. Specifically, H.R. 4005 supports Coast Guard servicemembers by authorizing military pay raises and enhancing military benefits.

There are about 42,000 Active Duty Coast Guardsmen patrolling all the navigable waters throughout the United States in rivers, bays, and seas and also every single piece of coastline that we have—42,000.

Compare that to the Marine Corps numbers, over 175,000; the Army, over 400,000; yet the Coast Guard is responsible for every single piece of American water, every inland waterway, the Great Lakes, and every river. That is what the Coast Guard is responsible for.

If you talk about weapons of mass destruction coming in through American ports from the ocean, the Coast Guard is our first line of defense there, too.

This bill improves Coast Guard mission effectiveness by replacing and modernizing Coast Guard assets in a cost-effective manner. It enhances oversight of the Coast Guard, reduces inefficient operations, and saves taxpayer dollars by making commonsense reforms to Coast Guard missions and administration.

The bill helps veterans make an easier transition from the Coast Guard into the life of a mariner, so they can get out and get good-paying jobs in industry, so it gives them time and service for their Coast Guard time, as opposed to making them go through all of the hurdles, jumps, and hoops that you would have to go through otherwise.

It encourages job growth in the maritime sector by cutting regulatory burdens on job creators, and it reauthorizes and reforms the structure and operations of the Federal Maritime Commission.

H.R. 4005 is a bipartisan effort that was put together in close consultation with the minority. I want to thank Ranking Members RAHALL and GARAMENDI for their efforts and Chairman SHUSTER for his leadership.

I would also like to thank John Rayfield and Geoff Gosselin on the committee staff, whose depths of knowledge on the Coast Guard and Maritime issues are unfathomable, and Lieutenant Commander Stephen West, my Coast Guard fellow that was our reality check in this committee by giving us great, sane advice when we needed it.

Finally, I want to take a minute to point out that this will be the last Coast Guard authorization bill that will benefit from the advice and support of the only Member of Congress with service in the Coast Guard, our colleague and friend, HOWARD COBLE.

HOWARD is a Korean war veteran with 5 years of Active Duty in the Coast Guard and another 18 years in the Coast Guard Reserve. He is the founder of the Congressional Coast Guard Caucus, as well as an active member and former chairman of our subcommittee.

Throughout his career in Congress, HOWARD has been a tireless advocate for the men and women of the Coast Guard. I thank him and commend him for his service to our Nation and his contributions to this and past Coast Guard authorizations and to this Congress.

I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 20, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 4005, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, as amended. This legislation includes matters that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services.

Our committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 4005, and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Our committee also appreciates efforts by your staff to coordinate on matters that fall in our Rule X jurisdiction in advance. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over this legislation, I do not intend to request sequential referral on H.R. 4005. By waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Armed Services does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee which is named to consider the provisions over which we have jurisdiction.

Please place this letter and your committee's response into the committee report to accompany H.R. 4005 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 25, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4005, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014. I appreciate your willingness to support expediting the consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

I acknowledge that by waiving consideration of this bill, the Committee on Armed Services does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar legislation. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 4005 in the bill report filed by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, as well as in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation, and I look forward to working with the Committee on Armed Services as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: On February 11, 2014, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure ordered reported, with amendment, H.R. 4005, the ''Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014.'' The reported version of H.R. 4005 includes provisions within the Rule X Jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security regarding border security, port security, research and development, and the organization, administration, and general management of the Department of Homeland Security.

Due to the desire to bring H.R. 4005 to the House floor in an expeditious manner, the Committee on Homeland Security will forgo any consideration of H.R. 4005. I take this action, however, with the mutual understanding that by forgoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. In addition, our Committee reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and I ask that you support this request. Finally, I ask that a copy of exchange of letters be included in your committee's report on H.R. 4005 and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4005, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014. I appreciate your willingness to support expediting the consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

I acknowledge that by waiving consideration of this bill, the Committee on Homeland Security does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar legislation. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 4005 in the bill report filed by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, as well as in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation, and I look forward to working with the Committee on Homeland Security as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

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

H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, is bipartisan legislation.

Maintaining a safe, reliable, and efficient maritime economy enables foreign and domestic trade to fuel the U.S. economy, and it remains vital. This legislation will provide the Coast Guard with the resources and policy tools it needs to fulfill its vital missions.

I want to thank Chairman HUNTER and his staff for their willingness to work with me and several of the Democratic Members, and I also want to commend Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member NICK RAHALL for their valuable contributions to this bill. We thank the gentlemen.

H.R. 4005 will provide not only the budget stability for the Coast Guard for the next 2 years, it will also advance several important initiatives to revitalize our U.S. maritime industry.

For example, H.R. 4005 will better align the Coast Guard's mission needs with its long-term capital planning and annual budgetary processes, and explicit cooperative agreement authority is also granted.

It provides a new multiyear procurement authority for the offshore patrol cutter, the OPC, a critical and new asset. It directs the administration to enforce our cargo preference laws. No way out, guys. Enforce those laws and regulations, something that is long overdue.

It will streamline the administrative processes to make it easier for our veterans to get their civilian licenses and find jobs in the merchant marine.

Now, natural gas is a strategic American asset that is allowing America to enjoy low energy costs and a resurgence of American manufacturing. The export of LNG at a modest level could create even more American jobs if that LNG is transported on American-made LNG tankers flying the American flag with American sailors.

The currently approved export terminals will require approximately 100 LNG tankers. This tanker fleet could be American made, phased in as the LNG export terminals come on line and LNG exports grow. American shipyards could build these tankers over the next decade and beyond, creating thousands of jobs and maintaining a vital industrial base for America and our Navy.

This legislation does direct the Government Accountability Office, the GAO, to assess how future transport of LNG on U.S. tankers could affect American job creation in the U.S. maritime industry. It is a good first step, but we should be doing more.

This legislation also directs the Department of Transportation to develop a new national maritime strategy, a much-needed revision and new thought into what that strategy could be.

The bill authorizes a needed increase in the funding for the Federal Maritime Commission, and the bill reauthorizes the Small Shipyard Grant Program through fiscal year 2017 to improve the quality and competitiveness of our small, domestic shipyards.

There is more to be done. Specifically, title 11 needs to be rewritten and redone so that our American shipyards will have the loan guaranties that they need to construct the ships, perhaps those LNG tankers.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4005 is responsible legislation. It deserves an ''aye'' vote, and I want to thank all of who have been involved in writing it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the chairman of the full Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014.

The United States Coast Guard enforces all U.S. laws on U.S. waterways and, when necessary, on the high seas. This service saves the life and property of those who sail in our waters for recreation and commerce.

They protect our marine natural resources and secure our borders against illegal drugs and against human trafficking. They have a huge job, and they deserve our thanks.

H.R. 4005 provides the service with our support. This bipartisan legislation authorizes the Coast Guard to carry out all its vital missions, improves its mission effectiveness, and helps replace and modernize aging Coast Guard assets in a cost-effective manner; it enhances oversight and reduces inefficiency to save taxpayer dollars.

Additionally, the bill strengthens U.S. maritime transportation, reduces regulatory burdens to create jobs and encourage economic growth, and improves the Nation's competitiveness.

Specifically, it authorizes funding for Coast Guard activities in 2015 and 2016 at fiscally responsible levels that will allow the Coast Guard to continue updating its fleet of aging cutters and continue operations, supports Coast Guard servicemen and women, and encourages the Coast Guard to work with the private sector; it enhances Congressional oversight, improves Coast Guard acquisition activities, requires development of a national maritime strategy, creates opportunities for our veterans, and it reforms the Federal Maritime Commission.

I would also like to make note, as Chairman HUNTER noted, this is our colleague HOWARD COBLE's last term as a member of the Coast Guard Subcommittee. The gentleman from North Carolina has served on the subcommittee and its predecessor, the Merchant Marine Committee, since he came to Congress in 1985.

He is the only former coastie now serving in Congress. I know the Coast Guard appreciates his strong support for the service, particularly during his term as subcommittee chairman on this committee. I know all the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee members join me in wishing HOWARD a well-deserved and happy retirement.

I want to thank and commend Subcommittee Chairman HUNTER for introducing this bill and working with Ranking Member RAHALL and also Ranking Member GARAMENDI for their work on this bill.

I also will take notice that our good friend from the Virgin Islands is in the Chamber working on a couple provisions that I know are going to be very beneficial to the U.S. territories and to the U.S. Virgin Islands. I thank her for her hard work on this legislation.

I look forward to working with the Senate to get the final version of this bill enacted this year.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the good lady from Los Angeles, California (Ms. HAHN).

Ms. HAHN. Mr. GARAMENDI, thank you for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to discuss the importance of an amendment that I offered to this bill, but withdrew it because of jurisdictional concerns.

In exchange for dropping this amendment, the language was supposed to be included in a manager's amendment, but, unfortunately, the suspension calendar precluded this from happening. It is my hope that, with the help of the chairman, this issue will be taken up during the conference with the Senate.

Under current law, port authorities are required to develop port security plans which are then submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard for review. However, ports are not required to address cybersecurity in these plans.

Without a requirement, many of our ports have not addressed this issue, creating a gap in our Nation's port security.

Last July, the Brookings Institute released a report stating our Nation's port cybersecurity awareness is remarkably low. Without requiring ports to address this vulnerability, we risk exposing our Nation to a disruption that could devastate our economy and grind the flow of commerce to a halt in a matter of days.

That is why I offered an amendment to this bill that would have required that ports address cybersecurity in their port security plans that they submit to the Coast Guard every 5 years. Unfortunately, this language was not included in the final bill, and it is my hope that it is put in the bill during the conference as it was intended.

By requiring every port to begin to address cybersecurity in their port security plans, we can help avoid a potentially devastating attack that would leave our Nation's freight network crippled beyond repair.

I appreciate the chairman's willingness to work with me on this issue, and I look forward to his support in trying to address this issue in conference.

Mr. HUNTER. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. HAHN. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. To the extent that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has jurisdiction over this issue, I look forward to working with the gentlelady from California to include her proposal to include cybersecurity as an element in facility security plans required under chapter 701 of title 46 because it is important, and we need to figure out who is the best at it, who can do it.

It might not be the Coast Guard. It might not be the actual ports. It might be the Navy. I think it is important, and I look forward to working with you on the issue.

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

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I thank the gentleman from California for the time, and I also thank him for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I would like to commend Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL for their hard work on the legislation before the House today.

H.R. 4005, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, authorizes the United States Coast Guard, a critical component of the Department of Homeland Security, for 2 years.

Every day, the men and women of the Coast Guard work to protect our ports and waterways from terrorist attack and other dangers.

□ 1715

It is for that very reason that the Committee on Homeland Security should have considered this legislation. Unfortunately, Chairman MCCAUL rejected my request that, consistent with precedent the committee established in prior Congresses, he insist on a referral of this measure.

Doing so would have ensured that the members of the Committee on Homeland Security could inform the bill's security-related provisions in an open markup setting.

As a result of Chairman MCCAUL's decision to waive the right of the committee to consider this measure, the House has before it a bill that does not fully take into account the statutory mission of the Department of Homeland Security component it authorizes.

In fact, it does not have a single provision solely dedicated to port and maritime security. You just heard the gentlelady from California talk about port security and how important it is, and I appreciate the gentleman from California saying that he would work with her, but it is also a responsibility of the Committee on Homeland Security.

While disappointing, I do not blame the leadership of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the absence of such provisions. It is the responsibility of the Committee on Homeland Security to leave its mark on this important homeland security legislation.

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. To be clear, this is not a case of the Committee on Homeland Security lacking

the jurisdiction needed to inform the legislation before us today. It is a case of a chairman failing to ensure his committee was afforded the right to exercise its jurisdictional authority.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, February 11, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Ford House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, Cannon House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL AND SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MILLER: We write to urge you to insist upon a sequential referral of H.R. 4005, the ''Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014,'' and to afford the Members of the Committee on Homeland Security (the Committee) the opportunity to consider this important homeland security legislation in an open markup session.

Despite H.R. 4005 containing numerous provisions within the Committee's Rule X, clause 1(j) jurisdiction, the Speaker chose not to refer the bill to the Committee upon introduction, opting to refer the bill to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) alone. As you are aware, H.R. 4005, as ordered to be reported by T&I today, contains numerous provisions within the legislative jurisdiction of the Committee.

Since being established as a standing committee in the 109th Congress, the Committee has waived its right to a sequential referral of legislation authorizing the United States Coast Guard (USCG) on only two occasions. The first instance was in the 109th Congress and the most recent was during the 112th Congress. In contrast, in the 110th and 111th Congresses, we made certain that bills authorizing the USCG, a critical component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), were referred to the Committee.

As recently as last week, the Committee's Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security held a public hearing to explore the USCG's homeland security mission. During that hearing, Chairman Miller emphasized the important homeland security mission of the USCG when she stated:

''Since 9/11, the Coast Guard has taken an ever-increasing role in the protection of our nation. We've given the Coast Guard additional responsibility. We have tasked them to specifically focus their limited resources on port and maritime security.''

We concur with Chairman Miller's sentiment regarding the critical role the USCG plays in ensuring the security of our ports and maritime system. To ensure H.R. 4005 reflects the USCG's homeland security mission, we urge you to insist on a referral and hold an open markup session of the bill.

In addition to our desire to see the Members of our Committee have an opportunity to shape the policy in a bill authorizing a critical component of DHS, we believe it is critical that the Committee exercise its jurisdictional prerogative whenever possible. H.R. 4005 represents an opportunity for you to ensure that the Committee exercises its existing jurisdictional authority to the fullest extent possible.

Thank you, in advance, for your attention to this request. Should you or your staff have any questions on this matter, please contact Ms. Rosaline Cohen, Chief Counsel for Legislation of the Committee on Homeland Security, at x6–2616.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Ranking Member.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Ford House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, Cannon House Office Building, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL AND SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MILLER: On February 11, 2014, we wrote urging you to insist upon a sequential referral of H.R. 4005, the ''Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014.'' Today, we are writing to express our deep disappointment with your decision to waive the Committee's right to a sequential referral of this important homeland security legislation. As your letter to the Speaker on February 12, 2014, requesting a sequential referral of the bill rightly points out, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) is charged with port, waterway, and costal security, putting them on the forefront of defending the Nation's maritime borders.

Since being established as a standing committee in the 109th Congress, the Committee has failed to receive referrals of bills authorizing the Coast Guard during Republican control of the House of Representatives. In contrast, during the 110th and 111th Congresses, during our time in the Majority, we insisted that both bills authorizing the Coast Guard be referred to the Committee. During the 112th Congress, Chairman KING decided to break with Committee precedent by waiving the Committee's right to a referral of H.R. 2838, the ''Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011.'' Given the critical role the USCG plays in ensuring the security of our ports and maritime system, we are disappointed with your decision to continue the Republican precedent and waive the Committee's right to a referral of H.R. 4005. This decision not only denies our Members the opportunity to consider this port and maritime security legislation in Committee but also cleared the way for the measure to be considered by the Full House on the suspension calendar, thereby denying our Members the opportunity to offer port and maritime security amendments to this critical authorizing legislation.

During the Committee's hearing on February 26, 2014, titled The Secretary's Vision for the Future—Challenges and Priorities, you responded to Subcommittee on Transportation Security Ranking Member RICHMOND's urging that the Committee insist on a referral of H.R. 4005 by stating that you intend to offer a Coast Guard reauthorization bill. We would ask, for the record, for details on your Coast Guard reauthorization proposal, including the scope of the measure and the timeline for consideration. Further, we would like to know what relationship, if any, there is between your decision to waive a referral to H.R. 4005 and this forthcoming effort. We are eager to work with you on the Coast Guard reauthorization bill you announced you would be offering for consideration by the Committee.

Should you or your staff have any further questions on this matter, please contact Ms. Rosaline Cohen, Chief Counsel for Legislation of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Ranking Member.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would like to indulge in a colloquy with Mr. HUNTER.

I want to thank the chairman of the subcommittee for yielding and, again, thank him for his work. Section 221 of H.R. 4005 prohibits the Secretary of Homeland Security from dismantling or disposing of any former LORAN system infrastructure for at least 1 year from the date of enactment of the act or until the date the Secretary notifies the committee that such infrastructure is not needed for a positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted, whichever is later; is that the chairman's understanding?

Mr. HUNTER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Yes, it is.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I ask the chairman, I am aware there are several important issues surrounding the disposition of LORAN stations, including the disposition of lands associated with them that we should closely examine and deal with in an appropriate manner.

I ask the chairman and my colleagues on the committee to work with me to resolve these issues in the context of H.R. 4005 as this bill moves forward.

Mr. HUNTER. To the extent that these issues are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I look forward to working with the gentleman from Alaska with respect to resolving the disposition of the assets associated with the Coast Guard LORAN stations in a manner satisfactory to the longest-serving member of the subcommittee and its predecessors.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I thank the chairman. I look forward to working on this issue further, and I also want to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), the only former coastguardsman now serving in Congress.

To find a finer gentleman and colleague than Mr. COBLE would be difficult, indeed. We will miss you, Howard, so please stay in touch.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues today in support of H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act. I know that the chairmen and ranking members have

worked diligently on the underlying bill, and I commend them for their efforts.

Importantly, I am grateful for the opportunity to work with them to add language from two bills I introduced to help coastal communities dealing with increasing marine debris.

Since the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan in 2011, residents of the Pacific Northwest have faced an increase in the volume of marine debris reaching our coast. This debris is a hazard to navigators, a threat to the marine environment, and a potential drag on coastal tourism.

Following the arrival of a 66-foot dock on an Oregon beach in June 2012, I worked with a bipartisan coalition on two bills to improve the Federal response to marine debris.

The first proposal, which I introduced with the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER), was introduced to expedite NOAA's grant process for debris cleanup by allowing NOAA to prioritize grant applications from communities affected by a severe marine debris event.

I partnered with Congressman DON YOUNG on the second proposal to allow NOAA to reimburse States for debris cleanup costs with a generous $5 million gift from the Government of Japan.

I would like to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee for their support, with special thanks to my Oregon colleague, Ranking Member DEFAZIO.

I would also like to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for including these proposals in the underlying bill.

I am pleased to have worked with so many Members on the passage of these bipartisan marine provisions, and I urge a ''yes'' vote on the underlying bill.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and thank the leadership of my good friend and colleague from California (Mr. HUNTER) on his recognition that we need to go forward with this Coast Guard reauthorization.

Not only does it put in good reforms and continues to work in a real way to support our men and women who serve in the Coast Guard, but it does so in—quite frankly, in a very streamlined way, so I thank the leadership of Congressman HUNTER.

I want to go on further and recognize a gentleman from North Carolina, the dean of the delegation, Congressman HOWARD COBLE. Not only is Howard a good friend, but he has served with distinction for more than 30 years here in this House.

Being an active member of the Coast Guard, it was his leadership and truly his work with Congressman HUNTER that really set this in motion. Having, at the age of 83, decided that it is time for him to retire from representing the people of the great State of North Carolina, I just want to acknowledge this particular day, Mr. Speaker, on a great statesman, truly a gentleman.

When you look up ''gentleman'' in the dictionary, it should have HOWARD COBLE's picture right beside it. He is the epitome of what it is to not only represent the people of North Carolina in such a fine fashion, but he works across party aisles.

He works with his colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to make sure that our country is served in the best way possible. It is with great pleasure that I get to speak on behalf of this bill and, in doing so, honor a man who knows the Coast Guard well and knows that the men and women who serve there serve our country in a the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to engage in a colloquy with the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

It is my understanding that this legislation contains a provision that would survey property at the open water entrance from the Puget Sound to the city of Gig Harbor, Washington, commonly known as the Gig Harbor sand spit area.

That property was leased to the city by the Coast Guard in 1988 to construct a small replica lighthouse with a private aid to navigation on the parcel and that the city and other local parties have financed, operated, and maintained the sand spit area, lighthouse, and private aid since that time and have used the property primarily for recreational purposes.

Mr. HUNTER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILMER. I yield to the chairman.

Mr. HUNTER. That is my understanding as well.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, the Coast Guard in 2005 determined that the property was in excess to their operational requirements and authorized the disposal of the property.

In addition, the city has been in discussions with the Coast Guard since 2011 regarding transferring the property.

I yield to the chairman.

Mr. HUNTER. That is also my understanding.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, the legislation before us today provides for a survey of the Gig Harbor sand spit area.

Am I correct in understanding that, when the Federal Government completes the survey, the chairman will work with me to convey this property to the city?

I yield to the chairman.

Mr. HUNTER. To the extent that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has jurisdiction over this property, I will work with the gentleman from Washington to convey the property to the city.

Mr. KILMER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate you working with me on this issue.

It is very important to my constituents, and I look forward to a final resolution in the very near future. The Gig Harbor sand spit area is a cherished maritime gateway to the city of Gig Harbor, which is an area in my district which has a long and rich history of boating and commercial fishing.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 8½ minutes remaining.

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

One thing that this bill does is not only does it inventory this property—or it would—it also works to reduce the Coast Guard's excess property in general.

It requires the Coast Guard to conduct an inventory of all of its real property and to determine which property can be divested or consolidated to save taxpayers money and to give the land back to the municipalities and cities and counties in which it resides.

This is not just a Coast Guard bill. As the ranking member spoke about—and the chairman of the full committee, Mr. SHUSTER, it is beyond the Coast Guard in that this bill is important because it deals with maritime transportation. A healthy maritime industry is vital to our national security.

Throughout our history, the Navy has relied on U.S.-flagged commercial vessels, crewed by American merchant mariners to carry troops, weapons, and supplies to the battlefield.

When I deployed on my second tour to Fallujah, Iraq, in 2004 out of San Diego, I was in charge as the logistics officer of driving down all of our equipment with Humvees and our big battery cannons down to the local pier in San Diego. We then put this on a roll-on/roll-off boat.

I made sure everything was the way it was supposed to be, and that is how all of our equipment got over to Iraq. This boat was driven—manned by American merchant mariners.

It was not driven by the Navy or the Coast Guard, but by civilian mariners that do this for us; so I have a very close personal relationship, if you will, because all of the gear that we fell in on in Fallujah was stuff we had shipped over from San Diego to Iraq.

During Operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom, U.S.-flagged commercial vessels transported 63 percent of all military cargos, like mine, moved to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Since we cannot rely on foreign vessels and crews to provide for our national security—let's say we relied on the Russians to move our military equipment like we rely on them to move our people and equipment into space—it is critical that we maintain a robust fleet of U.S.-flagged vessels, a large cadre of skilled American workers, and a strong shipyard industrial base.

Let me go through what the maritime sector provides to our economy

very quickly. The U.S. maritime industry currently employs more than 260,000 Americans, providing nearly $29 billion in annual wages.

There are more than 40,000 commercial vessels currently flying the American flags on our waterways, and the vast majority of these vessels are engaged in domestic commerce, moving over 100 million passengers and $400 billion worth of goods between ports in the U.S. on an annual basis.

Each year, the U.S. maritime industry accounts for over $100 billion in economic output, and these are not just port cities that get this. It is the inland waterways, the Mississippi, the Great Lakes, all of the different locks and dams throughout Pennsylvania and the Northeast, including the Colorado River.

Those are places where the Coast Guard is hard at work and our maritime industry is creating jobs and keeping people's mortgages paid and food on their table.

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, might I inquire as to the amount of time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 9¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding, and I thank the manager of this legislation.

I rise with an appreciation for this legislation and also a concern. I think this legislation would have been important to have been referred and for the waiver not to be exercised to the Homeland Security Committee.

I serve as the ranking member on the Border Security and Maritime Security Committee, and it is known that the Coast Guard has a responsibility for defending the Nation's maritime borders. It is charged with port waterway and coastal security.

□ 1730

With that in mind, it would be appropriate to address those questions of Homeland Security. I notice that this bill limits and reduces the number of commissioned officers, alters the mission of Coast Guard centers, and did not come before our committee.

At a hearing on the oil spill in Houston, which has an impact on America's waterways, particularly around the gulf region and has an impact on security, it was clear that the Coast Guard were the first responders. They were the first responders in terms of the potential rescue. They were the first responders in terms of being the cops of the waterway, to ensure that all of those who needed to use that waterway and the ports were able do so. They were the ones that protected the individuals that were on cruise lines that were left offshore, and they were, of course, taking care of commerce. This is clearly part of the responsibility of Homeland Security.

As I indicated, we are very proud of the Coast Guard. I am always reminded of the great service they rendered during Hurricane Katrina, saving over 1,000 persons.

I rise today to hope that we will have an opportunity to address the questions dealing with security. As I do so, however, I want to commend Admiral Robert Papp, Jr., who is a commandant now of the United States Coast Guard, 24th United States Coast Guard Commandant and has served 39 years. Let us salute this great American.

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Commandant Papp is a great American. He has been a friend to not only those of us in the United States Congress who are on the responsible committees, but he has been a friend to his men and women that serve in the United States Coast Guard.

Commandant Papp, we salute you for your grand service and look forward to your continued service to America, but more importantly, we owe you a great deal of respect and honor. Thank you so very much.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak with reservations regarding the consideration of H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act under a suspension because the bill establishes appropriations limits; reduces the number of commissioned officers; alters the mission of Coast Guard Centers; and did not come before the Homeland Security Committee under a sequential referral.

The bill before the House accomplishes several goals that may have been shared by the House Transportation Committee and the House Committee on Homeland Security, but it also addresses areas that should have had more deliberation before coming to the House Floor for a vote with no opportunity to amend the legislation.

On February 11, 2014, as Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, I joined Ranking Member of the Full Homeland Security Committee Bennie Thompson in writing to urge a sequential referral of H.R. 4005, the "Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014."

We were disappointed with the decision of the Homeland Security's Chair and Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security to waive the Committee's right to a sequential referral of this important homeland security legislation.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is charged with port, waterway, and coastal security, putting them on the forefront of defending the Nation's maritime borders.

On March 25, 2014, I participated in the hearing held by the Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communication when FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate testified.

One of the provisions of H.R. 4005 would prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from making a determination that a waterway is navigable for purposes of the Coast Guard's jurisdiction without conducting a rulemaking under appropriate administrative procedures.

This provision of H.R. 4005 could have huge repercussions in an emergency related to a waterway's safety.

I raised the issue with Administrator Fugate regarding the critical role of the Coast Guard in making sure that our ports and waterways are navigable because of the 168,000 gallons of oil spilled due to a tugboat accident into the Port of Houston which led to a shutdown.

The Port of Houston is critical infrastructure:

According to the Department of Commerce in 2012, Texas exports totaled $265 billion.

The Port of Houston is a 25-mile-long complex of diversified public and private facilities located just a few hours' sailing time from the Gulf of Mexico.

In 2012 ship channel-related businesses contribute 1,026,820 jobs and generate more than $178.5 billion in statewide economic impact.

For the past 11 consecutive years, Texas has outpaced the rest of the country in exports.

First ranked U.S. port in foreign tonnage;

Second ranked U.S. port in total tonnage;

Seventh ranked U.S. container port by total TEUs in 2012;

Largest Texas port with 46 percent of market share by tonnage;

Largest Texas container port with 96 percent market share in containers by total TEUs in 2012;

Largest Gulf Coast container port, handling 67 percent of U.S. Gulf Coast container traffic in 2012;

Second ranked U.S. port in terms of cargo value (based on CBP Customs port definitions).

The Government Accountability Office (GAO), reports that this port, and its waterways, and vessels are part of an economic engine handling more than $700 billion in merchandise annually.

The Port of Houston houses approximately 100 steamship lines offering services that link Houston with 1,053 ports in 203 countries.

The Port of Houston has $15 billion petrochemical complex, the largest in the nation and second largest worldwide.

The bill does establish rules for the Coast Guard engaging in ice patrol agreements with other nations and the need to establish reimbursement agreements prior to the commitment of resources in ice patrols.

The bill provides for compensation of ship owners and operators who provide necessary support to seafarers paroled into the United States to facilitate investigations, reporting, documentation, or adjudications.

The bill also addresses the definition of "high-risk waters," for the purpose of determining when owners and operators of U.S. vessels carrying government-impelled cargo are to be reimbursed for the cost of providing armed on-board safety personnel.

Since being established as a standing committee in the 109th Congress, the Homeland Security Committee has failed to receive a referral of a bill authorizing the Coast Guard only during periods of Republican control of the House of Representatives.

In contrast, during the 110th and 111th Congresses, during our time in the Majority, we insisted that both bills authorizing the Coast Guard be referred to the Committee.

Given the critical role the Coast Guard plays in ensuring the security of our ports and maritime system the Homeland Security Committee should never waive its right to consider legislation directly related to homeland security. The Committee on Homeland Security had no chance to provide valuable input in the drafting of H.R. 4005.

H.R. 4005, is an important bill that should have had the attention of the House Committee on Homeland Security, and if not members should have had an opportunity to offer amendments during full House Consideration of the bill.

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014. I want to thank the subcommittee chair, Chairman Hunter, and Subcommittee Ranking Member GARAMENDI, as well as Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL, for their leadership on the committee and their willingness to include language in the bill that would rectify a problem that has hurt the charter boat industry in my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Section 312 of the bill would enable U.S.-owned passenger vessels operating in the Virgin Islands to carry up to 12 passengers, provided the vessels, of course, meet certain safety requirements, something our charter boat industry has been advocating for at least 20 years. Because of the existing rule, our once thriving charter yacht industry has gone to the British Virgin Islands, and estimates of revenue losses to the USVI economy range from $70 million to $100 million annually.

I also want to thank the Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Council for their invaluable assistance. I have been working on this change since coming to the House. And I can honestly say it is only because of their efforts and the support of Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL that we are on the cusp of finally resolving the issue. I thank them again, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4005.

I rise in support of H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014.

I especially want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL for their willingness to include language in the bill that would clarify a problem with the Charter boat industry in my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Section 312 of the bill would enable U.S. owned uninspected passenger vessels operating in the U.S. Virgin Islands to carry up to 12 passengers provided the vessels meet certain safety requirements. The Virgin Islands Charter boat industry has been advocating for this change for at least 20 years.

Because of the rule this section will change, our once thriving charter yacht industry has migrated to the British Virgin Islands where regulations are less restrictive. Estimates of revenue losses to the USVI economy because of the damage to this industry, range from $70 to $100 million annually. This is at a time when the territory's economy has not rebounded from the 2008 recession and the closure of largest private employer.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Council for their invaluable assistance. I have been working on this change since coming to the House and I can honestly say that it is only because of their efforts and the support of Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL that we are on the cusp of finally resolving the issue.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4005, as amended.

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

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

First, I just wanted to say that Congressman RICK LARSEN entered his statement in the RECORD, and his statement speaks to the issue of the Coast Guard providing icebreaking services in the Arctic, and particularly the reconstruction of the polar sea.

I want to thank Mr. HUNTER and the staff, Republican staff, and our staff on our side, David, and the people that worked on this particular piece of legislation.

This legislation is very important to the Coast Guard and to the American economy because it deals with the international trade. Ninety percent or more of the trade and services go by water. This bill provides the Coast Guard with the materials that it needs, with the budget authority, and with important reforms.

The legislation also provides considerable support for the Merchant Marine elements in our committee. It deals in part with the necessity for the national defense.

Chairman HUNTER spoke to the issue of the Maritime Security Program. Similarly, the bill does speak to the Ready Reserve program as well as the breaking of ships, that is, the disposal of ships that have lost their usefulness. It is a comprehensive bill. There are a few more things that we should be doing in this piece of legislation that hopefully we will be able to take up in the Senate or in the conference committee.

I spoke earlier about the export of liquified natural gas, LNG. This is an enormous opportunity for America to rebuild its Merchant Marine. More than 100 ships will be needed to export that LNG. Those should be American-made ships, manned by American sailors, flying under the American flag.

I think we need, also, to work on title XI, the Loan Guarantee Program for ships that are built in the United States. It is very restrictive in its present form.

Chairman HUNTER in his opening remarks also talked about the problem of the appropriations. While this bill does provide authorization authority that should be sufficient for all of these elements, the ultimate money available would be through the appropriation process.

I am very concerned about the austerity budgeting that has consumed this Congress for the last 3 years and appears to be continuing for the next 2. If that happens, all of the good intentions in this bill may be lost upon the shoals of an austerity budget. We need to pay attention to that.

It is a good piece of legislation. It has been a great honor to work on this subcommittee as the ranking member.

I yield back my remaining time, asking for a positive vote on this bill.

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

I would like to thank the ranking member, Mr. GARAMENDI from California. He was great to work with on this. We had some disagreements, but we agree on the majority of it.

I would like to thank you for your support. It was great working with you, and we will do it more in the future.

I would also like to take into account what Mr. GARAMENDI said about an icebreaker. America is the only Arctic nation with no icebreaker. We don't have one. China has them; Russia has them; Canada has them. Just about everybody else that has any Arctic in its sphere of influence has an icebreaker, except for the United States; meaning, if an American oil ship got stuck in the Arctic, guess who would bail them out? Our good friend the Russians, maybe our good friends the Communist Chinese. The Canadians, if we are lucky, will have a ship available so we can at least go with a free country if we had to get that ship out of trouble.

We don't have an icebreaker. That is a travesty. Icebreakers are expensive, especially if you just buy one. They are about a billion dollars by the Coast Guard's account.

There are other options to get an icebreaker. You can lease an icebreaker like you lease a car, and it can be operated by merchant mariners, the same ones that we have been praising. Talking about this bill, that is who could run this icebreaker. We are going to work on that, and that should be this subcommittee and this committee's crowning achievement is getting an American icebreaker on the high seas to support American industry and American seafarers in the Arctic.

Number two, maritime transportation is more than just important to this country; it is what this country is all about. There is an old saying in the Department of Defense—and I was a marine, so let me just throw this out there—whoever controls the oceans controls the world. Now you can say whoever controls space controls the ocean, but whoever controls the oceans controls the world.

America is surrounded by water for the most part. All of our trade comes in through the Pacific or the Atlantic.

It is more than important. It is the most important thing out there that we make sure of two things: that we protect these trade routes on the high seas for goods coming in and out of this country; number 2, we have to secure our ports and coastline from drugs, from illegal immigrants, and, most importantly, from a weapon of mass destruction that might be smuggled to our shoreline and then detonated by one of our port cities. That is easier to do than it is now to fly an airplane and land in an American airport and set something off. It is also easier to do than it is to cross the southern border and sneak across with some weapon of mass destruction. It is easier to get a ship or a cargo container ship with a weapon of mass destruction off of an American coast than it is to get it into this country any other way.

When it comes to maritime transportation, Americans are leading the way in making these ships. We just made in San Diego, a company called NASSCO, a shipbuilding company in San Diego just built or is in the process of building right now the very first liquified natural gas-powered ships. They are not container ships that carry liquified natural gas, LNG, but they are powered by it. They are the first ones in the world. They are being made here in this country. So we might not be able to make cheap ships as easily as nations that don't have the same labor laws or environmental laws, but we can still make the most technologically advanced ships in the world, and we are doing that today.

Lastly, the Coast Guard, approximately 41,000 military personnel—and to my friends that say that the U.S. Coast Guard should be under Homeland Security, the Coast Guard is a fifth branch of the U.S. military. It is actually under DOD. So if we want to move it anywhere, I would say put it under the Armed Services Committee.

Approximately 41,000 military personnel, 8,000 reservists, 8,500 civilian employees, and 30,000 volunteers of the Coast Guard Auxiliary comprise this adaptable responsive military force within the Department of Homeland Security.

As one the Nation's five Armed Forces, the Coast Guard also is prepared to operate as a specialized service to the Navy in times of war or at the President's direction. The Coast Guard is instrumental to the security of our Nation and our maritime transportation system of this Nation which, both of those, are, in turn, the most important things that we can look at when it comes to the high seas and maintaining a robust economy and secure shores.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, the Arctic is fast becoming the 21st-century version of the Northwest Passage. Just four years ago, two German ships followed a Russian icebreaker to complete the first commercial shipment across the Arctic. Last year, with the warmest Arctic summer on record, 46 ships made the crossing. An active and well-maintained icebreaker fleet is a key part of our country's responsibility as an Arctic nation.

As Ranking Member of the Coast Guard subcommittee in the 112th Congress, I had the privilege to work with Representative LOBIONDO, who was the Chairman at that time. We agreed it was time for the Coast Guard to make a decision about how to move forward with its icebreaker fleet. In the last Coast Guard reauthorization bill, we asked the agency to look at the business case for reactivating the *Polar Sea*, which is currently docked in Seattle.

That analysis showed that for about $100 million, we could have a functioning *Polar Sea*, which is about one-tenth the price tag for a brand new icebreaker. In my view that is a bargain.

However, the Coast Guard still has not come to a conclusion about what to do with the *Polar Sea*. Instead, it is currently sitting in cold storage in Seattle. Every day the *Polar Sea* sits without maintenance it loses value.

The bill before us would require the Coast Guard to use the analysis Representative LOBIONDO and I requested and make a decision about the *Polar Sea*.

I was pleased to hear Coast Guard Admiral Papp talk about reactivation of the *Polar Sea* in a positive light during a subcommittee hearing last week. I believe the right course of action is to reactivate the *Polar Sea*.

But that decision needs to be made soon.

The Coast Guard also needs to start moving on the next generation of icebreakers.

I understand that the intent of this legislation is to encourage the Department of Defense, the National Science Foundation and other interested agencies to partner with the Coast Guard in building a new fleet of icebreakers.

However, I am concerned that by tying the Coast Guard's hands until those agencies fully engage in this process, we may be delaying much needed progress towards building a new icebreaker.

That's why I am pleased that Chairman DUNCAN and Ranking Member GARAMENDI included some changes I requested to the icebreaker language in this bill to ensure that we do not hinder what little progress is being made on icebreakers today.

I hope we can continue to work together to ensure our country meets its responsibilities as an Arctic nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4005, the "Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act." I want to commend Chairman HUNTER, Ranking Member GARAMENDI, and their staffs for the amount of work they put in to have this bipartisan measure brought to the floor.

This important legislation contains a provision based on the "Commercial Vessel Discharges Reform Act of 2013" introduced by myself and Mr. LARSEN. This provision puts in place a permanent moratorium from Environmental Protection Agency, state regulations and fines governing incidental discharges from commercial fishing vessels and all other commercial vessels less than 79 feet. With our stagnant economy, the government must not enact federal penalties which could discourage economic growth and job creation. The fines that are scheduled to be levied against our commercial fishermen for incidental charges will be devastating to our national and local South Jersey businesses.

In conclusion, I'd also like to praise the tireless efforts on behalf of all Coasties that our colleague Mr. COBLE has worked on during his entire career in the House. A Coasty himself, he has always fought for the men and women serving in this distinguished uniform and we will surely miss him.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 4005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4005, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 92) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 92

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

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

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the 33rd Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service (in this resolution referred to as the "Memorial Service"), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2013.

(b) DATE OF MEMORIAL SERVICE.—The Memorial Service shall be held on May 15, 2014, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate, with preparation for the event to begin on May 12, 2014.

SEC. 2. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL HONOR GUARD AND PIPE BAND EXHIBITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (in this resolution referred to as the "Exhibition"), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to allow law enforcement representatives to exhibit their ability to demonstrate Honor Guard programs and provide for a bag pipe exhibition.

(b) DATE OF EXHIBITION.—The exhibition shall be held on May 14, 2014, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol

and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

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

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

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsors of the Memorial Service and Exhibition shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the events.

SEC. 4. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsors referred to in section 3(b) are authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment, as may be required for the Memorial Service and Exhibition.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 92.

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

There was no objection.

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

H. Con. Res. 92 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition. I am pleased to be the sponsor of this resolution along with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON).

These events are held each year as part of Police Week to honor the men and women who sacrifice their lives in the line of duty.

□ 1745

This year, over 110 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers will be honored for their ultimate sacrifice—giving their lives in the line of duty to protect us.

Three of these officers are from Pennsylvania, including one from my district, Correctional Officer Eric Williams of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. Officer Williams was beaten and stabbed to death by an inmate in Federal prison in Wayne County. These officers put their lives on the line every day, doing a hard job that protects law-abiding citizens from violent criminals. Officer Williams' sacrifice and the sacrifices of those like him should not be forgotten. I support the passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

As a former law enforcement officer from the great State of Indiana, I am a very proud supporter of this resolution to honor law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2013. The 111 officers who will be honored in May have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of their local communities.

Compared to last year, the number of officers slain has decreased by 8 percent. This represents the fewest number of officers killed since 1959. In addition, 2013 had the lowest number of officer deaths related to firearms since 1887. Every life taken is one too many, so any reduction is significant to our officers, to their families, and to the communities they serve. Sadly, my hometown of Indianapolis, Indiana, is still grieving one of our own who was killed in the line of duty last year.

Officer Rod Bradway, a 41-year-old Indianapolis Metro police officer, was killed while responding to a domestic violence dispute on September 20, 2013. Officer Bradway was a 5-year veteran of the police department, and is survived by his wife and two teenage daughters. He had already received the Indianapolis Police Department's Medal of Bravery, and he had previously served as a Wayne Township firefighter and EMT.

Thousands of residents of Indianapolis turned out for Officer Bradway's memorial service in downtown Indianapolis. They believe, as I do, that he was a hero who died while serving others. My deepest condolences go to Officer Bradway's family and to the rest of the hardworking Metro police officers.

I strongly support this bill because I know that the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service will show the proper respect to Officer Bradway and to all other law enforcement officers who have given everything to protect our communities. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this tribute to our fallen law enforcement officers.

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

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 92, which authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition. It is altogether fitting and proper that we do this.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is the nation's monument to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

Dedicated on October 15, 1991, the Memorial honors federal, state and local law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of our nation and its people. Carved on its walls are the names of 19,981 officers who have been killed in the line of duty throughout U.S. history, dating back to the first known death in 1791.

Enshrined on the Memorial Wall of Honor are the names of 1,653 fallen peace officers from the state of Texas, the most of any state, including 114 members of the Houston Police Department who gave their lives to keep their city safe. I ask unanimous consent to include a list of these fallen heroes from Houston, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, today there are more than 900,000 law enforcement personnel serving the people of our country, the highest amount ever. About 12 percent of them are female.

These brave men and women risk their lives to keep the peace and keep us safe but they are too often taken by the violence they are working to prevent. Every year, a law enforcement officer is killed somewhere in the United States every 57 hours, and there are also 58,261 assaults against our law officers each year, resulting in 15,658 injuries.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Law Enforcement Caucus I am proud to represent the people of the 18th Congressional District of Texas in paying tribute to the 321 fallen heroes who will be joining the 19,981 gallant men and women who gave the last full measure of devotion to the communities they took an oath to protect and serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of the officers whose names will be added to the National Peace Officers Memorial Wall of Honor.

HOUSTON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIALIZED ON THE WALL OF HONOR

1. Timothy Scott Abernethy, End of Watch: December 7, 2008, Houston, Texas, P.D.
2. Charles H. Baker, End of Watch: August 16, 1979, Houston, Texas, P.D.
3. Johnny Terrell Bamsch, End of Watch: January 30, 1975, Houston, Texas, P.D.
4. Claude R. Beck, End of Watch: December 10, 1971, Houston, Texas, P.D.
5. Jack B. Beets, End of Watch: March 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.
6. Troy A. Blando, End of Watch: May 19, 1999, Houston, Texas, P.D.
7. James Charles Boswell, End of Watch: December 9, 1989, Houston, Texas, P.D.
8. C. E. Branon, End of Watch: March 20, 1959, Houston, Texas, P.D.
9. John M. Cain, End of Watch: August 3, 1911, Houston, Texas, P.D.
10. Richard H. Calhoun, End of Watch: October 10, 1975, Houston Texas Police Department.
11. Dionicio M. Camacho, End of Watch: October 23, 2009, Harris County, Texas, S.O.
12. Henry Canales, End of Watch: June 23, 2009, Houston, Texas, P.D.
13. Frank Manuel Cantu Jr., End of Watch: March 25, 2004, Houston, Texas, P.D.
14. E. C. Chavez, End of Watch: September 17, 1925, Houston, Texas, P.D.
15. Charles Roy Clark, End of Watch: April 3, 2003, Houston, Texas, P.D.
16. Charles Robert Coates, II, End of Watch: February 23, 1983, Houston, Texas, P.D.
17. Pete Corrales, End of Watch: January 25, 1925, Houston, Texas, P.D.
18. Rufus E. Daniels, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.
19. Johnnie Davidson, End of Watch: February 19, 1921, Houston, Texas, P.D.
20. Worth Davis, End of Watch: June 17, 1928, Houston, Texas, P.D.
21. Keith Alan Dees, End of Watch: March 7, 2002, Houston, Texas, P.D.
22. Reuben Becerra Deleon, Jr, End of Watch: October 26, 2005, Houston, Texas, P.D.

23. William Edwin Deleon, End of Watch: March 29, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.
24. Floyd T. Deloach Jr., End of Watch: June 30, 1965, Houston, Texas, P.D.
25. George D. Edwards, End of Watch: June 30, 1939, Houston, Texas, P.D.
26. Dawn Suzanne Erickson End of Watch: December 24, 1995, Houston, Texas, P.D.
27. J. C. Etheridge, End of Watch: August 23, 1924, Houston, Texas, P.D.
28. James E. Fenn, End of Watch: March 14, 1891, Houston, Texas, P.D.
29. E. D. Fitzgerald, End of Watch: September 30, 1930, Houston, Texas, P.D.
30. C. Edward Foley, End of Watch: March 10, 1860, Houston, Texas, P.D.
31. Joseph Robert Free, End of Watch: October 18, 1912, Houston, Texas, P.D.
32. Guy P. Gaddis, End of Watch: January 31, 1994, Houston, Texas, P.D.
33. James T. Gambill, End of Watch: December 1, 1936, Houston, Texas, P.D.
34. Florentino M. Garcia, Jr., End of Watch: November 10, 1989, Houston, Texas, P.D.
35. Ben Eddie Gerhart, End of Watch: June 26, 1968, Houston, Texas, P.D.
36. G. Q. Gonzalez, End of Watch: February 28, 1960, Houston, Texas, P.D.
37. Charles R. Gougenheim, End of Watch: April 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.
38. Carl Greene, End of Watch: March 14, 1928, Houston, Texas, P.D.
39. Leon Griggs, End of Watch: January 31, 1970, Houston, Texas, P.D.
40. Maria Michelle Groves, End of Watch: April 10, 1987, Houston, Texas, P.D.
41. Gary Allen Gryder, End of Watch: June 29, 2008, Houston, Texas, P.D.
42. Antonio Guzman, JF, End of Watch: January 9, 1973, Houston, Texas, P.D.
43. Howard B. Hammond, End of Watch: August 18, 1946, Houston, Texas, P.D.
44. James Donald Harris, End of Watch: July 13, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.
45. David Michael Healy, End of Watch: November 12, 1994, Houston, Texas, P.D.
46. Timothy A. Hearn, End of Watch: June 8, 1978, Houston, Texas, P.D.
47. Oscar Hope, End of Watch: June 22, 1929, Houston, Texas, P.D.
48. Elston M. Howard, End of Watch: July 20, 1988, Houston, Texas, P.D.
49. David Huerta, End of Watch: September 19, 1973, Houston, Texas, P.D.
50. James Bruce Irby, End of Watch: June 27, 1990, Houston, Texas, P.D.
51. Bobby L. James, End of Watch: June 26, 1968, Houston, Texas, P.D.
52. John C. James, End of Watch: December 12, 1901, Houston, Texas, P.D.
53. Rodney Joseph Johnson, End of Watch: September 21, 2006, Houston, Texas, P.D.
54. Ed Jones, End of Watch: September 13, 1929, Houston, Texas, P.D.
55. P.P. Jones, End of Watch: January 30, 1927, Houston, Texas, P.D.
56. Frank L Kellogg, End of Watch: November 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.
57. S.A. Buster Kent, End of Watch: January 12, 1954, Houston, Texas, P.D.
58. James F. Kilty, End of Watch: April 8, 1976, Houston, Texas, P.D.
59. Kent Dean Kincaid, End of Watch: May 23, 1998, Houston, Texas, P.D.
60. Louis R. Kuba, End of Watch: May 17, 1967, Houston, Texas, P.D.
61. J.D. Landry, End of Watch: December 3, 1930, Houston, Texas, P.D.
62. Robert Wayne Lee, End of Watch: January 31, 1971, Houston, Texas, P.D.
63. Fred Maddox Jr., End of Watch: February 24, 1954, Houston, Texas, P.D.
64. Eydelmen Mani, End of Watch: May 19, 2010, Houston, Texas, P.D.
65. A.P. Marshall, End of Watch: November 8, 1937, Houston, Texas, P.D.
66. Charles R. McDaniel, End of Watch: August 4, 1963, Houston, Texas, P.D.
67. E.G. Meinke, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.
68. Harry Mereness, End of Watch: October 18, 1933, Houston, Texas, P.D.
69. Noel R. Miller, End of Watch: June 6, 1958, Houston, Texas, P.D.
70. Kenneth L. Moody, End of Watch: November 26, 1969, Houston, Texas, P.D.
71. Horace Moody, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.
72. William Moss, End of Watch: September 12, 1983, Houston Airport Police, Texas
73. Dave Murdock, End of Watch: June 27, 1921, Houston, Texas, P.D.
74. William E. Murphy, End of Watch: April 1, 1910, Houston, Texas, P.D.
75. David Franklin Noel, End of Watch: June 17, 1972, Houston, Texas, P.D.
76. M.E. Palmer, End of Watch: March 24, 1938, Houston, Texas, P.D.
77. Isaac Parson, End of Watch: May 24, 1914, Houston, Texas, P.D.
78. Ross Patton, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.
79. W.B. Phares. End of Watch: September 30, 1930, Houston, Texas, P.D.
80. Herbert N. Planer, End of Watch: February 18, 1965 Houston, Texas, P.D.
81. Ira Raney, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.
82. Winston J. Rawlings, End of Watch: March 29, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.
83. Jerry Lawrence Riley, End of Watch: June 18, 1974, Houston, Texas, P.D.
84. John Charles Risley End of Watch: October 23, 2000, Harris County, Texas, S.O.
85. Sandra Ann Robbins, End of Watch: March 17, 1991, South Houston, Texas, P.D.
86. George G. Rojas, End of Watch: January 28, 1976, Houston, Texas, P.D.
87. Michael P. Roman, End of Watch: January 6, 1994, Houston, Texas, P.D.
88. John Anthony Salvaggio, End of Watch: November 25, 1990, Houston, Texas, P.D.
89. Louis L. Sander, End of Watch: January 21, 1967, Houston, Texas, P.D.
90. Jeffery Scott Sanford, End of Watch: September 14, 1991, Harris County, Texas, S.O.
91. Kathleen C. Schaefer, End of Watch: August 18, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.
92. Robert Schultea, End of Watch: August 25, 1956, Houston, Texas, P.D.
93. Daryl Wayne Shirley End of Watch: April 28, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.
94. Richard Snow, End of Watch: March 17, 1882, Houston, Texas, P.D.
95. Bruno David Soboleski, End of Watch: April 12, 1991, Houston, Texas, P.D.
96. Jerry Leon Spruill, End of Watch: October 27, 1972, Houston, Texas, P.D.
97. R H Sullivan, End of Watch: March 9, 1935, Houston, Texas, P.D.
98. John W Suttle, End of Watch: August 3, 1959, Houston, Texas, P.D.
99. Cuong Huy Trinh, End of Watch: April 6, 1997, Houston, Texas, P.D.
100. Alberto Vasquez, End of Watch: May 22, 2001, Houston, Texas, P.D.
101. James T Walker, End of Watch: March 8, 1963, Houston, Texas, P.D.
102. Victor R Wells III, End of Watch: October 2, 1980, Houston, Texas, P.D.
103. R O Wells, End of Watch: July 30, 1927, Houston, Texas, P.D.
104. Albert Charles Wilkins, End of Watch: January 6, 1978, Harris County, Texas, C.O.
105. Kevin Scott Will, End of Watch: May 29, 2011, Houston, Texas, P.D.
106. Henry Williams, End of Watch: February 8, 1886, Houston, Texas, P.D.
107. William C Williams, Jr., End of Watch: April 16, 1930, Harris County, Texas, S.O.
108. Edd Williams, End of Watch: January 12, 1974, Harris County, Texas, S.O.
109. James Franklin Willis, End of Watch: July 1, 1964, Houston, Texas, P.D.
110. Marvin Alton Winter, End of Watch: December 4, 1937, Harris County, Texas, C.O., Pct. 4
111. Andrew Winzer, End of Watch: February 18, 1988, Houston, Texas, P.D.
112. Jeter Young, End of Watch: June 19, 1921, Houston, Texas, P.D.
113. Herman Youngst, End of Watch: December 12, 1901, Houston, Texas, P.D.
114. Joe A Zamarron 60–W: 2, End of Watch: April 18, 1981, Houston, Texas, P.D.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 92.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 88) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 88

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

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

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

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on June 14, 2014, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

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

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

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

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

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

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

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

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

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

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

well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, with respect to the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 88.

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

There was no objection.

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

H. Con. Res. 88 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the annual Greater Washington Soap Box Derby in June.

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for introducing this resolution. He has been a longtime supporter of this event and of the children involved each year.

This event occurs annually on the Capitol Grounds. The Soap Box Derby encourages children to show off their dedication, work, and creativity as they compete for trophies. The winners of each division are qualified to compete in the National All-American Soap Box Derby held in Ohio.

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

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

I would like to commend my very close and dear friend, Congressman HOYER, for his dedication to the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby and for introducing this resolution on behalf of the Washington regional delegation.

I support today's resolution, which authorizes the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby to use the Capitol Grounds. This event provides a terrific opportunity for children to learn the values of craftsmanship and competition as they build and race their vehicles.

The very first soap box derby race in Washington, D.C., was run in 1938, and for the last 20 years, the official race site has been on Capitol Hill. With race cars approaching speeds of 25 miles per hour on Constitution Avenue, this event provides a real thrill for kids and adults alike from across the region. Winners of this event go on to compete in the national competition in Akron, Ohio, where they compete against kids from all over the world.

On race day, every Greater Washington Soap Box Derby participant starts the race with the chance to become a world champion. I support this terrific opportunity for the children of Washington, D.C., and I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this great resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I want to thank Mr. CARSON and Mr. BARLETTA for bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, for the 23rd straight year, I am proud to sponsor this resolution that allows the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to hold its 73rd annual race on the grounds of the United States Capitol on June 14, which, by the way, Mr. Speaker, happens to be my birthday. As Mr. CARSON pointed out, and as Mr. BARLETTA has said, this is a longstanding tradition that brings young people from around the area to the Capitol for a fun and educational achievement.

In 1938, Mr. Speaker, Norman Rocca beat 223 other racers to win the inaugural Greater Washington Soap Box Derby, which was held on New Hampshire Avenue. Over the years, thousands of the region's young people have participated in this great race. Dozens of boys and girls, ranging in age from 8 to 17, are divided into three divisions: stock, super stock, and masters. The local winner of each division will qualify to compete with racers from around the world in the All-American Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio.

America's soap box derbies have been called the ''greatest amateur racing event in the world.'' Every year, they bring young people together with their parents and teach sportsmanship, hard work, and pride of accomplishment, not to mention engineering and the awareness of how you make something that makes a difference. The spirit of competition that fuels these racers is the same spirit that has long energized our Nation's businesses and innovators, which all of these young people are and, hopefully, will continue to be. The young participants in these derbies are often sponsored by community groups, police departments, fire departments, and others who recognize in them great promise for the future.

I continue to be incredibly proud of those from Maryland's Fifth District who participate. We have celebrated a number of soap box derby champions from the Fifth District, including the winners from 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, and 2013. You can see that the soap box derby is very important and popular in my district. The winners in 2007 and 2008 went on to prevail in the national championship. All of last year's winners were from Maryland's Fifth District: Aspen Tomasello, who won the stock division; Brittany Sorli, who won the super stock division; and Jay Warnick, who won the masters division and who went on to become the third St. Mary's County resident—the county in which I live, the most southern county in our State—to win the All-American Soap Box Derby in 6 years. We are very proud of them all.

I want to thank those Members who have cosponsored this resolution: Representatives GERRY CONNOLLY, JOHN DELANEY, DONNA EDWARDS, JIM MORAN, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and my dear friend FRANK WOLF.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to come and see the soap box derby in action.

Mr. BARLETTA. The gentleman from Maryland may be interested to know that, in our markup of this resolution, two of our committee members mentioned that they were proud soap box derby champions—Mr. NOLAN of Minnesota and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. They also joked that, today, they now stand on a soap box here in Congress.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, may I ask my colleague, the honorable chairman, Mr. BARLETTA, if he has any other speakers.

Mr. BARLETTA. I have no other speakers.

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

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, this has been a proud tradition across the Nation, including in Pennsylvania. In fact, in 1975, 11-year-old Karren Stead of Lower Bucks County, Pennsylvania, became the first girl to win the All-American Soap Box Derby.

Again, I would like to thank the minority whip for giving us an opportunity each year to highlight this event and its importance.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 88.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GME SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1557) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1557

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 ''Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. PROGRAM OF PAYMENTS TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS THAT OPERATE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 340E of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''through 2005 and each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011'' and inserting ''through 2005, each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011, and each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018''; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) in clause (iii), by striking ''and'';

(ii) in clause (iv), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(v) for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, $100,000,000.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'';

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

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, $200,000,000.''.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 340E(b)(3)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256e(b)(3)(D)) is amended by striking ''Not later than the end of fiscal year 2011'' and inserting ''Not later than the end of fiscal year 2018''.

SEC. 3. SUPPORT OF GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN CERTAIN HOSPITALS.

Section 340E of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256e) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to make available up to 25 percent of the total amounts in excess of $245,000,000 appropriated under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (f), but not to exceed $7,000,000, for payments to hospitals qualified as described in paragraph (2), for the direct and indirect expenses associated with operating approved graduate medical residency training programs, as described in subsection (a).

''(2) QUALIFIED HOSPITALS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—To qualify to receive payments under paragraph (1), a hospital shall be a free-standing hospital—

''(i) with a Medicare payment agreement and that is excluded from the Medicare inpatient hospital prospective payment system pursuant to section 1886(d)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act and its accompanying regulations;

''(ii) whose inpatients are predominantly individuals under 18 years of age;

''(iii) that has an approved medical residency training program as defined in section 1886(h)(5)(A) of the Social Security Act; and

''(iv) that is not otherwise qualified to receive payments under this section or section 1886(h) of the Social Security Act.

''(B) ESTABLISHMENT OF RESIDENCY CAP.—In the case of a freestanding children's hospital that, on the date of enactment of this subsection, meets the requirements of subparagraph (A) but for which the Secretary has not determined an average number of full-time equivalent residents under section 1886(h)(4) of the Social Security Act, the Secretary may establish such number of full-time equivalent residents for the purposes of calculating payments under this subsection.

''(3) PAYMENTS.—Payments to hospitals made under this subsection shall be made in the same manner as payments are made to children's hospitals, as described in subsections (b) through (e).

''(4) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—The direct and indirect payment amounts under this subsection shall be determined using per resident amounts that are no greater than the per resident amounts used for determining direct and indirect payment amounts under subsection (a).

''(5) REPORTING.—A hospital receiving payments under this subsection shall be subject to the reporting requirements under subsection (b)(3).

''(6) REMAINING FUNDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the payments to qualified hospitals under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year are less than the total amount made available under such paragraph for that fiscal year, any remaining amounts for such fiscal year may be made available to all hospitals participating in the program under this subsection or subsection (a).

''(B) QUALITY BONUS SYSTEM.—For purposes of distributing the remaining amounts described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary may establish a quality bonus system, whereby the Secretary distributes bonus payments to hospitals participating in the program under this subsection or subsection (a) that meet standards specified by the Secretary, which may include a focus on quality measurement and improvement, interpersonal and communications skills, delivering patient-centered care, and practicing in integrated health systems, including training in community-based settings. In developing such standards, the Secretary shall collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including program accrediting bodies, certifying boards, training programs, health care organizations, health care purchasers, and patient and consumer groups.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. 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 Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

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

I am glad that, today, we will pass a bill that will help keep American children healthy. Today, the House considers S. 1557, the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013. This is companion legislation to my own bill, H.R. 297, which passed the House at the beginning of this Congress. I am pleased that we have worked out the slight differences between the bills and that we can now reauthorize an important program that makes sure our Nation has enough doctors trained to treat children.

The Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program helps encourage more young doctors to pursue this important specialty. Without it, we would certainly see fewer medical professionals enter pediatrics and pediatric subspecialties.

□ 1800

Children need doctors trained just to treat them. Nationwide, this program supports the training of more than 5,000 doctors. Locally, in my area of Pennsylvania, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia participates in the program.

I have had the privilege of visiting the hospital a number of times and meeting with the young patients and the doctors learning how to treat them.

I am proud to have worked on this legislation with Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE. We originally introduced this bill in the 112th Congress. It has been a long road. I am glad we can finally send this bill to the President for his signature.

This is yet another bipartisan bill that we have successfully moved through the Health Subcommittee. It is proof that, despite our differences, we can find common ground and work together on legislation in a bipartisan way to help Americans stay healthy.

I would like to especially thank Monica Volante on my staff, as well as the staff of the Health Subcommittee, especially Brenda Destro and Katie Novaria, who worked tirelessly on this legislation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of the Children's Hospitals GME Support Reauthorization Act, which reauthorizes the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program through 2018.

The Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program provides vital funding to support the training of pediatricians and pediatric specialists in our children's hospitals.

Continued strong support for CHGME is essential to maintain this investment in our children's health care. Reauthorizing the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program represents a commitment to ensuring that children throughout the country have access to the quality care they need.

Since its creation in 1999, this program has increased the number of pediatric health care providers, addressed critical shortages in pediatric specialty care, and improved access to necessary care.

The CHGME recipient hospitals represent less than 1 percent of all hospitals, yet train half of all the Nation's pediatricians and pediatric specialists.

As a cosponsor of the House bill that passed in 2013 and a long advocate for the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program, I applaud this bipartisan, bicameral effort to preserve and strengthen this important program.

I want to recognize and applaud the leadership of Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE and Chairman PITTS on this legislation in the House.

I also want to acknowledge the sponsors of the measure we are considering today, Senators CASEY and ISAKSON. I also commend Chairman UPTON, Chairman HARKIN, and Ranking Member ALEXANDER for making it possible for the House to consider this bipartisan legislation today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 1557 and sending this legislation to the President for his signature.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Children's Hospitals GME Support Reauthorization Act, which reauthorizes the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program through 2018.

The CHGME program provides vital funding to support the training of pediatricians and pediatric specialists in children's hospitals.

Continued strong support for CHGME is essential to maintain this investment in children's health care. Reauthorizing CHGME represents a commitment to ensuring that children throughout the country have access to the quality care they need.

Since its creation in 1999, CHGME has increased the number of pediatric health care providers, addressed critical shortages in pediatric specialty care and improved access to necessary care.

The CHGME recipient hospitals represent less than one percent of all hospitals, yet train half of all the nation's pediatricians and pediatric specialists.

As a co-sponsor of the House bill that passed in February 2013 and a longtime advocate for the CHGME program, I applaud this bipartisan, bicameral effort to preserve and strengthen this important program.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to ask all Members to support S. 1557, very important legislation with bipartisan support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support S. 1557, the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013.

S. 1557 reauthorizes the children's hospital graduate medical education—or CHGME—program through fiscal year 2018 at an authorization level of $300 million per year. The legislation also makes two important changes to the program. It provides for a limited expansion of the CHGME program to include children's psychiatric hospitals and other children's hospitals that have been unable—to date—to participate in the program for technical reasons. It also would allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to redistribute any remaining funding set aside for the newly-eligible hospitals that goes unused based upon quality measures.

This program provides ongoing and consistent financial support to hospitals such as Children's Hospital of Los Angeles for the training of doctors who want to specialize in pediatrics. Over the years, the CHGME program has been enormously successful in reversing the significant decline in the number of pediatrician trainees across the country. Indeed, today, children's hospitals nationwide that are supported by the program train 49% of all pediatricians and 51% of all pediatric specialists.

Not surprisingly, the CHGME program has a decade-long history of bipartisan support. The program was first established in 1999 and has subsequently been reauthorized on two occasions. During the 112th Congress and earlier this Congress, the House passed stand alone legislation that would have reauthorized the CHGME program for another five years.

I am sure that Members on both sides of the aisle agree we want to make certain this important program remains in place, and we want to send a strong message about the importance of fully funding it.

I want to recognize and applaud the leadership of Ranking Member PALLONE and Chairman PITTS on CHGME legislation in the House. I also want to acknowledge the sponsors of the measure we are considering today—Senators CASEY and ISAKSON. And, of course, I commend Chairman UPTON, Chairman HARKIN, and Ranking Member ALEXANDER for making it possible for the House to consider this bipartisan legislation today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 1557 and sending this legislation to the President for his signature.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1557, the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013. This bill extends and reauthorizes funding for those children's hospitals with approved graduate medical residency training program. We must act now to promote and strengthen our country's pediatric workforce.

It is no secret that our country faces a growing shortage of physicians. It is important for Congress to recognize that investments in our future doctors will be essential to ensuring patient access and quality health outcomes. If we do not have the physicians to care for our sick and needy, no amount of technological advancement will be enough to provide health care services for everyone. The vote today recognizes this fact, and will confirm our desire to provide adequate future access to pediatric care.

As a physician of over 30 years, and one who has delivered over 5,200 babies, I understand the tremendous impact that pediatricians have on the health of our children. The bipartisan support and engagement of this legislation points to its truly important need and I urge my colleagues today to vote to ensure that an adequate funding stream is available to train tomorrow's pediatricians.

For these important reasons, I support S. 1557.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1557, the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Support Reauthorization Act. Passed in the Senate in November, this legislation is vital to our children's health care system because it provides freestanding children's hospitals with federal funding for graduate medical education.

In my district, Children's Medical Center of Dallas trains 230 medical residents each year and is integral in addressing the current physician shortage in Texas. CHGME is vital to the continuation of the training program at Children's and at pediatric hospitals nationwide. CHGME recipient hospitals make up only one percent of all hospitals and train nearly half of all pediatricians.

Hospitals like Children's provide coordinated care for our nation's sickest kids regardless of their family's ability to pay. The CHGME program ensures that pediatricians and pediatric specialists are properly trained to care for these children, covering basic physician visits to complex, life-threatening cancers.

Since 1999, CHGME has helped to address the gap in federal support for pediatric training and specialty pediatric care. The CHGME program is a critical investment in strengthening our healthcare workforce and is essential to maintaining the gains in pediatric care. I urge my colleagues to support the CHGME program and vote in favor of S. 1557, the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Support Reauthorization Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1557.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Suspending the rules with regard to the Senate amendment to H.R. 4152, S. 2183, and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

PROVISION OF COSTS OF LOAN GUARANTEES FOR UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4152) to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 34, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 149]

YEAS—378

Aderholt	Bachus	Barr
Amodei	Barber	Barrow (GA)
Bachmann	Barletta	Barton

Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (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
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—34

Amash
Bentivolio
Broun (GA)
DesJarlais
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Garrett
Gibson
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Grayson
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Huelskamp
Jones
Labrador
Massie
McAllister
Mullin
Mulvaney
O'Rourke
Posey
Rice (SC)
Rokita
Rooney
Salmon
Sanford
Tipton
Weber (TX)
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Woodall
Yoho

NOT VOTING—19

Buchanan
Campbell
Capuano
Cicilline
Costa
Fincher
Graves (MO)
Gutiérrez
Hanna
Joyce
Kingston
Lynch
Meng
Miller, Gary
Pastor (AZ)
Rohrabacher
Stockman
Velázquez
Visclosky

□ 1855

Messrs. POSEY, GARRETT, and GOWDY changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. LOFGREN, Messrs. OWENS and FOSTER changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING TO UKRAINE AND NEIGHBORING REGIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2183) United States international programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 399, nays 12, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 150]

YEAS—399

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

Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
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
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—12

Amash
Bentivolio
Broun (GA)
DesJarlais
Duncan (TN)
Garrett
Grayson
Jones
Massie
O'Rourke
Westmoreland
Yoho

NOT VOTING—20

Buchanan
Campbell
Capuano
Cicilline
Costa
Fincher
Graves (MO)
Gutiérrez
Hanna
Kingston
Lynch
Meng
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Pastor (AZ)
Rohrabacher
Stockman
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wittman

□ 1903

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 150, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 261, nays 140, answered ''present'' 2, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 151]

YEAS—261

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Cole
Collins (NY)
Cook
Cooper
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fleischmann
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Gibbs
Goodlatte
Granger
Grayson
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Horsford
Huffman
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maloney, Carolyn
Marino
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stutzman
Takano
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Van Hollen
Vargas
Vela
Wagner
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (IN)

NAYS—140

Amash
Barber
Bass
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Brady (PA)
Bridenstine
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Castor (FL)
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Connolly
Cotton
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
Denham
DeSantis
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Flores
Foxx
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kilmer
Kind
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Lance
Langevin
LoBiondo
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Massie
Matheson
McDermott
McGovern
Meeks
Miller (FL)
Miller, George
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
Nugent
Pallone
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pitts
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schock
Sewell (AL)
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tipton
Upton
Valadao
Veasey
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—2

Gohmert
Owens

NOT VOTING—28

Black
Buchanan
Campbell
Capuano
Cassidy
Chu
Cicilline
Conyers
Costa
Cramer
Fincher
Graves (MO)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanna
Kingston
Lowey
Lynch
Meng
Miller, Gary
Pastor (AZ)
Rohrabacher
Scott, David
Sires
Stockman
Velázquez
Visclosky
Waters

□ 1912

Messrs. PALLONE and PERRY changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2575, SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT OF 2014

Mr. BURGESS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–397) on the resolution (H. Res. 530) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2575) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 531) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 531

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Mr. Doggett and Mr. Kildee.

(2) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE.—Mr. Takano.

(3) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.—Ms. Clark of Massachusetts.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1915

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2988

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor from H.R. 2988.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING ANDY GRIFFIN

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andy Griffin of Glen Carbon, Illinois, for being named the American Association of Nurse Anesthetist's Advocate of the Year.

Andy currently serves as president-elect on the board for the Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthetists, as well as their Federal political director. Andy also serves as the director of the Nurse Anesthesia program at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Andy uses his dual roles as an advocate and a teacher to bring young nurse anesthetist students to Washington, D.C., each year to meet with their congressional offices.

In his spare time Andy volunteers at his church in Maryville and mentors children every summer at the Lake Williamson Christian Camp. He uses his training and passion in music to help children connect with their faith.

In addition to mentoring children within his community, Andy is a loving husband to his wife, Valerie, and a great father to their four children. Andy's coworkers, family, and friends can attest to his selflessness and tireless devotion to helping others and advocating on their behalf.

We should all aspire to be as compassionate and dedicated as Andy Griffin. I am proud to call him my constituent and even more proud to call Andy Griffin my friend.

HEALTH CARE TO ALL AMERICANS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, they said it couldn't be done, but as of yesterday and early this morning, 7,000,041 individuals here in the United States accessed and enrolled in the Affordable Care Act.

Is it working? Do people want health care? Yes, they do. Do they want access to the Affordable Care Act? Yes, they do. These numbers will probably grow when the State exchanges begin to report their various individuals that enrolled under their system.

In the State of Texas, going all the way from last week until the lines around Reliant Stadium, to individuals staying until 10 o'clock at the Community of Faith Church, which I was at with Bishop James Dixon, to the Harris County Department of Education and 500 or 600 there, yes, we want affordable care and the Affordable Care Act to give health care to all Americans.

Now, we need to tell the States that you have left out millions of those who could benefit from the expanded Medicaid. I ask Governor Perry of the State of Texas to stop denying the millions of Texans who would be eligible under the expanded Medicaid to have health insurance. Stop denying them health insurance. This is a celebration. More will come, and it is good to know that the work that was done is benefiting Americans.

FOREIGN CRIMINALS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a lady in my district wrote about the administration's new immigration enforcement policy—or, rather, the lack thereof. She is worried, and so am I. The government claims that it prioritizes deporting criminal aliens before all others who are illegally in the country.

Really?

According to news reports in 2013, nearly 68,000 foreign criminals were caught, charged, and/or convicted of a felony or serious misdemeanor then released back onto the streets of America. Well, why? The administration should follow the law and deport foreign criminals and not let them loose.

There is more. In some instances, a criminal illegal goes to a U.S. prison and then he is ordered deported, and their home country won't take them back. That is why I have introduced legislation to withhold diplomatic visas to nations who won't take back their lawfully deported criminals. The administration should just simply enforce the law.

Foreign criminals who have committed crimes in America belong behind bars, and then they should be sent back where they came from.

And that's just the way it is.

AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am wearing blue today, joining people around the globe in recognition of Autism Awareness Day as we bring light to a disorder that affects 70 million families worldwide, 1 in 68 children in the United States.

Autism Day is a day of hope for the mother and father whose sweet baby doesn't smile or babble, for the child who rocks obsessively, for the teen locked in his own mind who is shunned by classmates, and the aging parents who fear their adult child's care when they are gone.

Awareness is about increasing knowledge, which means early diagnosis and early intervention, and it is about love for all our precious children. On this day of awareness, Mr. Speaker, let's all commit to work together in a bipartisan manner to fund autism research and reduce the financial strains for Americans with disabilities.

PROTECTING SENIORS FROM MEDICARE CUTS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on an issue that affects hundreds of thousands of seniors in Minnesota.

Over half of the medical-eligible seniors in my district have chosen now to enroll in Medicare Advantage plans to meet their health care needs. The Medicare Advantage program has been a resounding success by providing better quality care with more options. However, the proposed cuts to the program, if enacted, will now mean that seniors in Minnesota could see their premiums increase by nearly $1,000 annually. On top of that, seniors will face a loss of benefits and less choice.

Mr. Speaker, we need to take steps to strengthen our Medicare system and ensure it stays solvent for generations to come, and these proposed cuts are not the answer. By encouraging more health care coordination, creating better incentives for providers, and using new technologies, we can lower costs while providing more improved care. These are areas where we can find bipartisan agreement to make progress and make sure that our seniors are protected from these devastating cuts.

REMEMBERING LANCE CORPORAL ANDREW SILVA

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of 23-year-old fallen Marine Lance Corporal Andrew Silva of Union City, California, who was tragically killed last week by a drunk driver just over 1 month after returning home from Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Silva was a 2009 graduate of James Logan High School, where he played football. After high school, he joined the Marine Corps Reserves, where he most recently served in a combat logistics battalion based in San Jose. In February, Lance Corporal Silva returned from a deployment to the Helmand province in Afghanistan, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Although his life was cut far too short by a heartbreaking tragedy, Corporal Silva and his service to the country was long, and he will be remembered by many. His work as a marine illustrates the heroism of the servicemembers across our country who are serving in the military to support freedom everywhere.

Lance Corporal Silva is survived by his wife and his 2-year-old son. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. May Lance Corporal Silva rest in peace.

ONGOING CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the United States must stand in solidarity with human rights in Venezuela and against the repressive actions of Maduro. Since protest began almost 2 months ago, there have been nearly 40 killed at the hands of this brutal regime.

At the Organization of American States here in Washington, DC, opposition leader Maria Corina Machado was prevented from speaking the truth about the democracy crisis in Venezuela. And as a result of her appearance at the OAS, Maduro's top henchman, Diosdado Cabello, stripped her of her position in the Venezuelan legislature. The highest kangaroo court backed this attempt to silence dissent, proving that it, too, is nothing more than a political tool used by Maduro to attack the opposition.

Today, Maria Corina, joined by thousands of supporters of democracy, marched to protest this politically motivated act, but were met with tear gas from Maduro's security thugs.

These actions must not go unpunished. It is shameful that the Obama administration continues to neglect the suffering of the Venezuelan people. The time to sanction human rights violators in Venezuela is now.

SCOTIA-GLENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize the Scotia-Glenville High School boys' basketball team for winning the New York State class A high school State championship on its way to becoming New York State federation cup champions. These young men completed one of the best seasons in section 2 and New York State basketball history.

Led by Coach Jim Giammettei, the Scotia-Glenville Tartans not only became State champions but amassed a perfect 27–0 record on its way to becoming the best of the public, private, and independent institutions in New York State.

These students will take this exemplary leadership and teamwork with them to face future challenges as they continue to make our communities and capital region of New York proud.

Again, I congratulate the Scotia-Glenville Tartans on a perfect season and this remarkable achievement.

CONGRATULATIONS A.C. STEERE ELEMENTARY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, it is a great accomplishment when a school is honored for having a principal of the year or a teacher of the year or even a student of the year. A.C. Steere Elementary School in Shreveport has all three.

Congratulations to Principal Kim Derrick, who was named Caddo Parish Principal of the Year. Her passion for education has been instrumental in making A.C. Steere a great neighborhood school.

The third grade language arts teacher, Glynis Johnston, is the Caddo Parish Teacher of the Year. Each day she brings a positive, motivational, and innovative approach to her classroom.

The fruit of the labor of a great principal and excellent teacher is often seen in the accomplishments of their students, and fifth-grader Tindol Hamm is a fine example. She is a gifted young lady who was named Caddo Parish Student of the Year. Tindol works hard at academics, and she is active in her church and in sports.

Congratulations, A.C. Steere Elementary. I am proud to see you rewarded for your excellence.

THANK YOU, AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my fellow Americans, the results are in with the closing of the Affordable Care Act's first-time open enrollment period: over 7 million Americans have now secured quality, affordable health care coverage for themselves and their families.

I want to congratulate everyone who signed up. I personally called over 30,000 people to encourage them to sign up, and worked at one of the sign-up sites over the weekend.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, no American could ever again be denied coverage for a preexisting condition; no woman can ever again be charged a higher premium just because she is a woman; 3 million young Americans age 26 and under can stay on their family plan; no American ever again will have to worry that one major illness will bankrupt their family; no senior will ever have to pay a copayment for key preventative services such as cancer screening.

I want to thank everyone for signing up and not going for the okeydoke.

□ 1930

OBAMACARE FAILS EXPECTATIONS AND AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, as the flawed enrollment period for ObamaCare ended, a CBS poll revealed that a majority of Americans disapprove of the President's health care takeover law, which destroys jobs. Constituents living in South Carolina's Second Congressional District agree—ObamaCare will not work.

Cindy from Lexington writes:

> I am so distressed about the extremely high cost of insurance now that the so-called Affordable Care Act is in place . . . Our insurance has increased $600. This is ridiculous. It is really hurting our family and is causing a huge strain on our budget. I am so disappointed in this law and the fact it was able to pass. Is there anything you are doing or can do to help families like ours? Everyone else I know is suffering because of it.

These real-life experiences convey why Americans are fed up with ObamaCare. We must repeal and replace this train wreck of a law so that these burdens no longer hammer down on middle class families.

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

IRENE LANCASTER

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

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ms. Irene Lancaster of Columbus, Mississippi, and to wish her a happy birthday tomorrow.

In fact, I stand in this body today because of the encouragement of teachers like Ms. Lancaster. Her passion and enthusiasm for American history was contagious. As an eighth-grade student at Joe Cook Middle School in Columbus, Mississippi, she instilled in me a love of American history that I carry today. I can still hear in my mind her voice as she talked about the forcefulness of President Andrew Jackson.

She thought she was teaching names and dates and places, but what Ms. Lancaster was really doing was preparing leaders—business leaders, community leaders, leaders in medicine

and in energy—and even a United States Congressman.

So happy birthday, Ms. Lancaster.

In saluting her, I salute all of those teachers every day who are preparing the next generation of American leaders.

SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the President proposes a 25 percent increase in the minimum wage. ObamaCare, however, is resulting in as much as a 25 percent decrease in the pay of millions of hourly workers. Because of the 30 hours is full time provision, too many Americans are not able to work the hours they need to support their families. By passing my bill, the Save American Workers Act, we can create an America that works simply by restoring the traditional 40-hour workweek.

I am joined this evening in this Special Order by my colleagues, Representatives KELLY of Pennsylvania and BARR of Kentucky, but so many people have helped bring this important issue to the attention of the American people at large, to rank and file Americans, who during this down economy are looking for as many hours as they can get and for as much take-home pay as they might receive.

Let me just kick this evening off by explaining in some level of detail what this 30-hour provision is because, frankly, for the uninitiated, it is a bit foreign for most of us to consider full-time employment to be a 30-hour workweek, but that is the case under the Affordable Care Act. In fact, the Affordable Care Act mandates employers provide ObamaCare-sanctioned health insurance to all of their employees should they employ 50 or more individuals who work 30 or more hours per week.

We have all heard from employers about the adverse consequences—unintended, I expect—created by this 30 hours is full time provision. The unintended consequence is chiefly that so many employers, especially those who are squeezed by tight profit margins or those who just wouldn't be financially viable entities, are moving their employees down below this 30-hour threshold. They are reducing the number of hours that their hourly employees can work so that they don't have to provide ObamaCare-sanctioned health insurance.

The employer mandate has been delayed by the administration twice, so it is clear that this is ill-considered policy. While the White House says the delays are to help employers, it should be even more apparent to those of us who visit with our constituents on an almost daily basis that it is the low- and middle-income worker who is being most adversely impacted by this employer mandate.

The real result of the 30-hour bill—let me be clear—is fewer jobs, reduced hours, reduced wages, less take-home pay for things like food and shelter and clothing for Americans who need it most. I can cite plenty of examples in my district in which this is having a very serious impact at this early stage of ObamaCare's implementation. I live in Bloomington, Indiana.

Indiana University is feeling the pinch of this and is reducing some hours of some of their hourly employees, from custodians to cafeteria workers and others, because they cannot remain a financially viable entity, as taxpayers expect it to be, should it have to comply with this employer mandate as it is currently constructed.

Ivy Tech Community College is also feeling the pinch. In fact, 4,500 of their adjunct professors are losing hours. This is resulting in reduced course offerings for many students, but more importantly for those adjunct professors, they need the wages, they need the hours. Should Ivy Tech decide to continue on with business as usual, they would be eating all sorts of compliance costs to try and measure the hours of their hourly employees and ensure that they are complying with the law. They have done the math. They have figured out that this 30 hours is full time provision amounts to a $12 million unfunded mandate, courtesy of Uncle Sam.

I have heard from 39 public school corporations in Indiana about the adverse consequences of this 30 hours is full time provision. In fact, they are suing the Federal Government, along with the State of Indiana, because of this provision, which they say will have catastrophic financial consequences on their operations, on their balance sheets.

From a practical perspective, the majority of employers who voluntarily provide coverage to their employees do so for their full-time employees, and they do so because they want to attract the absolute best talent they can within the labor market. This system has succeeded in providing coverage for nearly 160 million Americans. It is working. In fact, this is the largest source of health coverage in America, but the 30-hour rule radically disrupts this success and this model. Many people will lose their coverage, especially your lower-skilled workers, often your entry-level opportunities where younger workers get valuable work experience and start to work their way up the economic ladder. We need to protect the wages of Americans who depend on them the most. That is what this bipartisan effort, the Save American Workers Act, is all about.

I am proud to be joined in this effort by Representative BARR, who has shown some leadership on this issue, and by Representative KELLY, who was out front very early with respect to this issue. I look forward to engaging in some dialogue this evening and in turning over the mike to them to get their State level perspectives, but I think it is worth noting, because I do want to recognize them, the fair-minded Members among us who look for opportunities to work across the aisle.

Representative LIPINSKI, a Democrat from Illinois, has shown a lot of leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives with respect to this issue. There are a handful of other Democrat Members who have signed on to the Save American Workers Act. It is my fervent hope, not for my interest but for the interests of my constituents and for those like them around the country, that other Democrats will join the vast majority of Republican Members of Congress in supporting this bill.

With that, I would just invite the dialogue of Mr. BARR, my good colleague in his first term—but he seems far more experienced than that—to speak to the Save American Workers Act.

Mr. BARR. I thank my friend, the gentleman from Indiana, Congressman YOUNG, for his leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, it is an important issue because ObamaCare is hurting American families. It is hurting American employers. It is hurting American workers who are struggling to make ends meet, to put food on the table. This is a bad economy. We continue to suffer from a bad economy despite 5 years having passed after the financial crisis.

The project of ObamaCare—the project of the Affordable Care Act—is really the project of the entire Obama Presidency. It is a project to determine whether or not Big Government can solve big problems. It is a project to determine whether or not the Federal Government can micromanage one-sixth of the American economy. It is a project to determine whether or not it is a good idea to allow the government to take away choices from the American people—from American workers and from American small business owners.

Wages in this country have gone down over $2,300 in the last several years. The labor participation rate in this country—the percentage of working-aged people actually in the workforce—is the lowest it has been in 35 years, and 75 percent of the American people are living paycheck to paycheck. This is not a sign and these statistics are not indicators of a healthy economy. This is a very unhealthy economy.

Why? Why haven't we seen a robust economic recovery in which American families, American businesses, American entrepreneurs, and American workers can achieve the potential that they deserve, can achieve the opportunities, can reach out and take advantage of the American Dream—why is that objective so illusive for so many Americans today?

Unfortunately, we all know people who are currently looking for employment and who are unable to care for their families as they would like. On top of insurance cancelation notices, higher premiums, broken promises, a malfunctioning Web site, and reduced health care choices, Americans are now seeing as a result of ObamaCare that the law is forcing job creators to cut employees' hours just so that they can comply with the law, just so that they can prevent any kind of sanctions or penalties that they would incur as a result of running afoul of the provisions of the law. Thanks to ObamaCare, millions of these already struggling Americans are having an even harder time finding work, caring for their families, putting food on their tables because, again, ObamaCare is putting full-time work and decent wages out of reach.

Mr. Speaker, we are moving from a full-time work economy to a part-time work economy, and it is largely because of ObamaCare. I speak with small business owners across central and eastern Kentucky all the time, and what they tell me is very consistent: they want to put people back to work; they want to invest and grow their businesses; they want to be able to provide good, quality health care to their employees and to their workers, who are the backbone of the American Dream, who are the backbone of their entrepreneurial success. ObamaCare is holding them back. Employers in my district and all over America consistently cite ObamaCare as one of the top reasons for planned layoffs and their reluctance to hire more workers.

Think about that.

Why on Earth in a down economy—in the worst economy—and with the worst labor participation rate in 35 years would lawmakers in Washington want to punish American businesses—American entrepreneurs, American job creators—for hiring more people? Yet that is exactly what this flawed law does.

□ 1945

This law entangles small businesses in a web of rules and regulations, making it expensive and nearly impossible to invest in new workers.

In particular, ObamaCare's 30-hour rule, which defines full-time work as averaging only 30 hours per week, is resulting in fewer jobs, reduced hours, and less opportunities for so many Americans.

This 30-hour rule forces employers who have been providing coverage—in some cases, for decades—which is good, quality health care, to fundamentally alter their benefit plans, to drop coverage altogether, or shift more of their workforce to part time by cutting workers' hours below 30 a week because they can't afford to offer the health insurance mandated by ObamaCare.

The Wall Street Journal had an editorial and called these the 49ers and the 29ers—49ers because these are businesses that will not hire more than 49 employees because ObamaCare will punish the employer if they hire more than 49 employees, 29ers because employers will not and cannot hire people for more than 29 hours a week.

So these are the 29ers. These are people who are struggling to take care of their families. This is hurting people.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Reclaiming my time, I sometimes like to distill the narrative down to some numbers.

You just mentioned the movement down to 29 hours a week. Let's consider the Kentuckian or the Hoosier who is currently working 39 hours a week, and because of this provision, their employer is unable, under the current economic conditions, to offer them ObamaCare-sanctioned health insurance.

They are incentivized to move that hardworking hourly work down to 29 hours. That is a loss of 10 hours per week. Over the course of a month, that worker is losing an entire work week.

How is an hourly worker that has to pay for food and shelter and clothing and other basic expenditures supposed to take care of their family?

It is imminently unfair, and someone needs to stand up for our low- and middle-income workers. I think that is the essence of what this is all about.

Mr. BARR. Absolutely. I totally agree. You are absolutely right. I would commend the gentleman for being one of those leaders in our country who is standing up for the working people of this country.

I would just note the president of the Teamsters Union, James Hoffa, has said that this rule will ''destroy the foundation of the 40-hour work week that is the backbone of the American middle class.''

In short, ObamaCare is hurting the very people that it was intended to help. I don't think this is a partisan issue. There are well-meaning people on both sides of the aisle who want to help working families make it a little easier and get by a little easier and put food on the table and earn a living wage, but this law is punishing people for working hard. Hard work is what made this country great.

Why would we disincentivize hard work? Yet that is exactly what ObamaCare does.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. If I could interject because I think you hit on a key point. This isn't ideological. This ought not be partisan at all. In fact, we have a number of Democratic cosponsors. I am gratified by their intellectual honesty, their courage, their support. They are doing the right thing here. They are looking out for their constituents.

We have all been asked to come here and get something done while people are feeling pain. This was certainly an unintended consequence, is my reading. I don't want to impugn the motives of those who hurriedly passed this Affordable Care Act. I don't think they intended this.

So we repeal the provision. We replace it with something that makes sense and restores wages for workers that need it most.

Mr. BARR. Absolutely. This is commonsense reform.

Again, I commend Congressman YOUNG and other colleagues who have sponsored the Save American Workers Act. This is a simple piece of legislation. It would simply repeal the 30-hour definition of full-time employment in the Affordable Care Act, in ObamaCare, and restore the traditional 40-hour definition.

It makes perfect sense. It would help employees who are seeking the hours that they need to take care of themselves and their families. It would lower the burden and the regulatory costs on employers.

It would allow American businesses to be more productive. It will allow American workers to be more productive. It will get to the heart of why our economy is not where it should be today.

I really appreciate the gentleman's leadership on this issue.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Thank you for not just your support, but your vocal support, engagement, leadership, and education of your colleagues and others who are important stakeholders with respect to this issue. Thank you so much for being with us here this evening.

I would like to pivot off of your discussion of this down economy. We are at a 35-year low in labor force participation. None of us is happy with the rate of job creation or business creation.

One of my constituents was sharing with me recently they saw a stat indicating that business creation and entrepreneurship are at a 15-year low. Clearly, we are experiencing the hardest of times.

The way to grow an economy, based on my economic background, is not to reduce the hours of workers and impose new compliance costs on our employers. Instead, we need to be removing obstacles to realizing the sorts of income that people need and opportunities to work your way up that economic ladder. Unfortunately, this goes in the opposite direction.

I am pleased today to be joined by my good colleague, MIKE KELLY of Pennsylvania, who partnered with me in helping to draft this legislation. He has proven himself to be a fine leader in the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman. It is really a pleasure to be with you tonight.

Representative YOUNG's piece of legislation, H.R. 2575, is really something

that I think that perhaps if more of us who serve in this body were actually people who experienced what it was like to be in the private sector, more of us would understand.

I was very fortunate to have a family business, and I can tell you, from an employer standpoint, that one of the greatest thrills you have in your life is to sit across the desk from somebody who has come in and applied for a job and to be able to say to them: you're hired, we need you on board, we need you to be part of our team to make the business successful.

You can see in their eyes, at that moment, that they look at this opportunity as: my goodness, now I can put a roof over the head of my family, I can put food on the table, and I can put clothes on their back, and I can plan for a future.

Now, why in the world would we all of a sudden say: You know what? We are going to change that dynamic because it is no longer going to be a 40-hour week; we are going to dial it back to 30 hours a week.

You say to yourself: How did anybody come up with those numbers? Why would they come up with those numbers, and what is the benefit of those numbers?

The answer is that it helps make the Affordable Care Act work. It doesn't help America work. It helps a piece of flawed legislation work. It is about the dynamics of the math.

It is not about the dynamics of allowing men and women to go to work and be able to go home at night and say: I went to work today for you, I went to work to make your life better.

You look at some of the numbers, Mr. YOUNG. The 30-hour rule puts 2.6 million workers with a median income of under $30,000 at risk for losing jobs or hours. Eighty-nine percent of these workers impacted by the rule do not have a college degree. 63 percent of these folks are women, and over half have a high school diploma or less.

When I look back at my district, District Three in Pennsylvania, they are hardworking good American people. I have no idea how they are registered. I have no idea how they vote. I have no idea what they think about at night and what they pray for at night before they lay their head on the pillow.

I do know who they are, basically, because they are all of the same ilk. They are the same people. The blood that courses through their veins is pretty much the same. They believe in America. They believe in paying their fair share. They believe in lifting the load and helping out.

Barb Wilson works for the Arc in Mercer County, Pennsylvania. This is a phenomenal organization that assists people with developmental disabilities. Barb is a part-time employee who used to work 30 to 35 hours a week.

Her employer recently informed her and her coworkers that all part-time employees will be having their hours cut to around just 20 hours a week because of the Affordable Care Act's employer mandate.

Barb tells me that she was shocked when she heard this news. Because of her hours being cut, she says she will no longer be able to afford the cost of living.

I have more people in my district that come to me and talk to me. One of the things—and I think you found the same thing in Indiana, and I am sure Mr. BARR has in Kentucky—I have people that say: You can use my story, but you can't use my name.

Now, that is a very chilling effect to think that, in this country, the United States of America, people are afraid to be identified with their story because they are afraid of a retribution from the government. That is just totally unacceptable.

One of those people is in the fast food business. How about this?

In 2012, 92 of its 993 employees worked more than 30 hours a week. Think about that. All of these 92 employees have had their hours cut to less than 30 hours.

On top of that, more than 30 employees have had access to their health insurance plans ended. Even though their plans made sense for them, they did not meet ObamaCare's standards, and so the company could not afford to keep them.

This doesn't make any sense. At a time when we want to get America to work, when we want to increase jobs, why would we make it harder for those people to accomplish those goals? It just doesn't make sense.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. It makes absolutely no sense. For example, I have a school corporation in Washington County, Indiana, which I recently visited. I was visiting their superintendent and members of their school board.

I don't know their politics, but I certainly know that they care about children. They care about all the employees who work for them. They were absolutely distraught.

They said: Congressman, I don't know what we're going to do with respect to this 30 hours is full time provision. When we think about our substitute teachers, we are actually contemplating having to reduce the number of hours in the middle of classes because we don't have a large enough pool of substitute teachers available to draw on.

We can literally have somebody substituting for half of a class. In order to fall under the 30 hours is full time provision in the Affordable Care Act, these folks are having to leave early.

The students are unattended. They are not being educated. Parents are certainly upset. It is imposing undue costs upon the school corporation in order to track the hours of their employees.

This is the sort of Rube Goldberg sort of contraption that only could be conceived of in Washington, D.C.

I cannot make sense of why anyone would oppose trying to change this provision, as we have done in this bill. Some have speculated that it is a matter of saving face. You pass a big bill; you pass it quickly.

It perhaps was most ill-advised in any sort of fundamental change to the bill. Any sort of repeal of a major provision within the bill and a replacement with something that works better undermines the credibility not only of the bill itself, but of those who supported it originally.

I would like to think better of my colleagues than that. I think there has to be something else at work here, but I don't know how to explain to that superintendent and those concerned school board members in Washington County, Indiana, why others won't sign on to this.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I agree with you. In my district, Butler Area School District has had to implement procedures to keep all of its part-time employees working less than 30 hours. This hurts education.

In New Castle, Lawrence County, their local government has reduced all of it employees to just 28 hours.

So we talk about these things. You and I just got here 3 years ago. You look at a government that is supposed to be a citizen government—a government that works for the people and does things in the people's best interest—and then you look at this piece of legislation and say: My goodness, how did we come up with this?

The answer is always: There are unintended consequences.

I understand that there are unintended consequences, but they are not always painful consequences. If we are going to do anything here, we better start responding when we hurt the people we represent.

We also better understand that these unintended consequences are also fixable. They are not unfixable. Why wouldn't we fix it if you know it is hurting someone, if you know it is taking away opportunity?

I talked about being in the private sector. When we bring people on board, it is mutually beneficial. It is to share in success.

□ 2000

I can tell you that the gap right now has widened between those who own businesses and run them and those associates who work there. We have put them at odds with each other because now it becomes: well, you know what? The people that employ you really don't care enough about you. And you say: my goodness. No, no, that is not true. That is not true.

I can tell you from the position that I have been in from a business that my dad started in 1953 after being a parts-picker in a Chevrolet warehouse and coming back after the war and starting a little Chevrolet dealership and watching it grow into something where we have 110 people that every 2 weeks get a check, I know that when they are successful, the business is successful;

and when the business is successful, the community is successful, because we all participate at every level.

Now, why would you destroy a model that is so perfect? Why would you destroy something that is so fundamentally strong? Why would you take apart the American Dream in order to have a flawed piece of legislation meet the metrics that this is looking for? It just doesn't make sense.

In a town that you and I have discussed many times is devoid of common sense, we need to take a look at it, because if our real concern is the next election and not the direction that we are going in, then we are here for the wrong purposes.

So I want to thank the gentleman. I have got to tell you, we talked long and we talked at great length about the effects this was having.

H.R. 2575 corrects a flawed idea. It just makes sense what you are doing, sir. And I would just tell you that, for all of those thousands and thousands and millions of workers who have been hurt by this law, our ability to fix it, which is what some of our colleagues say—I know you don't like it; I know you don't agree with it, but help us fix it—we need to fix it, not so much for a political agenda but for the people we represent.

I thank you for what you are doing. I think that this piece of legislation is timely and is needed, and your dedication to the American worker and to the American families is to be heralded.

Thank you so much.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

This is not a political issue. There is an old saying that good policy is good politics. Those who are driven primarily by political considerations—and I think there are, frankly, few that are primarily driven by those—they need to be on the right side of history. They need to be adopting a more optimal policy with respect to how we treat our low- and middle-income workers, so I would invite their support.

Please understand, even in this sometimes shrill, divided Congress, even in this sometimes divided Nation, there are still things we can agree upon. There are commonsensical solutions that we can adopt. There are problems that we can solve.

Repealing the first ever definition of ''full time'' in full law at 30 hours and moving it up to 40 hours, the traditional full-time workweek standard, just makes common sense. It is going to restore wages for millions of workers. $75 billion in foregone wages will be realized if we pass the Save American Workers Act.

Now, there has been quite a bit of talk about wages in this town and beyond in recent weeks, the minimum wage, in particular. I didn't come here to talk specifically about the minimum wage, but let me just illustrate the impact of this 40-hour provision. Let's consider the worker who works at the Federal minimum wage, which few actually do, but $7.25 an hour. So many States have a higher minimum wage. So many people get multiple jobs and, you know, gosh, my heart goes out to them. I appreciate their work ethic. But as a proportion of our economy, most people are not working at the $7.25 rate.

But let's suppose someone is and they work 40 hours a week. That is $290 in take-home pay per week. Now, if we were to raise the minimum wage as the President suggests to $10.20 but this person got dropped down to 29 hours a week, guess what they would be making? Roughly $290 a week. The same thing.

So, for those who see this as a sort of an issue that is somehow partisan but care deeply about the issue of the minimum wage, which I think can create distortions in the economy and kill jobs and so forth—that is a separate debate that I suspect we will have—but those who care deeply about this ought to be on board with this 40 hours is full time legislation, the Save American Workers Act, so I would invite their bipartisan support.

I note that we have just about every Republican who has signed on to this bill. We have a handful of courageous Democrats, and I commend their participation. I think we have some others with us this evening who are supportive of this legislation, prepared to speak to their constituents' experiences and their thoughts about the adverse consequences of a 30-hour definition of ''full time'' in the United States of America.

I am joined by my colleague from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), who is a very thoughtful and articulate member of the Budget Committee and cares deeply about his State. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. LANKFORD. I thank the gentleman from Indiana.

It is my privilege to get a chance to be able to speak out for the constituents that I represent who are asking the same questions a lot of Americans are asking: Why did you just drop my hours?

People that have jobs, go to work every day, trying to pay for their family, barely eking by, working hourly, suddenly got their hours dropped, and they are asking all of us: Why did this happen?

Well, the difficult thing is we are trying to explain to people it happened because more people were needed onto the exchanges, and so the administration needed additional people to get onto this health care coverage. So it isn't actually something to help people; it is something to help the administration and their formula, which makes them even madder.

They don't want to be a pawn in some game. They want to take care of their family. They want to be able to do what they can do in their job and to take care of their kids and play soccer with them on weekends and be able to spend time, but things have changed dramatically for them now.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. So would it be accurate to say that, in part, it is our lower-income to middle-income workers, through reduced hours, who are paying for the Affordable Care Act, which is wildly unpopular nationally?

Mr. LANKFORD. It is. And it is wildly unpopular larger in that group as well. Every section of Americans, when you go and get a chance to visit with them, they will tell you the same thing: my premiums went up; my deduction went up; I lost access to a doctor; I had to change to a different hospital; I lost some of my choices.

And this whole belief that suddenly now we have 7 million new people that got there, millions of those individuals that are now in the exchanges used to be on health care that they liked. They were kicked off of it January 1, and now they are forced into a new system, and the President is somehow celebrating.

I was astounded by the sense of, at the very last minute, all these people filed and they got excited about it. There are around 43 million people that are uninsured in the United States. Seven million of them have actually capitulated to the administration's forced enrollment into this program or face a fine. That would be something akin to, during tax day coming up just 15 days from now, the administration standing up and celebrating that 25 percent of Americans actually filed their taxes on time because they would face a fine if they don't. Well, no one would actually celebrate that, but this administration is celebrating 25 percent of the people actually following through on it.

There are real lives and real people that are attached to this. Let me tell you about one of them. Her name is Cindy. And like some of the other individuals that were here visiting before, Mr. KELLY from Pennsylvania, didn't want her name put out publicly on it because, in this day and age, people are becoming more and more afraid of their government and what their government is going to do to them rather than for them.

So Cindy works at a job at a restaurant. She works more than 40 hours a week, and then finds out, after the transition happens, January 1, they are dropping her hours back to 26 hours a week. Twenty-six hours a week is really hard. Her job plus 30 hours was really difficult for her to make ends meet. She can't make it at 26 hours. So now this individual has to go out and try to find a different job to add up to two different jobs.

Let me talk to you about a dad that his son just graduated from high school. He didn't make great grades in high school, but he is a good, hard worker. So he is engaged in a job, and he is out looking for a job. Doesn't have a college degree, just a working guy. He cannot find a job for more than 28½ hours, so he is looking for two jobs

to try to get that, to try to build up to enough money to be able to do it.

So suddenly, this sense of we are going to help provide for people by forcing people to get to this providing health care, what is actually happening is people are just dropping the hours. It is the same thing everyone said before.

And the President's statement today that there is no good reason to go back to a time before ObamaCare, I would have to tell you, Cindy would disagree with that; this other gentleman would disagree with that. A lot of people would look back and say: I would much rather go back to working one job than be forced to work two jobs and still not have health care coverage.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. You mentioned a very compelling story, incidentally, and I think all of us hear these stories, Republican, Democrat, Independent. It matters not. I suspect we all hear them around our district. You mentioned the President's Statement of Administration Policy which came out today, April Fools' Day. I had to wonder whether it might have been an April Fools' joke. It, in part, reads: Rather than attempting, once again, to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which the House has tried to do over 50 times, it is time for Congress to stop fighting old political battles and join the President in an agenda focused on providing greater economic opportunity. And then it goes on and on.

Listen, this is not a repeal of the Affordable Care Act. This is a repeal of a provision that we recognize that a bipartisan group of United States Congressmen and many Senators recognize is flawed. So, I mean, it is an absolute red herring.

I cannot understand why the administration won't engage with us in a fair-minded, statesmanlike way to mitigate the pain so many Americans are feeling.

Mr. LANKFORD. I would have to tell you honestly, I would like nothing better for my citizens that I represent to not have to live under this law. I would absolutely vote again, as I have multiple times, to repeal this entire law.

But I also have a responsibility to do whatever I can to protect the people of my district from the harmful effects of this law, and this law has many harmful effects. One of them is it is forcing those that struggle the most in our economy to make two ends meet to have to go out and get multiple jobs, and it has made it even harder for them, in transportation, in timing, in time with their family. They are losing all of those things. It has been taken away from them based on a preference of an administration, not something that is actually economic responsibility of the President.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. I would like to associate myself with those remarks pertaining to preferring to start over in an open, deliberative fashion. My belief would be that, if we started over with respect to health care reform, we could actually control costs, increase access, continue to incentivize innovation, and do all the other things that were purportedly the rationale behind this law.

We want to broaden coverage to those who don't have coverage, but the Affordable Care Act, so-called, does not even accomplish that. And so the administration, at least according to the Statement of Administration Policy put out today, welcomes ideas to improve the law. Well, this is an idea to improve the health care circumstances of so many Americans. We need to repeal this 30-hour provision within the law, so that is what the Save American Workers Act does.

Now, I noted that this created some perverse incentives, this 30-hour threshold. I heard a story from a constituent who will remain unnamed for obvious reasons, but they indicated they own some fast-food restaurants, and they are actually contemplating employing some of their workers at one fast-food restaurant under the 30-hour threshold and then making an arrangement with a nearby restaurant, whether they own it or someone else owns it, of a different name to finish out their workweek. So basically, to use a colloquial example, you take off the Subway shirt or the McDonald's shirt and then put on a Burger King shirt.

These are the sorts of perverse incentives created by ill-considered provisions in a very hastily passed and, frankly, partisan law.

Mr. BARR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BARR. I thank the gentleman.

I would like to note a point that the President made in his State of the Union address and, really, why Congressman YOUNG's bill should be a point of agreement for all of us—for the President, for Members of the other side of the aisle, for those of us on this side of the aisle. Here is what the President said in his State of the Union address, speaking to the state of our economy: Inequality has grown, he said, income inequality. Upward mobility has stalled.

That is what the President of the United States said. I agree with the President. Upward mobility has stalled.

Why has it stalled?

Well, one of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, upward mobility has stalled in this country is because we are punishing hard work. ObamaCare is punishing people for working hard. That is what made this country great.

□ 2015

The Congressional Budget Office released a report a few weeks ago, and that report projects that ObamaCare will force 2.5 million Americans to leave the workforce in the next decade.

Think about that. There are Members of Congress who are defending a law that will shrink the American workforce by 2.5 million Americans. And what is the administration's response? They say it is a good thing. They say it is a good thing that Americans are going to be forced to leave their jobs.

So this law does two things: it forces Americans to lose their jobs or leave the workforce, and it forces employers to reduce the number of hours for those who remain in the workforce. This is a prescription for continued economic stagnation.

Now, we have a solution before us. The solution is the legislation H.R. 2575, proposed by my friend from Indiana, TODD YOUNG, the Save American Workers Act. Not only is this proposal good for working Americans—because it would repeal the 30-hour workweek definition and replace it with a traditional 40-hour workweek definition for full-time work—but it would also, according to the Congressional Budget Office, it will create $75 billion in higher cash wages for American workers.

Now, if that is what the nonpartisan CBO says—and we know that wages have been declining in this country; we know that working families are struggling to put food on the table because they are not making enough to make ends meet and to take care of their kids—why on Earth would we not vote in favor of legislation that will create $75 billion in higher cash wages?

I just want to, once again, thank the gentleman from Indiana. I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, also for his leadership and the gentleman from Oklahoma who spoke earlier and eloquently shared a story of his constituent.

This is about American workers having the ability to achieve that upward mobility that the President spoke about in his State of the Union. I invite the President to join us. I invite my friends on the other side of the aisle to join us in helping the American workers achieve their potential, reinvigorate the work ethic in this country, allow people to work the way they want to without punishing small businesses and workers for achieving their potential.

At a time when Americans are struggling, we must do everything we can to invest in real solutions like the Save American Workers Act of 2014 that would grow the economy and get the country working again.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. I thank the gentleman.

I am going to close where I began. The President is proposing a 25 percent increase in the minimum wage, but ObamaCare is resulting in as much as a 25 percent decrease in the pay of millions of hourly workers. Because of the 30 hours is full time provision, too many Americans aren't able to work the number of hours they need, aren't able to get the take-home pay they need to support themselves and their families and to go after the dreams that they want to realize.

So by passing my bill, one which has bipartisan support and which has enjoyed great leadership by so many of

my colleagues, the Save American Workers Act, we can create an America that works simply by restoring the traditional 40-hour workweek.

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

COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Missouri). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to talk about a couple of issues that are on the floor. I really want to spend this evening talking about an enormous opportunity that America has to further jobs in this Nation. It is a piece of legislation that passed off the House floor this afternoon. H.R. 4005, a piece of legislation that deals with the Coast Guard and the maritime industry.

But just a few words about the previous hour that was spent here talking about the 40-hour workweek. There is nothing in the Affordable Care Act that does away with the 40-hour workweek, not at all. The 40-hour workweek remains, and, in fact, Democrats are trying to strengthen the overtime provisions that are needed to be put into effect, when men and women across the United States work more than 40 hours and do not receive overtime, time-and-a-half pay. So that is another thing.

We just basically heard yet one more effort by our Republican colleagues to eviscerate and otherwise put aside the Affordable Care Act, which now has perhaps 12 to 15 million Americans with some sort of insurance. Perhaps it is a new health insurance policy that they previously did not have available to them or they are on Medicaid or they are on their parents' health insurance. Well over 12 million Americans now have insurance because of the Affordable Care Act.

They also have guaranteed coverage. No longer can an insurance company discriminate against them because they have a preexisting condition. No longer are newborn babies denied coverage because they are born with some sort of a medical problem. That is what used to occur in America before the Affordable Care Act.

Also, it is kind of ironic, if you will, that we just heard an hour of discussion on the 30-hour workweek, the 40-hour workweek. The 30 hours only talks about when an employer must provide insurance for their employees. It doesn't take away anybody's 40-hour workweek at all.

However, the ironic part is today, the Republicans announced the new Ryan budget, which seriously impacts every American's health care policy. The new Ryan budget repeals the Affordable Care Act and those guarantees of coverage that I spoke of just a moment ago. The guarantee that a newborn child with a medical problem has insurance was wiped out by the proposal that was introduced by Mr. RYAN today. The guarantee that every woman is no longer discriminated against because she is a woman, a female, that guarantee was wiped out by the proposal that was put forward by Mr. RYAN today.

The guarantee that there are no more limits on coverage. Before the Affordable Care Act, if you came down with cancer and your insurance policy, as was common, had a total limit on the coverage, you would blow through that coverage and then bankruptcy was in your future. Oh, unless, of course, you didn't take the medical care. So these basic guarantees of health insurance availability were wiped out, or would be wiped out, by Mr. RYAN's budget that he proposed today.

Similarly, something that is really important for every senior is seriously affected by the Republican Ryan budget that was put forth today. It was 1965 that Medicare went into effect. Lyndon Johnson signed that bill. I actually have a photo of the speech that he gave here on the House floor, calling for the enactment of Medicare and Medicaid. It was 1963, '64 when that occurred.

The budget proposal that was put out by Mr. RYAN today would effectively end Medicare, as we know it. And if you are 55 years of age or younger, you would not have Medicare when you become 65. Instead, you would be given a voucher and told, go buy insurance in the health insurance market, which was so roundly criticized by our Republican colleagues today, and the improvements that have been made in that market by the Affordable Care Act.

So let's try to get this straight. First of all, a proposal put forward today by the Republican majority in this House would effectively end Medicare for every American who is 55 and younger and put those people into a health insurance market that has had all of its guarantees of coverage, all of the consumer protections, all of the consumer Bill of Rights in the Affordable Care Act repealed. So on the one hand you repeal all of those protections, and then on the other hand, you take every American 55 years and younger and force them into that dog fight with no protections in the private health insurance market. I don't think we want to go there. I don't think we want to go there.

What we want to do is to make sure that seniors have affordable Medicare insurance. But the proposal put forth today will deny those men and women that are currently in Medicare the opportunity to have the doughnut hole, the prescription drug doughnut hole, removed. Instead, the proposal put forth today would increase that doughnut hole, sending seniors back into the unaffordable prescription drug program that existed before the Affordable Care Act. So if you are a senior out there, beware. Beware of the budget proposal that was put forth here in the House of Representatives today because there is serious harm to you in 2016, should that proposal ever become law.

We will fight that. We don't want Medicare to disappear, as we know it. We don't want a voucher program that forces seniors into the clutches of the private insurance companies without the protections that are presently in the Affordable Care program.

I didn't intend to talk about this today. But following on the previous hour from my colleagues who were talking so vehemently against the Affordable Care Act, I thought we ought to have a discussion about what is in the Affordable Care Act, all of the protections that are there for every, every American, whether they are 65 or older. And oh, by the way, if you are 65 now and you are on Medicare, you have an annual free medical checkup—high blood pressure, diabetes, all of those things that can affect you—an annual free checkup which has already shown that it keeps seniors healthy longer and has dramatically reduced the cost of Medicare this year and will continue to do so in the years ahead.

Now, what I really wanted to talk about was something really good and really positive that happened here on the floor of the House today, and that was the passage of H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard and Maritime legislation that reauthorizes the United States Coast Guard for 2 more years, expands their opportunities to protect our waterways, our lakes, and to protect America in the oceans that surround this great Nation. It also provides an opportunity for the mariners who want to enter that profession from the armed services, who may have been in the Navy, who have gained certain skills, so that they can get a license to be a mariner, to be a sailor, to be a ship's captain or an officer on one of our merchant marine ships. There is more that we can do with this piece of legislation, and I want to put it up here so that we can take a look at some of the opportunities that exist in this law. Here we go.

About 20 years ago, there were several hundred American-flagged ships and several tens of thousands of American sailors that were bringing American commerce, exports, and imports into our ports. So if we support the growth of jobs and the growth of trade, then we need to support the merchant marine and Coast Guard renewal act that passed the House today because it provides these opportunities.

This is not an LNG tanker. But the United States may very well be exporting liquefied natural gas. Rather than importing, we are likely to be exporting. Seven permits have been granted to the gas companies to export LNG, liquefied natural gas.

□ 2030

That is good, to a point. Export too much of this, and a strategic American

asset will be wasted, and we will lose the opportunity to have low-cost energy in the United States.

That low-cost energy, a result of an abundance of natural gas that we now have in the United States, will be lost if we export too much of that gas through the liquification and the export of it.

Right now, we are somewhere around 10 percent of the total supply would be exported; and economists tell us, at that level, we are not going to see a rise in the cost of energy in the United States. That is good, and it is good for the gas companies.

They have been drilling, and if they are able to export this, they are going to make a substantial profit on that gas that they are allowed to export, a very handsome profit, because we have seen the Ukrainian situation with Russia threatening to shut down the supply of gas to Ukraine and quite possibly to Western Europe.

Well, the cost of gas in those countries is two, three, and, in some cases, four times what it costs here in the United States; so the gas companies naturally want to export to that market, to take advantage of the higher prices there.

All well and good, if it is limited. Even at that limited rate, we could see over 100 new, American-made ships handling that export.

We need to be very aware here in Congress that American policy—the laws—have everything to do with American manufacturing; so if we are going to Make It In America once again, we need to use every opportunity to enhance our manufacturing base.

The export of billions—and indeed trillions—of cubic feet of natural gas from those seven export terminals could lead to 100 or more new tankers, LNG tankers, in the export of that gas, sending that gas all around the world, liquified natural gas.

We can build those ships here if we use our public policy wisely and simply require that American natural gas be exported on American-made ships built in American shipyards made by American workers and then flagged and sailed by American sailors, building, once again, the American merchant marine.

We have this opportunity. We should not lose this opportunity. Now, we may run up against certain trade barriers put there by the World Trade Organization. We need to find a way to maneuver around those trade barriers and use every opportunity that this strategic natural asset gives to this country, to use that not just for the benefit of the gas companies and their profits, but also to the benefit of American workers, American steel companies producing the steel, American engine companies building the engines for these tankers, and American shipyards putting together these ships that will be exporting this natural gas.

The liquefied natural gas industry opportunity must not be missed. We must, once again, rebuild the American shipping fleet by 100 tankers. It is a very real possibility. We must not lose that possibility.

In the legislation that passed today, we see the opportunity for the Coast Guard to build new offshore patrol cutters. We see an opportunity for the maritime industry to enter into the manufacturing of ships from American shipyards, and we see the opportunity for the Coast Guard to protect America's ports. These are things that must be done, and this is public policy at its best.

However, there is a threat to all of this. The threat is found in the reality that passing an authorization bill is the starting point. It authorizes the expenditures.

The question then goes to: Will there actually be an appropriation that will fund those new ships for the Coast Guard, that will fund the merchant marine, the Ready Reserve fleet, and the maritime shipping programs?

That is on the appropriations side, and that will bring me back full circle to where I started this discussion.

The budget that was proposed today by Mr. RYAN and the Republicans decimates the programs that would fund the education of the mariners in the maritime academies, that would fund the new ships for the Coast Guard, would decimate the opportunity to build the marine security program that puts ships available for the military, shipping men and equipment to wherever they are needed in the world if there is some trouble out there that the military must respond to, that decimates the funding for the programs that are in the Coast Guard Maritime Authorization Act.

We need to be consistent here. It is not enough to vote by unanimous consent off this floor a bill that authorizes a robust Coast Guard, that authorizes the rebuilding of the maritime industry, that authorizes the pay level for our coastguardsmen and women, and simultaneously put forth a budget that would defund or largely eliminate those programs.

So the question is: Are we prepared to create jobs in our Nation or not?

A final point goes to something that is really important in my district, and it is this: the levees that protect the tens of thousands of citizens in my district from flooding. This is a picture of a levee that broke in California some time ago, and the flooding devastated a community. This is a threat all across America.

The question for us here on the floor of the House of Representatives is: Are we willing to put together an infrastructure program like the President had called for in his budget? Or are we going to go with the Ryan budget which reduces—significantly reduces—the investment in critical infrastructure that protects our communities?

I could just as easily put a picture up here of a bridge that has collapsed and of roads with potholes. In this Nation, our water systems are antiquated, our sanitation systems are inadequate, our levee systems don't meet the needs to protect our community; and in California, with a major drought underway, we do not have the money to build the water storage systems to protect the world's largest agricultural sector, California agriculture, and certainly the Nation's largest agricultural sector, or the cities and the communities that depend upon the water.

We have enormous infrastructure needs. The President, in his budget, put forth a major undertaking to fund new infrastructure by ending tax breaks for American corporations that are sending jobs overseas.

On the other hand, put forward today by my Republican colleagues is a minimalist program—not a robust program that would put millions of Americans back to work—but rather a minimalist program that actually would continue the decrease in the expenditures on infrastructure.

Let me just put up one more chart here, and this is a chart of where we are going with infrastructure spending at the Federal level. This is 2002. In 2002, we were spending somewhere in the range of $325 billion a year on infrastructure.

In 2012—and we are not even at the lower level called for in the sequestration—we are down to less than $250 billion a year on infrastructure, all Federal expenditures—highways, levees, ports, water systems, and sanitation systems, all of that. From $325 billion, we have lost $75 billion. Those are American jobs that are not coming into play.

If we take the budget proposal today from Mr. RYAN, this number will go even lower. We can't do that. This Nation is built on its infrastructure, it is built on its education, it is built on its support for seniors, and it is built on the humanitarian instincts that we have.

And what are we getting from our majority? Less—less infrastructure; less for seniors; less for Medicaid, the poor, and the elderly; and less Pell grants for those kids that want to go to school.

That is not how you build this economy. You build this economy on a great education system that has to be funded, kids that can go to college, not less Pell grants, but more, so that kids can find an affordable college education; more infrastructure investment, not less.

But go with the President. He would have us back up to this number, 325 billion, not the 75 billion less that is in the current budgets, the current austerity budgets or the budgets that have been proposed by Mr. RYAN today.

Are we going to build America or not? We put forward a major bill, the Coast Guard bill, and then we don't fund it; so it becomes hypocritical and devastating to the American economy.

For those seniors that depend on Medicare, the Ryan budget, instead of

closing the doughnut hole for prescription drugs that cost seniors that have serious health care an enormous amount of money, it opens it so, once again, seniors are going to have to pay for drugs that they cannot afford. The Affordable Care Act closed that.

Choices, we are going to make choices here. We are in the process of deciding what the budget will be for the Government of the United States.

Will it be a budget that provides the fundamental needs to grow this economy, education, and manufacturing so our shipyards and so our bridges can be built with American workers? Are we going to do that or not? Are we going to take care of the seniors? Are we going to educate our kids?

These are the questions that we confront here, and I would ask our colleagues to stop the—I don't know—3-year effort now to repeal the Affordable Care Act and, rather, work on making that new system effective, efficient, and viable.

It is the path we are on. It is not a government-run health care system. In fact, it is a private insurance system that has now been added with protections for the consumers, the consumers' health care bill of rights.

Don't repeal it. Make it work better. Work with us to address those problems that we know exist in the system. No program has ever been perfect, and we can do better here. That is our goal.

So today was a good day for me. As ranking member of the Coast Guard Maritime Subcommittee, we put forth a good policy—not complete—we need to add to it, and hopefully, that will happen when the bill is taken up in the Senate; but at the same time, we hear a continuing call to do away—to eliminate the patient's bill of rights. We don't want to do that.

I am going to yield back my remaining time here and just put this question before all of us. This is a country that needs to grow. This is a country that needs to prosper, and we need to work across the aisle here, just as we did last week with my colleague, Mr. LAMALFA, a Republican, a conservative.

We said we need to build something in California. We need to build a water storage system. So we have introduced legislation, the sites reservoir legislation, a bipartisan piece of legislation, a major infrastructure reservoir for the State of California, where we can store water for the drought that is going to come—not for the current drought, that opportunity was lost years ago—but for the next drought, nearly 2 million acre feet of water to be stored to be available for farmers, for the city, for the environment, to be used when needed when the rain is not there.

That is the kind of bipartisanship that we need. We need to come together. We need to spend our money wisely and efficiently. We can do that in a bipartisan way. I want to thank my colleague, Mr. LAMALFA, for working on a project that is desperately needed in California. We need those levees all across this Nation.

□ 2045

We need those shipyards building American ships to carry that natural gas all around the world. We don't need to do too much of it. We don't want to drive up the price in the United States. We want to make sure that if we are going to export a strategic national asset that all of America benefits—not just the gas companies, but all of America—the shipyards, the shipbuilders, the steelworkers, the plumbers, the pipe fitters, the electricians, those middle class jobs, 100 ships. It is possible. We need to work together to make that happen.

We have got a full agenda ahead of us. An austerity budget won't make it. It is going to harm this Nation. It is going deprive us of what we need to do: to build the infrastructure, to educate, to do the research, and to make this country move forward. Hopefully we will make a wise decision

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back my remaining time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CAPUANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2014.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this Congress, two additional requirements for the consideration of a concurrent resolution on the budget resolution were set forth in Section 3(e) of House Resolution 5 (113th Congress).

The first requires the concurrent resolution on the budget include a section related to means-tested and nonmeans-tested direct spending programs. The second requires a statement from the Chair of the Committee on the Budget defining those terms to be included in the Congressional Record prior to the consideration of such concurrent resolution on the budget. Amendments to, and conference reports on, the concurrent resolution must also fulfill these provisions.

Enclosed please find two tables prepared in order to fulfill the terms of section 3(e) referred to above. I have also included a communication and associated tables from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, with whom I have consulted in the preparation of this material. While the nonmeans-tested list is not exhaustive, all programs not considered means-tested can be considered nonmeans-tested direct spending. The description of programs considered to be means-tested direct spending and nonmeans-tested direct spending is the same as the one filed on March 7, 2013 in compliance with the section 3(e) requirement.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. RYAN of Wisconsin,
Chairman, House Budget Committee.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2014.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives,
Washington DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you requested, enclosed are two tables that show federal spending for each of the government's major mandatory spending programs and tax credits that are primarily means-tested (that is, spending programs and tax credits that provide cash payments or assistance in obtaining health care, food, or education to people with relatively low income or few assets). Table 1 shows CBO's baseline projections for the 2014–2024 period; Table 2 shows historical spending data from 2004 through 2013, along with CBO's estimates for 2014.

The tables include total spending for mandatory programs that are primarily not means-tested, but they do not include separate entries for individual programs in that group that have means-tested components (for example, student loans and some portions of Medicare, other than low-income subsidies for Part D). They also do not include means-tested programs that are discretionary (for example, the Section 8 housing assistance programs and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program). However, the tables show discretionary spending for the Pell Grant program as a memorandum item because that program has both discretionary and mandatory spending components and the amount of the mandatory Pell grant component is partially dependent on the annual amount of discretionary funding.

In CBO's latest baseline projections, published in The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2014 to 2024 (February 2014), mandatory outlays for both means-tested and nonmeanstested programs are projected to grow over the next decade at an average annual rate of 5.4 percent (see Table 1).

Overall, the growth rates projected for total mandatory spending over the coming decade are slower than those experienced in the past 10 years—by about one-half percentage point per year, on average. Over the 2005–2014 period, CBO estimates that total mandatory outlays will have increased at an average annual rate of 6.0 percent—means-tested programs by an average of 6.8 percent per year and non-means-tested programs by 5.7 percent per year (see Table 2).

A number of programs shown in Tables 1 and 2 have been or are scheduled to be significantly affected by changes in law, the recent recession, and the continuing recovery. As a result, important aspects of the programs in the future may differ significantly from historical experience, and those differences may be the source of some of the variation between the growth rates in the past 10 years and those in the coming decade. For example, spending for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), health insurance subsidies, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the refundable portions of the earned income and child tax credits has been or will be significantly affected by program changes that unfold over time:

The difference in growth rates for Medicaid in the two periods stems in part from policy changes that, on net, reduced those rates for the past decade (when they averaged 5.4 percent) but will increase them in the coming decade (when they are projected to average 6.8 percent). For example, in 2006, Medicaid spending contracted when spending for prescription drugs for certain people was shifted to the new Medicare Part D program. By contrast, projected rates of growth in Medicaid spending over the coming decade are

elevated by the expansion of Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act. CBO expects growth in such spending to average about 10 percent per year over the 2014–2017 period, as the expansion is phased in, and then to level off at a steady-state rate of roughly 5.5 percent per year in the final years of the projection period.

The difference in growth rates between the two periods for CHIP (11.8 percent in the 2005–2014 period vs. −8.6 percent in the 2015–2024 period) reflects the sunset of CHIP's existing authority at the end of fiscal year 2015. Consistent with statutory guidelines, CB0 assumes in its baseline spending projections that funding for the program after 2015 will continue at $5.7 billion, which is a significant reduction from the amount available at the start of the 2015–2024 period.

Payments of health insurance subsidies under the Affordable Care Act began in January 2014, and the high rates of growth projected for the next several years reflect a startup period for the new program. In the current projection, the number of people gaining coverage through the exchanges rises from 6 million in 2014 to 22 million in 2016. CBO projects that, after the initial startup, annual growth will average about 6 percent over the 2018–2024 period.

SNAP spending increased markedly during the recent recession—particularly in 2009 and 2010—as more people became eligible for those benefits. CB0 expects that SNAP caseloads will fall in each year of the projection period as the economy continues to improve. In addition, provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) raised the maximum benefit under that program; those provisions expired in October 2013.

The outlay portions of the earned income and child tax credits are expected to dip after 2018 because provisions expanding the refundability of those credits (which were originally enacted in ARRA and were subsequently extended) are scheduled to expire on December 31, 2017.

Finally, because of the unique budgetary treatment of the Pell Grant program—which has both mandatory and discretionary components—the growth rates for the mandatory portions of that program give incomplete information. The bulk of the funding for Pell grants is discretionary and is provided annually in appropriation acts. In recent years, spending for Pell grants also has included two mandatory components that have allowed the discretionary budget authority provided by the regular appropriation acts to remain well below the full cost of the program.

In keeping with procedures that govern CBO's baseline projections, the projection for the discretionary portion of the Pell Grant program is based on the budget authority appropriated for fiscal year 2014, adjusted for inflation. (Discretionary spending for the program is shown as a memorandum item in both tables.) Thus, the baseline projection for both discretionary and mandatory speeding for Pell grants does not represent an estimate of the expected future costs of the program; such a projection also would take into account such factors as changes in eligibility and enrollment.

I hope that you find this information helpful. If you have any further questions, please contact me or my staff. The primary staff contact is Barry Blom, who can be reached at 226–2880.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF,
Director.

Enclosure

ENDNOTE

1. Under current law, funding for the program in 2015 consists of two semiannual allotments of $2.85 billion—amounts that are much smaller than the allotments made in the four preceding years. (The first semiannual allotment in 2015 will be supplemented by $15.4 billion in one-time funding for the program.) Following the rules prescribed by the Deficit Control Act, CB0 extrapolates the $2.85 billion provided for the second half of the year to arrive at projected annual funding of $5.7 billion.

Table 1

Mandatory Outlays in CBO's February 2014 Baseline

(Outlays by fiscal year, billions of dollars)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average Annual Growth 2015-2024
Means-Tested Outlays												
Health Care Programs												
Medicaid	298	328	368	393	413	437	461	487	515	543	574	6.8%
Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidies	24	26	30	31	32	37	40	44	51	53	54	8.3%
Health insurance subsidies[a]	15	41	75	95	104	108	115	122	128	135	143	24.9%
Children's Health Insurance Program	14	15	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	-8.6%
Subtotal	352	410	481	525	555	588	622	659	700	737	775	8.2%
Income Security												
SNAP	80	80	79	78	76	76	75	75	74	74	74	-0.8%
Supplemental Security Income	54	55	61	59	55	62	64	66	74	71	67	2.1%
Earned income and child tax credits[b]	82	84	87	88	89	78	80	81	82	84	85	0.4%
Family support and foster care[c]	31	31	32	32	32	32	32	33	33	33	33	0.6%
Child nutrition	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	28	30	31	3.9%
Subtotal	268	272	281	279	277	273	277	282	292	291	291	0.8%
Veterans Pensions	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	3.2%
Pell Grants[d]	13	6	7	8	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	-3.1%
Subtotal, Means-Tested Outlays	639	694	774	818	848	877	916	958	1,009	1,046	1,083	5.4%
Non-Means-Tested Outlays[e]	1,766	1,846	1,955	2,035	2,124	2,266	2,399	2,546	2,736	2,851	2,994	5.4%
Total Mandatory Outlays	**2,405**	**2,540**	**2,729**	**2,853**	**2,972**	**3,144**	**3,315**	**3,504**	**3,744**	**3,897**	**4,077**	5.4%
Memorandum												
Pell Grants (Discretionary)[f]	18	27	29	24	24	25	25	26	26	27	27	3.8%

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Notes: Unless otherwise noted, the projections shown here are the same as those reported in Congressional Budget Office, *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2014 to 2024* (February 2014).

The average annual growth rate over the 2015-2024 period encompasses growth in outlays from the amount recorded in 2014 through the amount projected for 2024.

Projections on spending for benefit programs in this table exclude administrative costs that are classified as discretionary but generally include administrative costs classified as mandatory.

SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

a. Differs from the amounts reported in Table 3-2 of *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2014 to 2024* (February 2014) because it does not include payments to health insurance plans for risk adjustment (amounts paid to plans that attract less healthy enrollees), reinsurance (amounts paid to plans that enroll individuals who end up with high costs), and risk corridors (amounts paid to health insurance plans whose actual costs for medical claims exceed expected costs). According to CBO's projections, that spending will be more than offset by corresponding collections. Spending for grants to states to establish exchanges is also excluded.

b. Differs from the amounts reported in Table 3-2 of *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2014 to 2024* (February 2014) because it does not include other tax credits.

c. Includes the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Child Support Enforcement program, the Child Care Entitlement program, and other programs that benefit children.

d. Includes mandatory spending designed to reduce the discretionary budget authority needed to support the maximum award level set in the appropriation act plus mandatory spending that, by formula, increases the total maximum award above the amount set in the appropriation act.

e. Does not include offsetting receipts.

f. The discretionary baseline does not represent a projection of expected costs for the discretionary portion of the Pell grant program. The budget authority is calculated by inflating the budget authority appropriated for fiscal year 2014. Outlays for future years are based on those projected amounts of budget authority and on the budget authority provided in 2014.

Table 2

Mandatory Outlays Since 2004

(Outlays by fiscal year, billions of dollars)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Projected, 2014	Average Annual Growth 2005-2014
Means-Tested Outlays												
Health Care Programs												
Medicaid	176	182	181	191	201	251	273	275	251	265	298	5.4%
Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidies	0	0	11	17	17	19	21	26	20	22	24	10.0% [a]
Health insurance subsidies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	n.a.
Children's Health Insurance Program	5	5	5	6	7	8	8	9	9	9	14	11.8%
Subtotal	181	187	197	213	225	277	302	309	279	297	352	6.9%
Income Security												
SNAP	29	33	35	35	39	56	70	77	80	83	80	10.9%
Supplemental Security Income	34	38	37	36	41	45	47	53	47	53	54	4.8%
Earned income and child tax credits	42	49	52	54	75	67	77	78	77	79	82	6.9%
Family support and foster care[b]	31	31	30	31	32	33	35	33	30	32	31	0.2%
Child nutrition	12	13	14	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	5.6%
Subtotal	147	163	168	170	202	217	247	260	254	266	268	6.2%
Veterans Pensions	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	6	5.2%
Pell Grants[c]	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	14	12	16	13	n.a.
Subtotal, Means-Tested Outlays	331	354	369	386	431	501	557	589	550	584	639	6.8%
Non-Means-Tested Outlays[d]	1,015	1,094	1,188	1,242	1,349	1,787	1,553	1,646	1,710	1,753	1,766	5.7%
Total Mandatory Outlays	**1,346**	**1,448**	**1,556**	**1,628**	**1,780**	**2,288**	**2,110**	**2,235**	**2,260**	**2,338**	**2,405**	6.0%
Memorandum												
Pell Grants (Discretionary)	13	13	13	13	15	13	20	21	21	17	18	3.6%

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Notes: The average annual growth rate over the 2005-2014 period encompasses growth in outlays from the amount recorded in 2004 through the amount projected for 2014.

Data on spending for benefit programs in this table exclude administrative costs that are classified as discretionary but generally include administrative costs classified as mandatory.

SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; n.a. = not applicable.

* = between zero and $500 million.

a. The average annual growth rate reflects the program's growth from its inception in 2006 through 2014.

b. Includes the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Child Support Enforcement program, the Child Care Entitlement program, and other programs that benefit children.

c. Includes mandatory spending designed to reduce the discretionary budget authority needed to support the maximum award level set in the appropriation act plus mandatory spending that, by formula, increases the total maximum award above the amount set in the appropriation act.

d. Does not include offsetting receipts.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4302. An act to amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on April 1, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 4302. To amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

5127. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received March 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5128. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Arizona; Payson PM10 Air Quality Planning Area [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0657; FRL-9908-00-Region-9] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5129. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0118; FRL-9907-77-Region-7] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5130. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri [EPA-R07-OAR-2013-0817; FRL-9908-02-Region-7] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5131. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Hawaii; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone and the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0228; FRL-9907-73-Region-9] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5132. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Updates to HCFC Trade Language as Applied to Article 5 Countries; Ratification Status of Parties to the Montreal Protocol; and Harmonized Tariff Schedule Commodity Codes [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0600; FRL-9906-75-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR89) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5133. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Regulation of Fuel and Fuel Additives: Reformulated Gasoline Requirements for the Atlanta Covered Area [EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0318; FRL-9907-91-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AN63) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5134. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Manchester and Nashua Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plans [EPA-R01-OAR-2012-0661; A-1-FRL-9906-76-Region 1] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5135. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Second Ten-Year PM10 Maintenance Plan for Pagosa Springs [EPA-R08-OAR-2011-0834; FRL-9907-57-Region 8] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5136. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Stage II Vapor Recovery Program and Control of Air Pollution from Volatile Organic Compounds [EPA-R06-OAR-2013-0439; FRL-9907-55-Region 6] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5137. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of California; 2013 Los Angeles County State Implementation Plan for 2008 Lead Standard [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0687; FRL-9907-14-Region 9] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5138. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Disapproval of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Clark County, Nevada [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0778; FRL-9907-56-Region 9] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5139. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fenamidone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0161; FRL-9906-99] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5140. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R05-OAR-2013-0806; FRL-9905-18-Region 9] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5141. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan South Coast Air Quality Management District and El Dorado County Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0683; FRL-9905-26-Region 9] received March 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5142. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20-303, ''Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5143. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period January 1, 2014 through March 31, 2014 as compiled by the Chief Administrative Officer, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a Public Law 88-454; (H. Doc. No. 113–100); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

5144. A letter from the Acing 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; Big Skate in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120-918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XD120) received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5145. A letter from the 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; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 121018563-3148-02] (RIN: 0648-XD125) received March 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5146. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XD099) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5147. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30939; Amdt. No. 3574] received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5148. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures,

and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30938; Amdt. No. 3573] received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 981. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a global rare earth element assessment, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–389). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1063. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment of the capability of the Nation to meet our current and future demands for the minerals critical to United States manufacturing and agricultural competitiveness and economic and national security in a time of expanding resource nationalism, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–390). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1259. A bill to establish Coltsville National Historical Park in the State of Connecticut, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–391). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1501. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, as a unit of the National Park System; with an amendment (Rept. 113–392). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3110. A bill to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska; with an amendment (Rept. 113–393). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3188. A bill to expedite the planning and implementation of salvage timber sales as part of Forest Service and Department of the Interior restoration and rehabilitation activities for lands within the Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park and Bureau of Land Management lands adversely impacted by the 2013 Rim Fire in California; with amendments (Rept. 113–394, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3222. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the 1657 signing of the Flushing Remonstrance in Queens, New York, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–395). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3605. A bill to make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–396). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 530. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2575) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30–hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours (Rept. 113–397). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3188 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 Mr. KLINE (for himself and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California):

H.R. 10. A bill to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. POLIS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 4348. A bill to increase transparency and reduce students' burdens related to transferring credits between institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself and Mr. CULBERSON):

H.R. 4349. A bill to repeal the crude oil export ban under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Energy and Commerce, and 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. DAINES:

H.R. 4350. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take lands and mineral rights on the reservation of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana and other culturally important lands into trust, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 4351. A bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. ROONEY):

H.R. 4352. A bill to require the Government Accountability Office to conduct periodic reviews of the flood insurance rates and flood insurance rate maps under the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. CHAFFETZ, and Mr. TIPTON):

H.R. 4353. A bill to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas:

H.R. 4354. A bill to prevent a taxpayer bailout of health insurance issuers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas (for himself, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. COTTON):

H.R. 4355. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the ''Harold George Bennett Post Office''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 4356. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the information security of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAMBORN (for himself and Mr. BRIDENSTINE):

H.R. 4357. A bill to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has engaged in espionage activities against the United States, poses a threat to United States national security interests, or has engaged in a terrorist activity against the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4358. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to convey a parcel of land in St. Charles County, Missouri, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4359. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make memorial headstones and markers available for purchase on behalf of members of reserve components who performed inactive duty training or active duty for training but did not serve on active duty; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MEADOWS (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. JONES, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. FOXX, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. HOLDING):

H.R. 4360. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Forest Service for the Grandfather Ranger District located at 109 Lawing Drive in Nebo, North Carolina, as the ''Jason Crisp Forest Service Building''; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 4361. A bill to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, relating to protective orders, sealing of cases, disclosures of discovery information in civil actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4362. A bill to prohibit United States contributions to the United Nations Population Fund; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 4363. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a direct employment pilot program for members of the National Guard and Reserve, to be known as

the ''Work for Warriors Program'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 4364. A bill to provide greater transparency, accountability, and safety authority to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BECERRA:

H. Res. 531. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Mr. MARINO, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. KEATING):

H. Res. 532. A resolution calls on the Government of Turkey to allow free expression and Internet freedom; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. CHU, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. RAHALL, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine):

H. Res. 533. A resolution expressing support for designation of a ''Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WALZ (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. KLINE, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. KIND):

H. Res. 534. A resolution recognizing the 150th Anniversary of Mayo Clinic; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. KLINE:

H.R. 10.

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. GEORGE MILLER of California;

H.R. 4348.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and 3

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 4349.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I., Sec. 8, Clause 3: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign nations.''

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 4350.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4351.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 4352.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 4353.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas:

H.R. 4354.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas

H.R. 4355.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 The Congress shall have Power to establish Post Offices and post roads.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 4356.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, ''The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof''

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 4357.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8. To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper . . .

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4358.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York

H.R. 4359.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8, of the United States Constitution reserves to Congress the power to raise and support Armies and provide and maintain a Navy, as well as make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval forces.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 4360.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1:

Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 4361.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 9 and 18 of section 8 of article I and section 1 of article III of the Constitution.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4362.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.''

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 4363.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. WAXMAN:

H.R. 4364.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 24: Mr. RENACCI and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 139: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 148: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 164: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 182: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 303: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 333: Ms. HAHN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 485: Mr. LEWIS and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 543: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 578: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 594: Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 596: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 647: Mrs. BLACK, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 721: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 755: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 781: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 808: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 824: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 846: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 1020: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 1024: Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 1030: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 1074: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1148: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1240: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1249: Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 1339: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1354: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 1466: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1475: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 1502: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 1507: Mr. POCAN and Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois.

H.R. 1563: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FATTAH, and Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 1579: Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1666: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1696: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

H.R. 1728: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 1739: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1761: Mrs. WALORSKI and Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 1812: Mr. LONG and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 1851: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1852: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 2093: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 2330: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 2415: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. MOORE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2429: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 2453: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 2537: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 2548: Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LANCE, and Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 2557: Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 2788: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2932: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. FARR, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. PETRI, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALBERG, and Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 2939: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. KEATING, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 2957: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2959: Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. MESSER, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 3043: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 3086: Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. CAMP.
H.R. 3303: Ms. JENKINS and Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 3344: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 3367: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. PETRI, and Ms. JENKINS.
H.R. 3371: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 3377: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. LONG, Mr. HALL, and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 3382: Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 3413: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 3485: Mr. BYRNE and Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 3494: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3529: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 3530: Mr. CHAFFETZ and Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 3548: Mr. BENISHEK and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3619: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 3665: Mr. BARROW of Georgia.
H.R. 3670: Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 3672: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 3673: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 3717: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 3723: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 3740: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 3776: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. ROONEY.
H.R. 3778: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 3829: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 3836: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. MESSER, Mr. PETRI, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mrs. ELLMERS.
H.R. 3852: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3877: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 3878: Ms. DELBENE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. DELAURO, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3989: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 3991: Mr. BENISHEK and Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 3997: Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 4007: Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 4031: Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 4042: Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 4049: Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 4058: Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 4060: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 4078: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 4128: Mr. KILMER and Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 4148: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr, Himes.
H.R. 4149: Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 4157: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 4190: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 4208: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 4225: Mr. PITTENGER, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 4230: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 4285: Ms. NORTON, Mr. COSTA, and Ms. ESTY.
H.R. 4286: Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 4299: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 4303: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 4305: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 4310: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 4316: Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 4318: Mr. LUCAS and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 4323: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4342: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H. Con. Res. 27: Ms. LEE of California.
H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. GARCIA.
H. Con. Res. 91: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. LONG.
H. Con. Res. 94: Mr. THORNBERRY and Mr. KLINE.
H. Res. 169: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. ENYART, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H. Res. 188: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 190: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. Capuano.
H. Res. 417: Mr. GOHMERT.
H. Res. 476: Mr. SHIMKUS.
H. Res. 494: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. OLSON.
H. Res. 500: Mr. WHITFIELD.
H. Res. 519: Mr. SIRES.
H. Res. 526: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 2988: Ms. DUCKWORTH.