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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, May 30, 2014, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2014

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 28, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF 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.

IN MEMORY OF EMANUEL RAYMOND LEWIS, LIBRARIAN EMERITUS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary life, to an extraordinary individual, to a dear and good friend of mine for many, many years. Emanuel Raymond Lewis was the librarian emeritus, the last and longest-serving librarian of the U.S. House of Representatives, a prolific author, archivist, educator, humorist, historian, illustrator, psychologist, and recognized expert on military and naval history. He died on May 14.

He was the husband of my former chief of staff, Eleanor Lewis, an extraordinary individual in her own right, who had been Geraldine Ferraro's chief of staff as well.

Ray Lewis was a man of great intellect, of great warmth, and of great contributions to this institution, to his country, to his family, and to the intellectual education of so many.

Ray Lewis was a man of the House and so much more. He lived a life of vast experience. He was, as Eleanor observed, a genuine Renaissance man. He loved his work and his scholarship and service to the House and to this country, which he enriched so extraordinarily well.

During his tenure as an officer in the House, Dr. Lewis combined disciplined intellect with a deep interest in the House's history and patience to guide House Members and staff seeking historical understanding of this institution.

During the House Judiciary Committee impeachment hearings on President Nixon, Dr. Lewis provided critical historical references to guide the committee in its work. And he honored the tradition of the office he headed, authoring a history of the House Library and promoting ties with the Senate Library and the Library of Congress' Congressional Research Service.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, I knew Ray Lewis for much of the time I served in the House of Representatives. I got to know him, his sense of humor, his sense of this institution, his sense of decency, and his sense of excitement of what was going on here and around the world. With Eleanor, he traveled in much of the world; and in each place, he learned something new and brought it home for all of us.

Dr. Lewis created extraordinary research on fortifications, coastal fortifications, river fortifications. He was, indeed, one of the world's experts on that particular historical focus.

Eleanor Lewis, as I said, was my former chief of staff. She is still a very dear and close friend. She and Ray were partners in life for over four decades. They were partners, as well, in intellectual pursuits and in their love of this country and of this institution, the House of Representatives. They enriched all.

Ray Lewis was born to two Siberian immigrants in Oakland, California, on November 30, 1928. He attended the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Oregon. While enrolled at the University of Oregon, he studied with a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. He became a tenured psychology professor in the Oregon University system for a half dozen years. Dr. Lewis was among the

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first psychology professors to participate in the creation of the Oregon State Board of Psychologist Examiners and was the first Oregon professor to teach on campus through television. A Renaissance man, a man before his time.

He had a lifelong love of public spaces and actively worked to preserve parkland. In fact, on May 27, 1937, at the age of 8, he joined his parents and his brother Albert, now deceased, in walking across the Golden Gate Bridge on opening day. He donated specimens unearthed at forts to national and State parks, including Fort Stevens at the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon. Ray Lewis, to the very end of his life, digested life, welcomed life.

Tennyson wrote a poem about Ulysses, in which he said: ''I am a part of all that I have met; yet all experience is an arch wherethrough gleams that untravelled world, whose margin fades for ever and for ever when I move.'' That was Ray Lewis' psyche. He saw life as an ever-expanding opportunity to enrich himself and to enrich others with his intellect and his excitement for what could be done and how well he participated in doing for this House, for this country, and for his family.

Mr. Speaker, my remarks are longer than this, and I will not repeat all of them. Much of them have been contributed by his wife's observations and her writing skills, and I would ask that they be included in the RECORD. I have read some of them, but the remarks I give about him are personal because he was my friend. He was an American to be admired by us all. He was a good citizen, a great American, a man of the House.

My sympathy to Eleanor for her loss, but to all of us, as well, for our loss of a good and decent man who made such a contribution to this country and to all of us.

IN MEMORY OF EMANUEL RAYMOND LEWIS, LIBRARIAN EMERITUS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Emanuel Raymond Lewis, Librarian Emeritus, the last and longest serving Librarian of the U.S. House of Representatives, prolific author, archivist, educator, humorist, historian, illustrator, psychologist, and recognized expert on military and naval history, died May 14 in Suburban Hospital, Bethesda, MD. The cause of death was dementia.

Dr. Lewis was appointed House Librarian in 1973, and served until January 1995 when the library, which predated the Library of Congress, along with the House Historical Office, was down-sized and placed under the Legislative Resource Center. The Library was the official custodian of all documents generated by the House.

Ray Lewis was a man of the House, and so much more. Ray lived a life of vast experience—he was a genuine Renaissance man. He loved his work, and his scholarship and service to the House and to this country left us all enriched.

During his tenure as an officer of the House, Dr. Lewis combined disciplined intellect with a deep interest in the House's history and the patience to guide House members and staff seeking historical understanding of this institution. During the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment hearings on President Nixon, Lewis provided critical historical references to guide the committee in its work. And he honored the tradition of the office he headed, authoring a history of ''The House Library'' and promoting the ties with the Senate Library and the Library of Congress' Congressional Research Service.

From his service as an officer in military intelligence from 1954–1956, Dr. Lewis developed a life-long interest in the history of military architecture and technology in the United States, which culminated in the 1970 publication of ''Seacoast Fortifications of the United States'' published by the Smithsonian Institution Press. He wrote this work while a Post-Doctoral Research Associate 1969–1970 at The Smithsonian Institution. Initially an architectural student at the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. Lewis turned his early drawing talents to illustrate his book.

Commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps, he transferred to Military Intelligence when the Corps was abolished shortly after his commission. As commander of a group of Soviet military defectors—Lewis was a native Russian speaker—he was assigned responsibility for testing security at military bases. He retired as a Captain.

Dr. Lewis researched military documents in the National Archives, and traveled extensively to fortification sites around the country for his book, the first comprehensive work on the subject of coastal fortifications in a century, now used by the U.S. National Park Service in training their employees. This seminal work examined the prominent role played by these fortifications in American defense policy prior to World War II.

Lewis was accompanied on these travels by his future wife, Eleanor (Gamarsh) Lewis, the couple referred to the time as ''their forting days in lieu of their courting days.'' Travel would become a constant in their lives together—his proposal of marriage included an unusual vow—''marry me and I will take you to Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara''—and he did. Over 45 years they would visit every continent, and more than 100 countries.

Dr. Lewis published widely in military and naval-related journals including ''Military Affairs,'' the ''U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings,'' ''The Military Engineer,'' ''Capitol Studies,'' ''U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings;'' ''Military Engineer,'' ''Dictionary of American History,'' Encyclopedia of the United States Congress''; and ''Warship International.'' Editors of the latter publication honored his work in their annual ''Best Articles of the Year'' on three separate occasions.

In 1969 working for System Development Corporation of Santa Monica, CA, considered the world's first computer software company, Dr. Lewis co-authored ''The Educational Information Center: An Introduction,'' a general guide to the process of establishing an educational information center.

Born to Siberian immigrants in Oakland, CA, November 30, 1928, Dr. Lewis attended the University of California at Berkeley (BA/MA) and the University of Oregon (PhD). While enrolled at the University of Oregon he studied with a grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH). He became a tenured psychology professor in the Oregon University System for a half-dozen years. Dr. Lewis was among the first psychology professors to participate in the creation of the Oregon State Board of Psychologist Examiners, and the first Oregon professor to teach on campus through television.

Dr. Lewis had a life-long love of public spaces and actively worked to preserve parkland. On May 27, 1937 at age 8, he joined his parents and his brother Albert, now deceased, in walking across the Golden Gate Bridge on opening day. He donated specimens unearthed at forts to national and state parks, including Fort Stevens at the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon.

To honor his father, Jacob A. Lewis, Dr. Lewis donated ten acres to the city of Hayward, CA—the ''J.A. Lewis Park'' is now part of the Hayward (CA) Area Recreation and Park District. The elder Lewis had donated the same land area—ten acres—in San Francisco to build Congregation Ner Tamid.

In 1965, Dr. Lewis prepared ''A History of San Francisco Harbor Defense Installations: Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite, and Funston'' for the State of California Division of Beaches and Parks. This work, which evolved into Dr. Lewis' later book on coastal fortification, was instrumental in the formation of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in 1972. In 1971 Dr. Lewis was called to testify before a subcommittee of the House Interior Committee during hearings on creating the GGNRA.

Dr. Lewis was well-known to House Members and especially staff who sought his help in researching issues before the Congress. He was regarded as a friendly curmudgeon who could be relied on to quickly locate helpful historical information. The time he saved those staffers, however, was all too frequently consumed in conversation about whatever matter Dr. Lewis happened to be engaged in researching at the time.

His curiosity and love of learning spanned a wide range of interests. Those interests were manifested in his personal collection authentic African spears, including several purchased in Umhlanga, South Africa, which were used in the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War; the muzzle of a 16-inch gun from the USS *Indiana* now on display at the Navy Museum in Washington, DC; a 1954 MG which was best of show in the 25th Anniversary of the ''Concours d'Elegance'' June 29, 1997 in Forest Grove, Oregon; and Soviet Field Marshal memorabilia. Side interests included the study of California geography, and Native American tribes—the House Librarian was once called upon by Vice President Spiro Agnew for advice on the authentic pronunciation of tribal names.

It was fitting that the House Librarian—in the tradition of Jefferson—held thousands of books in his personal collection.

Ray's passions for travel and collecting items of interest came together when it came to trains. It's hard to know whether his collection of train models, especially those of the Southern Pacific Daylight, came from the time he spent riding the rails, but we know he loved traveling by train. His adventures included a cross-country excursion from Washington, DC to San Francisco, as well as passage on the Trans-Siberian Railway from Khabarovsk to Moscow. Along with his trips on the Canadian and Pacific Railways, Ray's rail experiences, like so much of his life, were full and adventurous.

For all his scholarly activities, Lewis took great pleasure in hanging out with some of the

legendary cultural figures of his time—jazz greats Louis Armstrong and Dave Brubeck, as well as comedy giants Lenny Bruce and Mort Sahl at San Francisco's "Hungry i."

An engaging and enthusiastic raconteur, Lewis could entertain with stories of juicy irony from the day's news, or of his time playing slots with Frank Sinatra in Reno, Nevada when the singer was obtaining his divorce from Ava Gardner. His own performing exploits—he sang and played guitar—ended with producing musicals and comedies in graduate school.

Born with a rare cholesterol disorder, Dr. Lewis first entered NIH in 1964 as an in-patient, and was involved in the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institutes' research protocols that led to the discovery of the statin drugs. Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson, named by President Gerald Ford to become head of the National Institutes in 1974, was Lewis's doctor; Lewis was a research patient in Dr. Frederickson's 1967 paper describing the classification of lipoprotein abnormalities in five types. This became known as the "Frederick classification," later adopted as a standard by the World Health Organization in 1972.

A devoted atheist, Dr. Lewis became a minister in the Universal Life Church, Inc., in the 1960s—he liked to joke that he could marry you or bury you—your choice. In 1999, he experienced a lifetime thrill when he met the Dalai Lama at a dinner in Washington, DC. The Lewises had recently visited Lhasa, Tibet and at the dinner presented the Dalai Lama with photographs of Norbulingka, the summer palace from which he escaped the Chinese in March 1959.

Dr. Lewis is survived by his wife of 47 years, Eleanor G. Lewis of Washington, DC, my former Chief of Staff; his son Joseph J. Lewis of Eugene, Oregon, cousin Ruth Lycette, her son and daughter-in-law, Bob and Kathy Lycette of Palo Alto and San Carlos respectively; his cousin in law, Eve DeLanis of Virginia Beach, VA; a sister-in-law, Roberta Foulke and her husband, Robert, of Las Vegas, Nevada, 11 nieces and nephews, and many great nieces and nephews.

DYING IN LINES—U.S. VETERANS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, I was at Houston National Cemetery with Texas veterans and their families. They were irate about the allegations against the VA. They want to know what we plan to do about it.

In a July 2012 speech, President Obama said: "I promised to strengthen the VA, and that promise has been kept." Thanks to whistleblowers, we now know that statement is not accurate.

The more we hear about the VA's treatment of veterans, the worse it gets. And over the past few weeks, we have learned that 26 VA facilities nationwide are being investigated for cooking the books, ensuring that the long wait times sick veterans have to endure are hidden from the public. Secret waiting lists, hidden agendas all driven by the greed of those at the highest level of the VA.

Why greed? Why cook the books? Because if wait times are reported low, VA officials receive bonuses. VA workers have allegedly used different tactics and strategies to give the impression that they were meeting the Department's standard of seeing patients between 14 and 30 days.

To promote this lie, the Phoenix VA hospital allegedly had a secret waiting list to conceal delays and wait times. Meanwhile, dozens of patients' conditions worsened, and many died waiting in line. It has been reported that between 1,400 and 1,600 sick veterans had to wait months to see a doctor.

The Phoenix VA was not the only place where fraud took place. In my home State of Texas, it has been reported that the VA officials in San Antonio and Austin purposely manipulated appointment data to hide the long wait times.

According to whistleblower reports, top level VA staff directed workers to "ensure wait times were as close to zero as possible," in other words, juggle the books. He went on:

> It's plain and simple common sense . . . If you have a patient who has a delay in diagnosis of any cancer, that cancer did not stop growing while they were waiting for the doctor to see them.

Mr. Speaker, treating our veterans like cattle in line at the stockyards is unacceptable. Our warriors are dying in line.

According to The Daily Beast, a whistleblower in the Texas VA described this as "an organized crime syndicate . . . People up on top are suddenly afraid they may actually be prosecuted, and they're pressuring the little guys down below to cover it all up."

According to the whistleblower, the problem comes from the higher-ups. "If VA directors report long delays, they won't stay a director very long, and they certainly won't get promoted."

"No one is getting rewarded for honesty. They pretty much have to lie; if they don't, they don't go anywhere."

"If one person comes up with a way to cheat on a report to the government and profit from that lie, that's defrauding the government."

"If hundreds of people are defrauding the government, it's a conspiracy, and that's what you've got now, and it runs coast to coast and bottom to top."

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the administration to stop claiming ignorance and blaming lower-level operatives for a scandal that has been driven from higher up. Secretary Shinseki has overseen a Department that has now been called a "criminal syndicate." He should just be fired.

Those money-hungry executives at the VA who engaged in secret illegal activity that has resulted in veterans dying should be treated for what they are—criminals. And those veterans who are still waiting in line should be given waivers to see the private doctor of their choice.

Mr. Speaker, cancer does not wait for government bureaucracy, incompetence, and delay. American warriors have died in lands far, far away. But now, other American warriors are dying in the United States, in line, waiting for VA health care. Put those that committed crimes in line for the stockade, and fix the problem.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1215

DENOUNCING THE NAME OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S WASHINGTON FOOTBALL FRANCHISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, last year, nine Members of this House and I sent a letter to the National Football League Commissioner Roger Goodell, to the Washington, D.C., franchise owner, Dan Snyder, and to the owners of the other 31 National Football League franchises urging an end to the use of the term "redskins" as an NFL franchise name because it is derogatory, it is demeaning, and patently offensive to Native American Indians. While Mr. Snyder did not respond, Mr. Goodell did so in a dismissive manner, calling this racial slur "a unifying force that stands for strength, courage, pride, and respect."

Mr. Speaker, give me a break.

Last week, 50 Senators joined our effort and also sent a letter to the NFL. Mr. Goodell did not respond, but Bruce Allen of the Washington franchise did respond in a dismissive manner, stating that "redskins" is not a derogatory word and claiming that it actually honors Native Americans.

Mr. Speaker, shame on Mr. Allen, shame on Mr. Goodell, and shame on Mr. Snyder for suggesting that "redskins" is a name of honor when, according to Native Americans, it is "the worst thing in the English language you can be called if you are a Native person."

Mr. Snyder, Mr. Goodell, and Mr. Allen have escaped the public lashing that Don Sterling received just weeks ago for his racist remarks on African Americans who play basketball. I believe if the American public knew the history of this derogatory term, they would call on Dan Snyder to change the name or get out of the League.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the painful and violent past associated with this despicable term. For many of our Native Americans, the word "redskins" is reminiscent of a time when the colonial government engaged in the practice of trading Indian scalps or skins and body parts for bounties.

In 1749, the British bounty was "10 guineas for every Indian taken or killed." In 1755, the lieutenant governor of the Massachusetts Bay Province issued a proclamation calling for the extermination of the Penobscot Indian Nation. The bounty for a male Indian above the age of 12 was 50 pounds,

and his scalp was worth 40 pounds. The bounty for a female Indian of any age and for males under the age of 12 was 25 pounds, while their scalps were worth 20 pounds. In 1863, the reward in Minnesota was $200 ''for every redskin sent to purgatory.''

Mr. Speaker, I submit that today, Chief Kirk Francis of the Penobscot Indian Nation declared that the word ''redskins'' is ''not just a racial slur or a derogatory term,'' but a painful ''reminder of one of the most gruesome acts of ethnic cleansing ever committed against'' his people. The hunting and killing of Native American Indians, as stated by Chief Francis, was ''a most despicable and disgraceful act of genocide.'' This photo depicts what genocide looks like, Mr. Speaker, and I want to share this photo with my colleagues.

So, while scalping is a matter of historical debate, Mr. Snyder's response to this disgraceful act is indicative of the racist history behind the Washington franchise's name. Its founder, George Preston Marshall, is identified by historians as the driving force behind the color barrier that existed for 12 years in the National Football League, a sad commentary or chapter from 1934 to 1945, when African Americans were banned from the National Football League by a so-called ''gentleman's agreement.'' For years, Mr. Marshall marketed the Washington, D.C., franchise to appeal to the segregated South. The band played ''Dixie,'' the Confederate flag flew, and after the NFL's color line was crossed in 1946, the Washington, D.C., franchise was the last team to field an African American player—and not until 1962.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, that the Washington team did not welcome African American players with open arms. Oh, no. Then-Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and Attorney General Robert Kennedy presented the Washington franchise with an ultimatum: unless Marshall signed an African American player, the government would revoke his franchise's 30-year lease on the use of the D.C. stadium.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot simply continue these hateful traditions that mock, belittle, disparage, and disgrace those of a different race because of the color of their skin. The National Basketball Association recently reacted swiftly to Mr. Don Sterling's racist remarks. Why is the National Football League so hesitant? Why is Mr. Snyder so slow to do the right thing when some 6 million of his own people's skins were used for lampshades by the Nazi Germans during World War II? Shame on Mr. Snyder for perpetuating this racism and bigotry. He should know better and do better.

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 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

In these days after Memorial Day, we thank You again for the ultimate sacrifices of so many of our citizen-ancestors. Bless their families with Your consolation. Bless as well the men and women who serve our Nation this day in our Armed Forces. May they and their families be assured of our deep gratitude for their service.

O God, You have blessed every person with the full measure of Your grace and given us the bounty of Your spirit. Lead us this day in the ways of peace. We pray for peace in our hearts, that we will be freed from selfishness or envy, that we will replace any enmity with goodwill, and hatred with charity, so we might lead lives of generosity and kindness.

May there be peace in our world among all nations. May each nation sense its shared destiny in a new spirit of hope and trust, one with another.

Help us to be men and women without excuse, and may all that we do this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. TAKANO 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.

THE UNFOLDING SCANDAL AT THE VA

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as the unfolding scandal at the VA demonstrates, the administration has a standard playbook for dealing with an unfolding PR disaster:

The first step is to say the President learned about the situation on the news and is madder than anyone else about it;

Step two is to declare an investigation underway;

Step three is to implore us all to wait patiently for the always slow investigation to be completed;

Step four is to declare the scandal old news.

The underlying theme is that we must allow the bureaucratic machinery to sort out the problems, and we must not interfere with the process.

Mr. Speaker, Samuel Johnson once said that patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel, but in our political culture today, process is the last refuge of those who seek to avoid true accountability.

IN SUPPORT OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, RETIRED GENERAL ERIC K. SHINSEKI

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, as a Vietnam veteran, I rise today to offer my strong support for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, General Eric Shinseki.

Since taking over the VA, General Shinseki has made veterans a top priority, enrolling over 2 million new veterans from our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and reducing veteran homelessness by about 24 percent.

With new reports of coverups at VA facilities, the Secretary has also called for an independent review and nationwide audit, giving his word that he will do all he can to fix a system that was broken long before he took over.

So let us stand together to do right by our veterans. General Shinseki is right for America's veterans. He is a tried and proven leader, the highest ranked Asian Pacific American in the history of the United States, who told our Nation the truth about Iraq when no one would listen. He will now tell us the truth about the VA. And once the independent review and audit is completed, he will hold accountable any and all who have done our veterans wrong.

I say this to Secretary Shinseki: Do not resign. We are with you. Go for broke. And let's clean up this mess that had been there way before you took over.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ZACHARY VALSECCHI

(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, a firm education prepares America's children for lifelong success.

This year, the Office of the Second Congressional District hosted the First Annual Elementary School Challenge, where we encouraged third graders to write in and share their favorite part of South Carolina history.

I am grateful for the support the office received from teachers and administrators who participated in this inaugural competition. Students from over 100 third grade classrooms shared lessons of history which are very meaningful for today.

Zachary Valsecchi, a student at Round Top Elementary School in Blythewood, South Carolina, won this year's competition. He shared the story of the ''Best Friend of Charleston,'' America's first regularly scheduled passenger service train, built in 1831, which ran between Charleston and Hamburg, which is now near North Augusta on the Savannah River in Aiken County. His parents, Wayne and Susan, should be proud of Zachary's accomplishments and the bright future he has ahead of him. I am confident that Round Top Elementary School, Principal Jeaneen Tucker, and teacher Cathy Williams will continue to prepare our young people for success.

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

LEGISLATION TO HELP REALIZE THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, today I take to the floor to ask Congress to act and pass legislation that will help millions of working families.

We need to pass legislation that will raise the minimum wage and reinstates unemployment insurance for the long-term unemployed.

We need to pass legislation that will protect future property owners from abusive lenders.

We need to pass legislation that will improve our education system to help our children go to college and ensure them a successful future.

We need to pass legislation that will fix our broken immigration system, and will include a path towards citizenship.

It is our duty to help our communities. I ask the Republicans to support these policies so that millions of people can have the opportunity to realize the American Dream.

Señor Presidente de la Cámara de Representantes,

Hoy, tomo la palabra para pedir que el Congreso actué y pase la legislación que ayudara a millones de familias trabajadoras.

Tenemos que pasar legislación que aumente el salario mínimo y reinstale el seguro de desempléo para quienes han estado desempleados por largo tiempo.

Tenemos que pasar legislación que proteja a futuros propietarios de prestamistas abusívos.

Tenemos que pasar legislación que mejore nuestro sistema educativo—que ayude a nuestros hijos a ir a la universidad y asegurarles un futuro exitoso.

Tenemos que pasar legislación que arregle nuestro sistema inmigratorio quebrado, y que incluya un camino a la ciudadanía.

Es nuestro deber ayudar a nuestras comunidades. Pido que los Republicanos apoyen estas pólizas para que millones de personas tengan la oportunidad de realizar el sueño americano.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California will provide a translation for the RECORD.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ABUSING FOREIGN MINORS

(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, the United States is very quick to criticize other nations for human rights abuses, especially when those abuses are caused by foreign government employees. But while the U.S. is crusading against human rights abuses in other parts of the world, it should not ignore human rights abuses here in America.

Allegations are coming to light that government employees of the Office of Refugee Resettlement are abusing—sexually—immigrant minors that are detained in Federal custody. According to the Houston Chronicle, over 100 incidents have been reported where U.S. Federal workers had improper sexual contact with foreign minors. That includes everything from inappropriate touching to forced sex with children. Some minors were threatened with deportation if they ever told the authorities.

The reports also show that not one worker has been held accountable or prosecuted for such criminal conduct. If crimes have been committed, these criminals need to be locked up in a jailhouse. The United States cannot be the world leader for human rights when employees of our own government sexually abuse foreign minor children on American soil.

And that's just the way it is.

CELEBRATING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with thousands of people in my district and millions across the country to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month this May. This month, we celebrate the innumerable contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to communities in every corner of our Nation.

California's 47th District is a testament to the richness and diversity with which Asian Pacific Americans have added to the fabric of our country, from Little Saigon and the Korean Business District in Westminster and Garden Grove to Cambodia Town and the Filipino and Pacific Islander communities in Long Beach.

This year also marks the 35th anniversary of the end of the Cambodian genocide and the 39th anniversary of the fall of Saigon. It reminds us of the courage and the bravery with which millions of Asian Pacific Americans made the journey to the United States to build a better life for themselves and for their children.

CARE AND RESPECT FOR OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this Memorial Day week in honor of the brave men and women who have selflessly given their lives for this Nation and the millions of veterans to whom our country owes a debt of gratitude.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, we have recently learned that the Department of Veterans Affairs has fallen disgracefully below the standard our fighting men and women deserve. Misconduct, lengthy patient wait times, and secret lists are all unacceptable for those who have served our country.

It is time the administration takes action on behalf of those who have fought for our freedom. I look forward to supporting the important VA accountability legislation on the floor today and working with Chairman JEFF MILLER and my colleagues in the House to ensure that our veterans receive the care and the respect they undoubtedly earned.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore WOLF on Tuesday, May 27, 2014:

H.R. 724, to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles;

H.R. 1036, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the ''National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office'';

H.R. 1228, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the ''Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building'';

H.R. 1451, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York,

as the ''Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building'';

H.R. 2391, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri as the ''Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office'';

H.R. 2939, to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres;

H.R. 3060, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the ''Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building'';

H.R. 4032, to exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes;

H.R. 4488, to make technical corrections to two bills enabling the presentation of congressional gold medals, and for other purposes.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 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. JOLLY) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

VENEZUELAN HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROTECTION ACT

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4587) to impose targeted sanctions on individuals responsible for carrying out or ordering human rights abuses against the citizens of Venezuela, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4587

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 ''Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On February 12, 2014, also known in Venezuela as the National Youth Day, students began protesting in several cities against Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro's inability to stem violent crime, his undemocratic actions, and a rapidly deteriorating economy marked by high inflation and shortages of consumer goods.

(2) On February 12, 2014, a judge issued an arrest warrant for Leopoldo López, leader of the opposition party Voluntad Popular, for allegations in connection with the student protests.

(3) On February 17, 2014, the Government of Venezuela notified the United States Department of State that it had declared 3 consular officers at the United States Embassy in Venezuela personae non gratae.

(4) On February 18, 2014, opposition leader Leopoldo López turned himself in to Venezuelan authorities, was arrested, and charged with criminal incitement, conspiracy, arson, and intent to damage property.

(5) Leopoldo López is currently being held in a prison at a military facility.

(6) Nongovernmental human rights organizations have alleged that the charges brought against Leopoldo López appear to be a politically motivated attempt to silence dissent in the country.

(7) As of May 1, 2014, there have been 41 people killed, a reported 60 cases of torture, over 100 injured, and many oppressively detained in relation to pro-democracy demonstrations throughout Venezuela.

(8) On February 19, 2014, President Obama criticized the Government of Venezuela for arresting protesters, called for their release, and urged the government to focus on the ''legitimate grievances of the Venezuelan people''.

(9) According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013 for Venezuela, ''The principal human rights abuses reported during the year included corruption, politicization in the judicial system, and government actions to impede freedom of expression and restrict freedom of the press. The government did not respect judicial independence or permit judges to act according to the law without fear of retaliation. The government used the judiciary to intimidate and selectively prosecute political, union, business, and civil society leaders who were critical of government policies or actions. The government harassed and intimidated privately owned television stations, other media outlets, and journalists throughout the year, using threats, fines, property seizures, targeted regulations, arrests, and criminal investigations and prosecutions.''.

(10) According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013 for Venezuela, ''The following human rights problems were reported by NGOs, the media, and in some cases the government itself: unlawful killings, including summary killings by police elements; torture and other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions and lack of due process rights that contributed to widespread violence, riots, injuries, and deaths in prisons; inadequate juvenile detention centers; arbitrary arrests and detentions; corruption and impunity in police forces; political prisoners; interference with privacy rights; corruption at all levels of government; threats against domestic NGOs; violence against women; anti-Semitism in the official media; trafficking in persons; violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and restrictions on workers' right of association.''.

(11) According to Freedom House's Freedom in the World report of 2013 on Venezuela, ''Nicolás Maduro, further weakened the independent media, reduced the opposition's ability to serve as a check on government policy, and made threats to civil society groups.''.

SEC. 4. ACTIONS AT THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES.

The Secretary of State shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the Organization of American States to defend and protect the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and strengthen efforts by international and multilateral organizations to advance the protection of human rights throughout the Western Hemisphere, especially in Venezuela.

SEC. 5. SANCTIONS ON PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE IN VENEZUELA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b)(1)(A) and the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b)(1)(B) with respect to any person, including a current or former official of the Government of Venezuela or a person acting on behalf of that Government, that the President, or the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries), as the case may be, determines—

(1) has perpetrated, or is responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, significant acts of violence or serious human rights abuses in Venezuela against individuals participating in protests in Venezuela that began on February 12, 2014;

(2) has directed or ordered the arrest or prosecution of a person primarily because of the person's legitimate exercise of freedom of expression or assembly in relation to the protests in Venezuela that began on February 12, 2014;

(3) has knowingly materially assisted, sponsored, or provided significant financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the commission of acts described in paragraph (1) or (2) in relation to protests in Venezuela that began on February 12, 2014; or

(4) has engaged in censorship against individuals or media outlets disseminating information in relation to protests in Venezuela that began on February 12, 2014.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

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

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—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.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The authority to impose sanctions under clause (i) shall not include

the authority to impose sanctions relating to the importation of goods.

(II) GOOD DEFINED.—In subclause (I), 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.)).

(B) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(i) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows or has reasonable grounds to believe meets any of the criteria described in subsection (a) is—

(I) inadmissible to the United States;

(II) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(III) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien who meets any of the criteria described in subsection (a), regardless of when issued.

(II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under subclause (I) shall take effect immediately; and shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that is subject to sanctions described in 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 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 interests of the United States and on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of and justification for the waiver; or

(2) determines that the conditions in Venezuela have improved with regard to respect for peaceful protest and basic human rights and on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of and justification for the waiver.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may exercise all authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) for purposes of carrying out this section.

(2) EXCEPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to impose sanctions under paragraph (1) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions relating to the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In subparagraph (A), 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.)).

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

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms ''admitted'' and ''alien'' have meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) 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) or (2) of subsection (a).

(3) 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. 6. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE TRANSFER OF GOODS OR TECHNOLOGIES TO VENEZUELA THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE USED TO COMMIT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose sanctions described in section 5(b) with respect to each person on the list required under subsection (b) of this section.

(b) LIST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of persons who the President determines have knowingly engaged in an activity described in paragraph (2) on or after such date of enactment.

(2) ACTIVITY DESCRIBED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A person knowingly engages in an activity described in this paragraph if the person—

(i) transfers, or facilitates the transfer of, goods or technologies described in subparagraph (C) to Venezuela, any person organized under the laws of Venezuela, or any national of Venezuela, for use in or with respect to Venezuela; or

(ii) provides services (including services relating to hardware, software, and specialized information, and professional consulting, engineering, and support services) with respect to goods or technologies described in subparagraph (C) after such goods or technologies are transferred to Venezuela.

(B) APPLICABILITY TO CONTRACTS AND OTHER AGREEMENTS.—A person engages in an activity described in subparagraph (A) without regard to whether the activity is carried out pursuant to a contract or other agreement entered into before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(C) GOODS OR TECHNOLOGIES DESCRIBED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Goods or technologies described in this subparagraph are goods or technologies that the President determines are to be used by the Government of Venezuela or any of the agencies or instrumentalities of the Government of Venezuela (or by any other person on behalf of the Government of Venezuela or any of such agencies or instrumentalities) to commit serious human rights abuses against the people of Venezuela, including—

(I) firearms or ammunition (as such terms are defined in section 921 of title 18, United States Code), rubber bullets, police batons, pepper or chemical sprays, stun grenades, electroshock weapons, tear gas, water cannons, or surveillance technology; or

(II) sensitive technology.

(ii) SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY DEFINED.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of clause (i)(II), the term ''sensitive technology'' means hardware, software, telecommunications equipment, or any other technology, that the President determines is to be used specifically—

(aa) to restrict the free flow of unbiased information in Venezuela; or

(bb) to disrupt, monitor, or otherwise restrict speech of the people of Venezuela.

(II) EXCEPTION.—The term ''sensitive technology'' does not include information or informational materials the exportation of which the President does not have the authority to regulate or prohibit pursuant to section 203(b)(3) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(3)).

(3) SPECIAL RULE TO ALLOW FOR TERMINATION OF SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITY.—The President shall not be required to include a person on the list required under paragraph (1) if—

(A) the President determines that the person is no longer engaging in, or has taken significant credible steps toward stopping (including winding down contracts or other agreements that were in effect prior to the date of the enactment of this Act) the activity described in paragraph (2) for which the President would otherwise have included the person on the list; and

(B) the President has received reliable assurances that such person will not knowingly engage in any new activity described in such paragraph (2).

(4) UPDATES OF LIST.—The President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees an updated list under paragraph (1)—

(A) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) as new information becomes available.

(5) FORM OF LIST; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

(A) FORM.—The list required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified portion of the list required under paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public and posted on the Web site of the Department of State.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions described in section 5(b) with respect to a person on the list required under subsection (b) of this section if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national interests of the United States and on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of and justification for the waiver; or

(2) determines that the conditions in Venezuela have improved with regard to respect for peaceful protest and basic human rights and on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of and justification for the waiver.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) EXCEPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to impose sanctions under paragraph (1) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions relating to the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In subparagraph (A), 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.)).

SEC. 7. COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO PROMOTE INTERNET FREEDOM AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with heads of other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a comprehensive strategy that is classified to the extent necessary to—

(1) assist the people of Venezuela to produce, access, and share information freely and safely via the Internet;

(2) increase the capabilities and availability of secure mobile and other communications through connective technology among human rights and democracy advocates in Venezuela;

(3) provide resources for digital training for media and academic and civil society organizations in Venezuela;

(4) increase emergency resources for the most vulnerable human rights advocates seeking to organize, share information, and support human rights in Venezuela;

(5) expand access to uncensored sources of local news and information using all available and effective mediums of communication, especially through platforms that leverage public-private partnerships;

(6) expand activities to safely assist and train human rights, civil society, and democracy activists in Venezuela to operate effectively and securely;

(7) expand access to proxy servers for democracy activists in Venezuela; and

(8) discourage telecommunications and software companies from facilitating Internet censorship by the Government of Venezuela.

SEC. 8. COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO ENCOURAGE VENEZUELA TO ABIDE BY THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE INTER-AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC CHARTER.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a comprehensive strategy outlining how the United States is supporting the citizens of Venezuela in seeking—

(1) free, fair, and transparent elections—

(A) conducted with the presence of internationally recognized observers; and

(B) in which—

(i) all parties are permitted ample time to organize and campaign for such elections; and

(ii) all candidates are permitted equitable access to the media;

(2) basic civil liberties and human rights, including access to and support for nongovernmental organizations in such activities;

(3) establishment of independent judiciaries and electoral councils; and

(4) development of an independent civil society with the capacity to advocate on behalf of constituents.

SEC. 9. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON POLITICAL PRISONERS.

It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to support efforts to research and identify prisoners of conscience and cases of human rights abuses in Venezuela;

(2) to offer refugee status or political asylum in the United States to political dissidents in Venezuela if requested and consistent with the laws and national security interests of the United States;

(3) to offer to assist, through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the relocation of such political prisoners to other countries if requested, as appropriate and with appropriate consideration for the national security interests of the United States; and

(4) to publicly call for the release of Venezuelan country dissidents by name and raise awareness with respect to individual cases of Venezuelan country dissidents and prisoners of conscience, as appropriate and if requested by the dissidents or prisoners themselves or their families.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY IN VENEZUELA.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the United States Agency for International Development for fiscal year 2015 not less than $5,000,000 to provide assistance to civil society in Venezuela.

SEC. 11. OFFSET.

Section 102(a) of the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 8412(a); Public Law 111–73; 123 Stat. 2068) is amended by striking ''$1,500,000,000'' and inserting ''$1,493,000,000''.

SEC. 12. SUNSET.

This Act shall cease to be effective beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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 this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, after my remarks, I will place into the RECORD letters between the chairmen of the committees of referral on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4587, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act. This bill has received bipartisan support from many of my colleagues in the House and was passed more than 2 weeks ago by our Foreign Affairs Committee.

I would like to thank Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, subcommittee Chairman SALMON, and Ranking Member SIRES for working with my office to craft the legislation that is before us this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to condemn the ongoing human rights abuses being committed in Venezuela and to answer the cries of the people of Venezuela.

On February 12, 2014, also known in Venezuela as National Youth Day, students began protesting in several cities against Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro's inability to stem violent crime, his undemocratic actions, and a rapidly deteriorating economy marked by high inflation and shortages of consumer goods. Since then, these students and the Venezuelan people, as a whole, have been met with intimidation, with violence, with imprisonment simply for calling for the respect of human rights and democratic change.

One example is the case of Leopoldo Lopez, a pro-democracy leader who continues to be in prison at a military facility on trumped-up charges by Maduro in an effort by Maduro to silence his many critics.

The case of Maria Corina Machado is another example. This courageous woman, a member of the Venezuelan National Assembly until just recently, has stood up for the people of Venezuela. And for drawing attention to the abuses being committed by the autocrat, she was stripped of her legislative seat.

Since the protest began, Mr. Speaker, there have been 42 people killed, nearly 60 reported cases of torture, more than 2,000 people unjustly detained, and hundreds more injured. And throughout this crisis, the so-called dialogue discussions with Maduro and UNASUR has provided no results, no actions, no concessions, and the innocent are still being imprisoned. And just 2 weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, 250 teenage protesters, ones who had camped out in public squares to protest, were rounded up and thrown in jail. Teenagers.

But the problems in Venezuela go beyond these protests. Venezuela has now become one of the most dangerous countries in Latin America. According to press reports, between January 2014 and April 2014, there were over 4,500 homicides in Venezuela. That is a staggering statistic, Mr. Speaker.

This call for freedom and democracy in Venezuela did not just start in February, and it is a shame that it has taken the events of these past few months for us to get active about the plight of the Venezuelan people. The struggle for freedom in Venezuela has been ongoing for over a decade due to the oppressive policies put forth by the late Hugo Chavez, which have now continued under his handpicked successor.

The legislation before us, Mr. Speaker, is very direct and very clear. It seeks to target Venezuelan officials by denying them visas to enter the United States, blocking property, freezing assets, and prohibiting financial transactions to members of the Venezuelan regime who are responsible for the commission of serious human rights abuses against the people of Venezuela. It is very clear, very direct.

The United States Congress must stand ready to act on the calls of freedom and democracy around the globe, and the Venezuelan people have sent us a distress signal for help. Today, we answer that call by condemning the actions taken by the Maduro regime and showing our support to the people of

Venezuela who are seeking liberty, freedom, human rights, and justice.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 23, 2014.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning H.R. 4587, the ''Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act,'' which was favorably reported out of your Committee on May 9, 2014.

Given that certain provisions in the bill are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, I appreciate that you have addressed these provisions in response to the Committee's concerns. As a result, in order to expedite Floor consideration of the bill, the Committee on Ways and Means will forgo action on H.R. 4587. Further, the Committee will not oppose the bill's Floor consideration, based on our understanding that you will work with us as the legislative process moves forward to ensure that our concerns continue to be addressed. This is also being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4587, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 27, 2014.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 4587, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Promotion Act, and for agreeing to forgo a sequential referral request so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the Floor. The suspension text contains edits that implicate the Rule X jurisdictional interests of the Committee on Ways and Means that were drafted in consultation with your committee.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Ways and Means, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 4587 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on Ways and Means as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, May 28, 2014.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing with respect to H.R. 4587, the ''Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act,'' which the Committee on Foreign Affairs ordered reported favorably on May 9, 2014. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 4587 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our Committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 4587 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4587, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 4587.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 28, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 4587, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Promotion Act, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill. The suspension text contains edits to portions of the bill within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary that were drafted in consultation with your committee.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 4587 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on the Judiciary as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and rise in strong support of H.R. 4587, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act.

I would first like to thank Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for authoring this legislation and for her dedication to these important issues.

The eyes of this Congress and the international community are on Venezuela and President Nicolas Maduro and his security forces as they crack down on peaceful protesters. It is an absolute tragedy that 42 people have been killed in protests throughout the country. I am also troubled that opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez remains in jail on charges while many others have been unjustly detained by the Maduro government.

I am grateful for President Obama and Secretary Kerry's strong statements condemning the government's reprehensible actions. Let me say that all of us in Congress want nothing more than a peaceful resolution to this conflict. It was disappointing when negotiations between the Maduro government and the opposition broke down, and I hope that these talks can be revived.

In March, the House of Representatives passed a resolution which encouraged ''a process of dialogue between the Government of Venezuela and the political opposition to end the violence.'' I continue to believe that dialogue is the best way out of this crisis. In the meantime, the legislation that we are considering today makes it clear that the United States will not turn a blind eye to human rights violations.

This bill has been crafted to impose targeted sanctions on human rights violators in Venezuela, while not harming average Venezuelans who are already suffering as a result of terrible economic mismanagement by the country's leaders.

While the Venezuelan Government might try to say otherwise, let us be clear: there is not a single provision in this bill that would negatively affect the average Venezuelan. This bill does not touch the Venezuelan oil sector or other parts of the country's economy. Instead, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act revokes visas and freezes assets of human rights violators. Finally, it is important to note that this bill gives President Obama a great deal of flexibility to respond to events on the ground in Venezuela. Each and every sanction in this bill can be waived by the President at any time.

I would also point out, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned when this came up in committee and as the gentlewoman will remember, that it is important that the United States sends a strong signal in Latin America. Although we understand that each of the Latin American countries is distinct and different and all have different histories, we witnessed in the 1960s through the 1980s many thousands of students who disappeared, who were removed from their homes by their governments because of the protests that were going on in those countries at the time. We want to make sure that that never happens again, and this bill is important in ensuring that the Venezuelan Government understands that the United States is watching and that we will make sure that something like that doesn't happen again.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act and to thank my distinguished colleague, Chairwoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her bold leadership in calling attention to the deplorable human rights situation in Venezuela and for creating this meaningful diplomatic tool to assist the Venezuelan people in resisting tyranny; first, the tyranny imposed by Hugo Chavez, and now that of his understudy in oppression, Nicolas Maduro.

At its core, this important initiative authorizes targeted sanctions to those who are responsible for violence and abuse, namely, members of the Maduro regime. The regime's silencing of democracy advocates, such as Leopoldo Lopez, is a violation of fundamental human rights and is an example of what makes this piece of legislation so fitting and so necessary.

I also support the bill's redirection of funds towards supporting civil society groups in Venezuela involved in promoting respect for democracy and fundamental freedoms, most importantly, the respect for the right to life, expression, and the right of religious liberty.

Indeed, I want to underscore the church's role as a voice independent of the State of Venezuela and how it has been unafraid to speak up on behalf of the oppressed and those protesting injustice. The Maduro regime has sought to silence the church, which remains a force independent of the government and a witness to the truth. The House of Representatives honors and deeply respects the key role that the church and faith-based civil society groups are playing in the fight for democracy and human rights in Venezuela.

As we all hope to see a free and democratic Venezuela, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Ros-Lehtinen legislation, H.R. 4587.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER), a member of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important bipartisan bill, to promote human rights in Venezuela. I want to commend my colleague, Chairwoman ROS-LEHTINEN, for bringing this important measure forward. It makes clear that, as a Nation, we do not condone the recent human rights abuses against Venezuelans as they fight for democratic change.

Venezuelans speaking out for basic rights and freedoms, such as the ability to speak freely and live free from intimidation and violence, have been harassed, intimidated, threatened, and killed as a result of their desire to determine their own destiny. Just this month, 41 people have been killed, over 100 injured, and 60 tortured in Venezuela in response to pro-democracy demonstrations. These are alarming statistics, and action must be taken to prevent this violence and hold the perpetrators accountable. This legislation does that by placing sanctions on those in President Maduro's government who are responsible for this violence against those exercising their legitimate rights.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bipartisan measure.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), my colleague on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

□ 1615

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to oppose H.R. 4587, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act. And while I am deeply troubled by the violence that erupted in Venezuela at the onset of protests months ago, and I join all of the people of Venezuela in mourning the loss of many lives, I also join all the people of Venezuela in the desire to see peaceful protests and a peaceful outcome, and that violence by anyone and everyone cease. I remain committed to doing everything in my power to support a positive outcome in that nation. But I believe vehemently that unilateral action by the United States is not the answer, and that is why this bill is not the right step to take.

I know that there are high emotions on all sides of this issue, and I understand why, but the House should not act emotionally, it should act judiciously. This bill does not advance U.S. interests, it will not help the people of Venezuela, and it sends the message to our regional allies that we don't care much about what they think. And these are allies, these are friends. Moreover, the Obama administration has the authority to do what this bill calls for right now, and the administration has shown its willingness to use its authority.

So what, then, is our objective? Is it intended to push Venezuela to the brink? What would that do for the Venezuelan people and the region? Now, I have spoken to all of our major allies in the region, and I have yet to hear any support by them for sanctions, but there is strong support for multilateral engagement. Our allies do not want to see the situation in Venezuela worsen.

The unilateral sanctions bill we are considering today is misguided in that it is an unfortunate reminder of the history of U.S. arrogance in the Western Hemisphere. We have a legacy in the Americas that is riddled with long-lasting consequences. That legacy has left us with a trust deficit. Today, we are considering a bill that does nothing to build that trust. Our standing in our own hemisphere will never improve unless or until we build that trust.

While we pursue these sanctions, our allies are actively supporting dialogue. Members of this very body have made it a point to denounce and even condemn some regional organizations. Yet, one of those organizations, along with the Vatican, has managed to be the facilitator of engagement between some of the opposition and some in the Government of Venezuela. UNASUR, in its mediation efforts, continues to urge dialogue between all parties, and it is my sincere hope that dialogue can be successful.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. MEEKS. It is my sincere hope that dialogue can be successful, but in moments like this, I hope that we understand that unilateral sanctions would be another policy mistake—a costly mistake that we can and should avoid.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are gathered here because we believe we must speak for those who cannot speak freely, because our Venezuelan brothers and sisters are engaged in a critical battle for freedom and democracy against a brutal enemy. And we are gathered here because, even as we enjoy the freedoms to assemble and express our beliefs, we want our brothers and sisters in Venezuela to enjoy this and other basic liberties.

Millions of people throughout the country have expressed themselves in the past 3 weeks in support of democratic change. But the Maduro regime has responded with tear gas, with rubber bullets, and even live ammunition, killing at least 42, injuring hundreds, and unjustly detaining countless others.

We must act because democracy and human rights aren't issues for Venezuelans only. They matter to all of us who seek to advance human dignity, rule of law, justice, and freedom. Tyrants like Maduro fear a small group of committed citizens because they know that they are the only force that has changed history. And we don't have to go far in history to see that even one person can make a difference.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am going to reserve the balance of my time to close if Mr. CASTRO is prepared to yield back.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. I am, and I just wanted to say, again, thank you to the Congresswoman, to the chairman of the committee, Chairman ROYCE, and Ranking Member ENGEL.

Of course, I am here as many others are to support the bill. There was a counterargument that Mr. MEEKS so eloquently stated. I am glad he had a chance to voice it, but I do hope that the Congress today will get behind this bill.

With no other speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I will introduce our closing speaker. I never thought that I would utter these words, but it was a pleasure to work with Mr. CASTRO.

In closing for our side, Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), my legislative brother, a member of the Committee on Appropriations and a champion of freedom, democracy, and human rights in the Western Hemisphere and around the world.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of this important resolution, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act.

I first, Mr. Speaker, want to start by thanking my dear friend, a tireless champion for human rights and democracy around the world. She has thanked, and rightfully so, a number of people who have helped with this important legislation. But we would not be dealing with this issue on the floor if it weren't for the tireless effort, the constant and tireless struggle, fight, solidarity, and efforts of my dear friend, my sister, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. Those people around the world who are struggling in gulags and struggling for their freedom know that they have in ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN a true champion, and, once again, we see that leadership here today.

Mr. Speaker, since mid-February, the people of Venezuela—led mostly by students, by the way—have risen up to protest the corruption, the food shortages, the crime rates, and the alarming repression that have worsened during Maduro's few months in office, in control.

In response to these legitimate peaceful grievances, Mr. Speaker, what the Venezuelan regime has done is they have ordered security forces to brutally crack down—brutally with great force and brutality—crack down on the opposition. They have used unlawful force. They have used severe beatings and beatings of unarmed protesters, mostly students, and, by the way, even shooting some of them pointblank. They even jailed some of the main opposition leaders on phony charges, Mr. Speaker.

Since the protests began, as you have already heard, more than 40 people have been killed, about 3,000 people have been arrested, many have disappeared, and hundreds more have been injured, Mr. Speaker. In addition, Maduro's regime has instituted a virtual media blackout, blocking images even over the Internet and, by the way, even expelling journalists, including CNN and NTN. Just this past weekend alone, the Venezuelan regime blocked a CNN news crew from covering local elections. Obviously, they don't want anybody there who can show when and how they are stealing those sham elections.

It is shameful, Mr. Speaker, that the Chavez-Maduro regime policies have managed to really get one of the richest economies in Latin America, the largest oil exporter in Latin America, and they have made it apparently a poverty-ridden nation. People now face shortages of some of the most basic commodities, Mr. Speaker. And, by the way, inflation is about 50 percent over the last year. So no wonder the people are struggling.

Maduro has intensified his intimidation tactics, though, by increasing political arrests and by militarizing his response, using thugs to respond to the peaceful opposition members and students who are in the streets demanding freedom. He has been labeling those unarmed opposition leaders as terrorists and also enemies of the state. We have heard that before, Mr. Speaker.

This bill, frankly, just directs our administration to rightly deny visas, to freeze assets, and prohibit financial transactions to the members of the Venezuelan regime responsible, Mr. Speaker, those responsible for committing these human rights abuses. These corrupt cowards who now have blood on their hands shouldn't be allowed to travel to our country while they continue to brutalize their fellow students, the students who are in the streets demanding freedom and the regaining of their sovereignty.

It is time to hold these human rights abusers accountable. Those complicit with those egregious acts of human rights violations, Mr. Speaker, they have to be named. They must be named and shamed. And they need to suffer the consequences of their actions.

So, Mr. Speaker, I have the great fortune and privilege of representing a patriotic and vibrant Venezuelan American community in southern Florida. They continue to bring attention to these deplorable conditions of those in Venezuela while the vast majority of the international community that some would like us to yield to their wishes, but yet they are not saying anything. The Venezuelan people are standing up—in many cases dying in the streets—and the vast majority of the international community is silent. So some would have us just also be silent.

With the passage of this bill, the United States House of Representatives will send a strong signal that we stand in solidarity with the Venezuelan people. As they struggle to regain democracy and to regain their freedom from the Maduro regime, this House, the United States of America, the people's House, stands with them. So I urge the support of my colleagues on this commonsense resolution.

I keep hearing people that I greatly respect: Well, but not all Venezuelans support sanctions. No. The regime doesn't support the sanctions. But this House, led by this leader right here sitting next to me, was instrumental in strengthening sanctions against Iran when a lot of the international community was against it and, frankly, when the administration—our own administration—was lukewarm at best. But this House stood firm. This House stands for freedom and democracy. And, today, once again, this House can stand proudly side by side with those who are giving their all in the streets of Venezuela to regain their freedom, their sovereignty and their dignity.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this important legislation.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill. I do not doubt the good intentions of its sponsors and supporters, but I firmly believe this bill, if enacted into law at this time, would have serious and negative consequences.

As the International Crisis Group described in its May 21st report, Venezuela has reached a tipping point in civil, military and governmental relations. The violence that began in February has cost at least 42 lives—mostly protestors, but also some security forces—injured hundreds, and produced scores of human rights violations and hundreds of arbitrary detentions. Finding a solution to this crisis is both urgent and complex.

The question facing this Congress is what should the United States do to support the negotiations currently underway, difficult as that process might be; ensure that those responsible for violence and the excessive use of force are held to account and brought to justice; help open up political space and dialogue among various civil society actors; and lower or diminish the levels of violence and confrontation?

The South American Union, UNASUR, with the support of the Vatican, is engaged in a dialogue process between the political opposition and the democratically-elected Maduro government. A clear agenda still needs to be set for this dialogue, which began with a couple of promising meetings, but now appears frozen. What is not needed is for the U.S. to appear to be interfering in the process and allowing the Maduro government to portray the political crisis of the past few months as a conflict between Venezuela and the United States, rather than a crisis between the Maduro government, political opponents and certain sectors of civil society. The State Department has suggested that some members of the opposition have asked them not to pursue sanctions which might put them on the defensive. Just the talk of U.S. sanctions has allowed President Maduro and his ministers to deflect attention from their lack of concessions and their failure to ease the economic crisis and deal effectively with safeguarding the security of ordinary citizens from criminal violence and attacks.

Not only do I believe these sanctions would be counter-productive inside Venezuela, but I also believe they will further damage U.S. relations in the hemisphere. U.S. allies in the region such as Colombia and Brazil are leading a serious diplomatic effort to resolve this crisis. They have publicly criticized U.S. efforts to impose sanctions. Sanctions legislation at this time would, once again, represent to the rest of Latin America the return of the U.S. taking unilateral actions opposed by the rest of the region. They would be considered not just unhelpful, but an insult.

I am no stranger to taking action and imposing sanctions on government officials and individuals engaged in gross violations of human

rights. But I also believe there is a right time and a right way to do so. This legislation is premature. I urge my colleagues to give diplomacy a chance to work, to give our Latin American neighbors time to promote dialogue, one that de-escalates tensions, identifies and holds to account those responsible for killings and human rights violations, and helps Venezuela not only to resolve this crisis but to advance a more pluralistic society. Don't throw gasoline on the fire. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and oppose H.R. 4587.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4587, 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.

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4028) to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4028

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Cemeteries are sacred sites that are of great spiritual, cultural, and historical significance to many religious and ethnic groups.

(2) Congress is committed to protecting and preserving the heritage and sacred sites of national, religious, and ethnic groups, which includes cemeteries in the United States and abroad.

(3) Cemeteries around the world have and continue to be defaced or destroyed as a direct result of their affiliation with a particular religious or spiritual group.

(4) Such attacks constitute an assault on the fundamental right to freedom of religion, and are especially egregious when sponsored or tolerated by the local or national governments in the countries in which such offenses occur.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT OF 1998.

Section 2(a)(4) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)(4)) is amended in the fourth sentence by inserting ''desecration of cemeteries,'' after ''confiscations of property,''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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 this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the fundamental freedom to practice the religion of one's choosing is a fundamental right and an essential element of democratic governance. Religious organizations of all kinds view their cemeteries, Mr. Speaker, as hallowed ground, deserving of respect and protection. Freedom of religion includes the right to gather at these sacred sites and to pay our respects to the beloved faithful who have gone before us.

Yet, in many places around the world, the desecration of religious cemeteries is an ongoing problem: sometimes through vandalism by intolerant groups; sometimes by construction or demolition without proper consultation of religious authorities. For example, Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, more than 50 graves were vandalized in a Jewish cemetery in northeast Hungary—their headstones toppled and smashed.

I was proud to be an original cosponsor of a similar effort by former Congressman Robert Turner last Congress, and I want to commend the gentlelady from New York (Ms. MENG) for her leadership in introducing H.R. 4028 this year. The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, which this bill modifies, guides U.S. policy in promoting freedom of religion around the world.

Among other aspects, that law requires the State Department to report annually on violations of religious freedom abroad. By adding ''desecration of cemeteries'' to the examples of religious freedom violations listed in that act, H.R. 4028 says loudly and clearly that Congress and the American people stand in staunch opposition to the deliberate desecration of religious burial grounds.

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In this way, the bill provides extra incentives for foreign governments to respect the rights of religious organizations regarding cemetery preservation.

In addition to Ms. MENG, I also want to recognize the important contributions of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) during the Foreign Affairs Committee markup of this bill. Their bipartisan efforts have led to the good bill before us today, which deserves our unanimous support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 4028, the Protect Cemeteries Act, which I authored.

This resolution amends the International Religious Freedom Act to include the desecration of cemeteries among the forms of violations of the right to religious freedom.

I would like to thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for helping to craft and advance this bipartisan resolution and for recognizing the seriousness of cemetery desecration. There is truly a bipartisan and collaborative spirit on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and that is a testament to its excellent leadership.

I would also like to thank Congressman DOUG COLLINS for his partnership here and valuable contributions to the bill, and thank you to both Republican and Democratic committee staffs for recognizing the value of this resolution and working so hard to bring it to the floor today.

I would particularly like to thank Janice Kaguyutan, Jessica Kahan, and Doug Campbell for all their help and great work. Thanks as well to Agudath Israel and to Dr. Bernard Fryshman for his dogged advocacy on this issue over many years.

The resolution is short, but—I believe—very significant. We are strengthening the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 by addressing the sanctity of burial grounds. Pursuant to this act, the United States can impose penalties on countries that obstruct religious freedom. These include, but are not limited to cutting foreign aid, imposing trade sanctions, and canceling cultural and scientific exchanges.

There are two related problems we seek to address through this legislation. One is the religiously motivated vandalism of cemeteries that occurs with alarming regularity. The second is the building and development over cemeteries in places where there are no communities remaining to protect and look out for the cemeteries. H.R. 4028 will give our diplomats a new tool they can use to protect our interests.

H.R. 4028 also empowers the commissions on International Religious Freedom and on the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. The latter commission was established in the 1980s through legislation introduced by the late Congressman Stephen Solarz.

It works to identify and preserve cemeteries, memorials, and buildings in foreign countries that are associated with the cultural heritage of Americans, and it does much work in areas of the former Soviet Union, where Jewish communities were destroyed by the Holocaust and where power subsequently passed to atheistic, communist regimes.

It is essential that we act to protect religious freedom in these areas where, as we know, political instability and anti-Semitism are widespread. The genocides of the 20th century destroyed communities and left their burial grounds uncared for and unpreserved.

The preservation of cemeteries often reflects the religious tolerance and freedom of the countries in which they

are located. It is my hope that this resolution will help promote such preservation and greater tolerance, respect, and empathy around the world, as well as honest assessments of history. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4028.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4028 introduced by my good friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG), which adds desecration of cemeteries as a violation of religious freedom identified in the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

Sadly, such an addition is necessary because we have seen repeated acts of desecration of cemeteries occurring throughout the world, especially in Europe, but also in the United States, including my own State of New Jersey.

Jewish cemeteries seem to be a particular target of desecration. By some counts, attacks on Jewish cemeteries have been on the rise over the last several years. We have tried to document that again and again in our work at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Organization for Security Cooperation itself.

A number of Jewish organizations as well have come forward with extraordinarily demoralizing numbers of cemeteries, as well as synagogues that have been attacked, as there is a rising tide of anti-Semitism.

I chaired a hearing on May 22 on the International Religious Freedom Act with a focus on the Commission on Religious Freedom, and one of the things that was brought forward in vivid detail has been the lack of enforcement and the lack of due diligence on the part of the administration when it comes to the International Religious Freedom Act. Not since 2011 has there been a designation of what we call country of particular concern, CPC status, or the dishonorable status that it conveys ought to be done every year.

Congressman FRANK WOLF, the author of IRFA, the International Religious Freedom Act, made it very clear it is law, and I would point out for the record that I chaired all of the hearings in the House as that bill was working its way through the House. We have had, I believe, a dereliction of duty on the part of the administration to do what it has to do under IRFA.

There has been no designation since 2011. The commission pointed out that there are eight countries that ought to be so designated, followed by eight others, including Vietnam, that needed to be added to the list, making a total of 16 countries that are then liable to sanctions, the 18 or so sanctions that are prescribed in the legislation, again, authored by Mr. WOLF.

I am so glad Ms. MENG is adding this to the list, but the list itself and all of the other violations need to be taken seriously by the administration. Hope springs eternal. I hope they do it sooner rather than later—like today—but I won't hold my breath.

I say this because it is a very, very serious issue, and that was brought forward at our hearing just the other day.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, there are other groups, including the Ahmadi religious minority in Pakistan. We heard testimony on May 22 about how their gravestones are being violated as well.

By far, Jewish people have their cemeteries desecrated and others as well, and it is a terrible and despicable act of violence against individuals and religious freedom.

Ms. MENG. Seeing no other speakers, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, anti-Semitism and religious intolerance remain all too prevalent in our world. We grapple with these issues in some form every day.

This resolution will give American officials real tools with which to promote not only religious tolerance, but truth, truth in the form of preservation and recognition of the memories of those who came before us, and only through truth can we realize a better world.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to, again, thank Ms. MENG for her wonderful leadership role in this and many other pieces of legislation going through our Foreign Affairs Committee and commend Mr. COLLINS, as well, for this blow against hatred and intolerance and in favor of religious free exercise around the world. I strongly support the bill by Ms. MENG, H.R. 4028.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Congresswoman MENG's legislation. Including language that protects cemeteries is consequential as every culture and faith hold final resting places as sacred ground.

Just two months ago in March vandals broke into a Jewish cemetery in Hungary. The vandals spray-painted swastikas and anti-Semitic messages on the Jewish tombstones to show their hatred.

This is a stark reminder of the travesties against personal freedoms abroad. These incidents are not isolated and often coincide with other violations against religious freedom.

Desecrating the cemetery of another religious or ethnic group is a very defiant way to express hatred and inflict pain. The religious or ethnic groups that care for the cemeteries are having their religious rights trampled on.

These prejudice acts are especially devastating when tolerated or encouraged by the local or national government.

The final resting place for the deceased deserve the respect of all regardless of personal beliefs or religion and deserve to be added to the list of violations to the International Religious Freedom Act.

I want to thank Congresswoman MENG for authoring this legislation and bringing this issue to Congress' attention.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4028, 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.

URGING CHINA TO RESPECT THE FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, EXPRESSION, AND RELIGION AND ALL FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 599) urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the freedom of assembly, expression, and religion and all fundamental human rights and the rule of law for all its citizens and to stop censoring discussion of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations and their violent suppression.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 599

Whereas on June 4, 1989, peaceful demonstrations held in and around Beijing's Tiananmen Square were brutally crushed by the People's Liberation Army, carrying out the orders of China's Communist Party leadership;

Whereas the peaceful demonstrations of 1989 called upon the Chinese Communist Party to eliminate corruption, accelerate economic and political reforms, and protect human rights, particularly the freedoms of expression and assembly;

Whereas by early May 1989, an estimated 1,000,000 people joined the protests in Tiananmen Square and citizens in over 400 Chinese cities staged similar protests for democratic reform, including not only students, but also government employees, journalists, workers, police officers, members of the armed forces, and other citizens;

Whereas on May 20, 1989, martial law was declared in Beijing, China, after authorities had failed to persuade demonstrators to leave Tiananmen Square;

Whereas during the late afternoon and early evening hours of June 3, 1989, thousands of armed troops, supported by tanks and other armor, moved into Beijing to ''clear the Square'' and surrounding streets of demonstrators;

Whereas on the night of June 3, 1989, and continuing into the morning of June 4, 1989, soldiers fired into crowds, inflicting high civilian casualties, killing or injuring unarmed civilians;

Whereas tanks crushed to death some protesters and onlookers;

Whereas independent observers report that hundreds, perhaps thousands, were killed and wounded by the People's Liberation Army soldiers and other security forces;

Whereas 20,000 people throughout China suspected of taking part in the democracy movement were reportedly arrested and sentenced without trial to prison or reeducation

through labor, and many were reportedly tortured, with many being imprisoned for decades;

Whereas the Tiananmen Mothers is a group of relatives and friends of those killed in June 1989 whose demands include the right to mourn victims publicly, to call for a full and public accounting of the wounded and dead, and the release of those who remain imprisoned for participating in the 1989 protests;

Whereas members of the Tiananmen Mothers group have faced arrest, harassment, and discrimination, with the group's website blocked in China and international cash donations made to the group to support families of victims reportedly frozen by Chinese authorities;

Whereas the Chinese Government undertakes active measures to deny its citizens the truth about the Tiananmen Square Massacre, including the blocking of uncensored Internet sites and weblogs, and the placement of misleading information on the events of June 3, 1989, through June 4, 1989, on Internet sites available in China;

Whereas the Chinese Government continues to suppress dissent by imprisoning pro-democracy activists, lawyers, journalists, labor union leaders, religious believers, members of ethnic minority rights organizations, and other individuals in Xinjiang and Tibet who seek to express their political or religious views or their ethnic identity in a peaceful manner;

Whereas Chinese authorities continue to harass and detain peaceful advocates for human rights, religious freedom, ethnic minority rights and the rule of law, and their family members, such as Nobel Prize Laureate Liu Xiaobo and his wife Liu Xia, Gao Zhisheng, Wang Bingzhang, Peng Ming, Zhu Yufu, Lobsang Tsering, Ilham Tohti, Yang Maodong (also known as Guo Feixiong), Sun Desheng, Liu Yuandong, Guo Quan, Liu Xianbin, Yang Rongli, Alimujiang Yimiti, Yang Tianshui, Wang Zhiwen, Li Chang, Gulmira Imin, Dhondup Wangchen, and Chen Kegui, nephew of blind human rights activists Chen Guangcheng;

Whereas according to the Prisoner Database maintained by the United States Congressional-Executive Commission on China, the Communist Government of China continues to detain over 1,300 prisoners of conscience, though the number may be much higher;

Whereas the Chinese authorities continue to maintain a system of labor camps and ''black jails'' to detain peaceful advocates for human rights and democratic freedoms, harasses and detains human rights lawyers who take on cases deemed politically sensitive, limits the number of children Chinese couples may have, including through the practice of forced abortions and sterilizations, restricts severely the religious activity of Protestants, Catholics, Tibetan Buddhists, and Uyghur Muslims, conducted a 15-year campaign to eradicate Falun Gong practice in China, publicly vilifies, and refuses to negotiate with, the Dalai Lama over Tibetan issues, and, forcibly repatriates thousands of refugees to North Korea who face persecution, imprisonment, and possible execution in violation of its international commitments;

Whereas the Government of China maintains tight control of speech, religion, and assembly, and has continually received poor rankings focused on civil liberties and political rights by nongovernmental organizations;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom's most recent annual report has found that the ''Chinese government continues to perpetrate particularly severe violations of religious freedom'', with conditions ''worse now than at any time in the past decade'' for religious minorities, findings which again contributed to the Commission recommending that China be designated as a ''country of particular concern'';

Whereas the United States Department of State's most recent human rights report on China found ''extrajudicial killings'' occurred in China;

Whereas the United States Department of State's most recent human rights report on China found that the Government continued to target ''for arbitrary detention or arrest'' ''human rights activists, journalists . . . and former political prisoners and their family members'';

Whereas freedom of expression and assembly are fundamental human rights that belong to all people, and are recognized as such under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and

Whereas a Government of China which respects the individual rights of all its people would be more likely to have productive economic, political, and security relations with its neighbors and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to stop censoring information about the Tiananmen Square massacre;

(2) expresses sympathy to the families of those killed, tortured, and imprisoned as a result of their participation in the democracy protests of June 4, 1989, in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the People's Republic of China;

(3) supports all peaceful advocates for human rights and the rule of law in China for their efforts to advance democratic reforms and human rights during the past;

(4) condemns the ongoing human rights abuses and persecution by the Government of the People's Republic of China and its efforts to quell peaceful political dissent, censor the Internet, suppress ethnic and religious minorities, limit the number of children had by Chinese couples through coercion and violence, and harass and detain lawyers and freedom advocates seeking the Government's commitment, in law and practice, to international human rights treaties and covenants to which it is a party;

(5) calls on the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) to take all appropriate steps to circumvent Chinese Internet censorship and to provide information to the people of China about the Tiananmen Square Massacre;

(6) calls on the United States Government to—

(A) make human rights, including religious freedom, a priority in bilateral discussions with the Chinese Government; and

(B) instruct the United States representative at the United Nations Human Rights Council to introduce a resolution calling for an examination of the human rights practices of the Government of the People's Republic of China;

(7) calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to—

(A) end the harassment, detention, torture, and imprisonment of Chinese citizens expressing their legitimate freedom of religion, expression, and association, including on the Internet;

(B) release all remaining prisoners of conscience who continue to be detained as a result of their participation in the peaceful pro-democracy demonstrations in 1989, especially around Tiananmen Square;

(C) end the harassment and discrimination of those involved in the 1989 protests and their families, permit Chinese citizens to freely commemorate and share information about Tiananmen;

(D) allow protest participants who escaped to or are living in exile in the United States and other countries, or who reside outside of China because they have been ''blacklisted'' in China as a result of their peaceful protest activity, to return to China without risk of retribution or repercussion and fully repeal any laws or decrees that deny them the ability to travel to China; and

(E) end Internet, media, and academic censorship of discussions of the Tiananmen Protests and events surrounding it;

(8) calls on the Administration and Members of Congress to take steps to continue to mark the events of Tiananmen Square—

(A) meeting with participants in the demonstrations, or their families, who are living in the United States;

(B) meeting with others outside of China who have been ''blacklisted'' in China as a result of their peaceful protest activities;

(C) signaling support for those in China who demand an independent and credible accounting of the events surrounding June 4, 1989; and

(D) supporting those advocating for accountable and democratic governance, human rights, and the rule of law in China; and

(9) finds that United States relations with China are more likely to further improve once the Government recognizes and respects the individual human rights of all its people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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 this resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 599. I am proud to stand with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH); with the Democratic leader, Ms. PELOSI; and their bipartisan cosponsors in urging the Beijing regime to respect the fundamental human rights of all Chinese citizens, to observe the rule of law, and to stop censoring discussions of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

Twenty-five years ago, a million Chinese citizens from all walks of life gathered in and around Tiananmen Square to call for democracy, to call for reform, to call for openness.

Similar demonstrations sprang up in more than 400 other cities around China, but the hopeful idealism of those Chinese patriots was met with tanks, with bullets and bayonets, and the so-called People's Liberation Army murdered a still-unknown number of the people of China. The Tiananmen Square massacre was the brutal start

of a massive wave of repression against Chinese democracy advocates.

During the past two-and-a-half decades, Mr. Speaker, much has changed inside China. China's economic and military power have grown dramatically, and its governing ideology owes less to Marx, Lenin, and Mao than to a state-fed nationalism, but other things have not changed.

China remains a one-party state where a regime obsessed with maintaining social control commits wide-ranging human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings; disappearances and illegal imprisonment at so-called black jails; detention of lawyers, journalists, and bloggers; coercive population control involving forced abortion and sterilization; and restriction on freedom of religion, of the press, and assembly.

Repression is even harsher against disfavored minorities such as Tibetan Buddhists, the Muslim Uighurs, and Falun Gong practitioners.

According to the most recent State Department Country Report on Human Rights, the Chinese regime ''consistently blocked access to Web sites it deemed controversial, especially those discussing Taiwan, the Dalai Lama, Tibet, underground religious and spiritual organizations, democracy activists, and the 1989 Tiananmen massacre.''

A quarter of a century later, why is the regime in Beijing still so afraid of the truth? How strong is a Communist Party that feels the need to harass and muzzle the aging Tiananmen mothers who lost their sons and daughters in 1989? In the biting words of one 76-year-old mother, Ms. Zhang:

> Such a great, mighty, and correct party is afraid of a little old lady. They are afraid of us oldtimers because we represent righteousness.

Today, Mr. Speaker, with House Resolution 599, we stand in solidarity with the righteous mothers of Tiananmen, with the Ladies in White—Damas de Blanco—in Cuba, and with all those who struggle for liberty and for human rights where tyrants rule. Those who have sacrificed their lives in pursuit of freedom are not forgotten.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H. Res. 599, urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the freedom of assembly, expression, religion, and all fundamental human rights of its citizens.

□ 1645

I would like to begin by thanking Mr. SMITH for his leadership on this issue. I would also would like to thank Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and the entire Committee on Foreign Affairs for the bipartisan manner with which we continue to work to shed light upon the gross violation of human and political rights in China.

Mr. Speaker, next week we will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square demonstrations, where hundreds of student protestors demanding political and economic reforms were murdered. Today the image of an unknown man standing in peaceful protest to government tanks rolling into Tiananmen Square is among the most iconic of the 20th century and continues to serve as a source of inspiration to political and human rights advocates around the world.

Unfortunately, many in China will never know of this sad chapter of Chinese history. The Communist Party of China is determined to erase all memory of the Tiananmen Square massacre from national memory. The Chinese Government continues to block all uncensored Internet Web sites and blogs related to the events of June 3 and June 4, 1989, and willfully distributes misinformation to its people. Even today, Beijing continues to harass, arrest, and discriminate against the relatives and friends of those killed in Tiananmen Square.

Censorship of the Tiananmen Square massacre is just the tip of the iceberg. Unfortunately, the Chinese Government continues to suppress political dissent by imprisoning pro-democracy activists, lawyers, journalists, labor union leaders, religious believers, members of ethnic minority rights organizations, and other individuals who seek to express their political or religious views or assert their ethnic identity.

According to a prisoner database maintained by the United States Congressional Executive Commission on China, over 1,300 prisoners of conscience are being held at various ''black jails,'' where they are often tortured, forced into labor camps, or even killed.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 599 condemns the Chinese Government for its appalling human rights record and calls for an end to the harassment, detention, torture, and imprisonment of Chinese citizens practicing their legitimate freedom of religion, expression, and association. It also calls on the Broadcasting Board of Governors to provide the people of China with information about the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important and timely resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, cochairman also of the Congressional Executive Commission on China, and the author of this resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida has 16 minutes remaining.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it has been 25 years since China's Government crushed the peaceful demonstrations we remember by the name ''Tiananmen Square.'' The resolution before us honors the extraordinary sacrifice endured by hundreds of thousands of peaceful Chinese democracy activists who rallied for almost 2 months in Beijing and in over 400 other cities in China in a heroic quest for liberty and human rights. It has been estimated that over a million people took part.

Tiananmen has also come to symbolize the brutal lengths China's Communist Party will go to remain in power. When the tanks rolled into the square on June 4, 1989, mothers lost sons, fathers lost daughters, and China lost an idealistic generation of future leaders.

You know, Mr. Speaker, some may prefer to look past or even trivialize the wanton slaughter by Chinese soldiers. The memory of the dead and those arrested, tortured, and exiled requires us to honor them, respect their noble aspirations for fundamental freedoms, and recommit ourselves to the struggle for freedom and human rights in China.

Former President Jiang Zemin said in an interview that Tiananmen was ''no big deal.'' But it was a very big deal that has left an enduring mark on Chinese society and on U.S.-China relations.

The Government of China continues to go to astounding, even bizarre, lengths to censor and ban open discussion of Tiananmen. This resolution sends the right message: we will never forget Tiananmen, ever, especially so as long as the Chinese people cannot discuss it and its significance openly without harassment or arrest or torture.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most enduring symbols of the Tiananmen demonstrations was the unveiling of a facsimile of the Statue of Liberty on May 30, 1989. It was a moment that thrilled freedom advocates around the globe. There was this enduring symbol of freedom facing the portrait of Mao Zedong hanging in Tiananmen Square.

This moment was extraordinary because it showed that when the Chinese people are able to speak publicly and freely, they ask for greater freedoms, democracy, and justice. These are universal liberties that can be found in demonstrations for liberty worldwide. We see it in Cairo and Caracas, Turkey and Tunisia, Kabul and Kiev.

There was a moment when we all believed that Tiananmen Square demonstrations would be a triumph of freedom and democracy. Later in 1989, the Warsaw Pact nations started to crumble, and eventually the former Soviet Union fell as well, but the Communist leaders of China sought to cling to power through unbelievable brutality and force. They sent tanks and soldiers into Beijing to ''clear the square'' on the evening of June 3 into June 4. The

beatings, the bayonetting, the torture and murder of students and the ubiquitous display of tanks turned the dream of freedom into a bloody nightmare.

Mr. Speaker, in 1991, I was able to visit Beijing prison number 1 on a trip with my great friend and colleague FRANK WOLF. It was a bleak gulag, where some 40 Tiananmen Square demonstrators were being unjustly detained. We saw firsthand the price paid by brave and tenacious individuals for peacefully petitioning their government for freedom, and it was not pretty. They looked like walking skeletons of Auschwitz, and they worked grueling hours making products, some of which ended up in U.S. markets.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 25 years, the Tiananmen demonstrations have shaped the way the Chinese Government deals with dissent. Despite the country's stunning economic growth over the past two decades, Beijing's leaders remain terrified of their own people. China's ruling Communist Party would rather stifle, imprison, or even kill its own people than defer or embrace their demands for freedom and rights.

President Xi Jinping's tenure as President, which started with so much promise of new beginnings, has instead ramped up the repression. China today is in a race to the bottom with the likes of North Korea.

Last year was the worst year since the 1990s for arrests and imprisonment of dissidents. Over 230 people have been detained for their human rights advocacy, and those are the ones we know about. There are many, many more. In the past month leading up to the Tiananmen anniversary, Beijing has detained some two dozen activists for seeking to commemorate the anniversary, even criminalizing private gatherings and art installations.

China remains, as we all know, one of the worst offenders of human rights overall. It remains the torture capital of the world. Religious freedom abuses continue with absolute impunity, and ethnic minority groups face repression when they peacefully seek rights of culture and of language.

Hundreds of millions of women, Mr. Speaker, have been forced to abort their precious babies because of a draconian attempt to limit population growth in effect since 1979. China's one-child policy is a human rights disaster without precedent, and it is a demographic nightmare as well. Brothers and sisters in China, Mr. Speaker, are illegal, and the preference for having boys has led to a gender imbalance and a mass extermination of the girl child.

This is not only a massive gender-based crime, Mr. Speaker, but a security problem as well. Experts are coming to the conclusion that China's unprecedented gender imbalance will lead to more crime, social instability, worker shortages, and even possibly war. Of course it has had a horrific impact on sex trafficking.

Last year, China was rightfully demoted to a tier 3 country under the provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act because of the missing girls and daughters, so those slavers are now buying and selling women as commodities because women don't exist relative to the number of males in the People's Republic of China all because of a cruel one child per couple policy.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, repression has not dimmed the desires of the Chinese people for freedom and reform. There is an inspiring drive in China to keep fighting for freedom under very difficult and dangerous lethal conditions. This drive is the most important asset in promoting human rights and democratization.

When democratic change does come to China, it will come from within, not because of outside pressure; although that pressure needs to be applied, and it needs to be applied judiciously and effectively. U.S. policy, in both the short and long term, must be, and seem to be, supportive of advocates of peaceful change. We can't abscond in our responsibility. Lists need to be tendered every time we meet with Chinese leaders, whether it be the White House or any Members of Congress, of political prisoners.

I believe that someday China will be free. Someday the people of China will be able to enjoy all of their God-given rights. As a nation of free Chinese men and women, we will honor them and they will be celebrated someday as heroes of Tiananmen Square and all of those who sacrificed so much and for so long for freedom.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our very distinguished Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I welcome him to our group, and I appreciate his very important remarks as we observe the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

As always, I am absolutely honored and pleased to join my colleagues, the distinguished former chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and now chair of the subcommittee, Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN.

Mr. WOLF and Mr. SMITH and I have been fighting this fight together for decades. I thank them for their courage. We both oppose our own Presidents—they are Republican, I a Democrat on a Democratic President—on this subject. This is a bond that we have had about respecting the dignity and worth of every person.

When we saw what happened in Tiananmen Square, it was almost unbelievable to see the Government of China turning on its own people, having tanks run over their children in Tiananmen Square who were speaking out against corruption, who were speaking out for more openness, for speaking out to speak out.

I have treasured this poster in my office over the years, for 25 years. It has been signed by every major dissident who has been able to leave China. Not many of them can go back. But it is the symbol that Mr. CHRIS SMITH talked about of the man before the tank. It is one of the most iconic figures in the history of democratic freedoms in the world.

However, if you were to go to China and ask young people about this poster—they know this picture—they know nothing about it. It has been censored. They don't tell people what that is. Some said: Maybe it is a commercial for something. I don't know what that is.

So powerful is it that even any discussion of it in China for young people at the university, Peking University, which was a place where many of these young people came forth and said they would like to end corruption, expand freedom of expression. What form of government they will have, as Mr. SMITH has said, remains to be seen and up to the Chinese people. The fact that they could not even talk about it without being run over by tanks, it was stunning. It was really remarkably stunning because we have really not seen anything quite like that.

The spring of 1989, 25 years ago, a community of activists, dissident students, and Chinese citizens stood up for their rights in Tiananmen Square. People were inspired by a path of political reform advocated by some of China's leaders who were purged—Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang.

The people spoke out against the abuses of their government, a people who demanded respect, dignity, liberty, a voice. A people cried out for freedom, their souls yearning for a better future. They called for the elimination of corruption, an acceleration of economic and political reform, for freedom of expression and assembly. They called for a dialogue with China's leaders on how to make progress.

People protested, demonstrated, marched. A military was turned against the people it was supposed to protect. The People's Liberation Army turned on the people of China. The young man, again, stood alone in the street bringing a line of tanks to a grinding halt.

□ 1700

You don't see it here, but the tanks turned, they turned away from this lone man and did not run over him for all the world to see, an image seared into the memory of all who saw it, a photograph unforgettable to anyone committed to the promise of human rights, a moment that then and now challenges the conscience of the world.

We cannot have any moral authority to talk about human rights in the world if we ignore the violations in human rights in a big country, a prosperous country, an economic engine.

I remember—and my colleagues do too—that at the time the trade deficit with China, with the U.S., we had a deficit of $5 billion a year. That was an

enormous trade deficit, and we thought it would give us leverage to free the students who were arrested in Tiananmen Square. We just wanted to free them, to respond to the moms, the parents, free those students. Others in the Chamber had said we could use that $5 billion at the same time to stop China from blocking U.S. exports into China, or stop them from transferring technology, missile technology and the rest, to Pakistan and beyond.

But there were those also in the Congress and in the country—and actually on the Chinese payroll, because they were lobbyists, advocates, lawyers, and all the rest, they hired everybody—who said: Oh, no, no, no, no, no, you can't use that $5 billion for leverage to free those prisoners, to stop those barriers to our trade, to stop their transfer of technology to countries that might then turn them over to rogue countries, you can't do that. But if you remain calm, there will be peaceful evolution and all this will be improved. In fact, our trade with China will grow, their freedom will increase.

These people are still arrested, the trade deficit is no longer $5 billion a year, it is $7 billion, but not a year—from $5 billion a year to $7 billion a week—and not 1 cent of it used for any leverage to free prisoners or to challenge the Chinese in terms of the violations of human rights in China and in Tibet. It is stunning. They own the show. That is just the way it is—$5 billion a year to $7 billion a week. Oh, my God, progress has been made, but not by the American worker, but not by our economy—no, by the Chinese Government. It is really stunning, it is really one of, I think, the stories that has to be told by the U.S. to stand up for who we are and what we stand for.

Twenty-five years ago, Tiananmen became synonymous with the battle for human rights in China—again, an iconic site for an iconic struggle for justice and democracy. Twenty-five years later, the spirit of Tiananmen endures in the hearts and minds of those continuing to struggle, both in China and around the world. What moral authority do we have to say to a small country, you cannot violate the human rights of your people, but we will take anything the Chinese have to dish out because we have a commercial interest there?

The heroes—and we have to talk about them because the Chinese tell them nobody cares about you anymore—these heroes still display the unmatched courage required simply to speak up and speak out. I thank Congressman CHRIS SMITH for bringing this resolution forward, and Speaker BOEHNER for tomorrow, this week, holding an official remembrance—again, it is tomorrow—to allow us to stand united with these heroes.

Today, any mention of these events of June 4, 1989, is censored from the Chinese people. The victims and their families are imprisoned and persecuted by the Chinese Government, and the human rights situation in China and Tibet continues to deteriorate.

Today, the Chinese people may not know the truth about Tiananmen. It was a long time ago. Many of the young people weren't even born yet. Corruption, though, they do know is rampant in the Chinese Government. The rule of law is not applied in a fair manner. They suffer injustices with no redress of grievances. Air and water pollution are making them unhealthy and destroying their environment. That may be something that gets the attention of the government.

Mr. WOLF, thank you for your leadership, for your courage. When Mr. SMITH talks about going to Chinese prison number 1, I know that you led the way there.

Today, Ding Zilin and the Tiananmen Mothers bravely keep up their calls for dialogue, and their supporters worldwide join their demands that the Chinese Government provide an honest accounting of the crackdown, stop persecution of the families of the demonstrators, and allow the families to mourn publicly without interference.

Today, Liu Xiaobo remains the world's only imprisoned Nobel Prize Peace Prize Laureate, as he and his wife, Xia, join so many others still languishing in prison for criticizing their government or trying to exercise and secure their basic human rights. We had the privilege of being asked by the family—some of us—to go to Norway when Liu Xiaobo received the Nobel Prize. As some of you may recall, there was an empty chair because the Chinese Government would not allow him out of prison to go to receive the Nobel Prize. So we joined some Members that were selected to be part of the delegation. Was that one of the great honors of our lives? I think we all agree that it was.

We are not here today just to acknowledge history. We are here to learn from the memory of a dark chapter of our past and to write a brighter chapter of freedom and justice in the future. We are here to support the Tiananmen movement. How many of those young people who got out of China, who came through here, told us their stories of courage. We cried together. They tried together to make sense of how they could make a difference for those people who were left behind.

We are here to support the Tiananmen movement, which endures, inspires, and cannot be stopped. I am hopeful. I am hopeful because there are conversations that happened with the Chinese Government. I have had my own on the subject of climate change and environmental issues like clean air, et cetera, that are problematic in China. Maybe there can be some communication that can be constructive. I am hopeful that the visits that we have had to each other's countries to talk about one subject and another without getting anywhere near that taboo, in their view, of our talking about people or their freedom, that perhaps in the communication that exists in the world today that maybe we have reason to be hopeful.

But with the passage of this resolution, Congress will say to the people of China and freedom-loving people everywhere: Your cause is our cause. We can never forget. We must never forget. We will never forget.

Again, the Chinese Government likes to say the prisoners, nobody knows you are here, they don't remember who you are, they don't remember why you came here. Well, we want to give lie to that, because over the years we have always joined together in a strongly bipartisan way to come to the floor or to go to public events to say the names of people whom we have not heard of their fate but that their mothers want an accounting for. As we do this, we look forward to a day when the world's most populous country can be called a country where people can speak out, be respected, and when the Chinese Government respects its own people it will command much more respect then.

Again, I thank you Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN so much for taking the lead to bring this to the floor; Congressman CASTRO for your very, very important remarks; to my pals Mr. WOLF and Mr. SMITH, you have done so much, you have made such a difference. It is an honor to serve with you and to work on this important project together.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I reserve the right to close, Mr. Speaker.

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

With no other speakers, I would simply say that the worth of a nation is not measured in dollars and cents alone, by size of the military or armaments. As China's economy continues to grow into among the nations' largest, so too should its commitment to human rights, democracy, and transparency. We are proud to support this resolution.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I yield the remainder of our time to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), subcommittee chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, whose bill will be before us today, cochair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, and a tireless advocate for human rights in China.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN for bringing the bill up. I want to thank my partner, Congressman SMITH, and I want to thank the Democratic leader, Congresswoman PELOSI, for being there at every time, including the time you stood up to the Chinese Government at Tiananmen Square, when you were almost arrested. So I want to thank the Democratic leader for her help and support every time an issue of human rights in China has come up. Thank you very much.

Twenty-five years ago, peaceful pro-democracy demonstrators, many of them students, most of them students, gathered in Tiananmen in a move for greater openness, transparency, and the rule of law.

But what could have marked the beginning of a peaceful, political transition in China was brutally, brutally crushed by the People's Liberation Army. A historic moment of opportunity was, quite frankly, lost.

By nearly every measure, China is today as intolerant of dissent as it has ever been. Just read today's New York Times where they talk about how they are cracking down, telling people: Do not go to Tiananmen.

Like authoritarian governments before it, the Chinese Government remains deeply frightened. They are frightened. They are literally afraid of their own people. They are afraid of the spirit that animated that protest, namely, the yearning for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

I first went to China in 1991 with my good friend Congressman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey. It was during this trip we visited Beijing prison number 1. Chinese authorities informed us—and we saw them—that approximately 40 Tiananmen Square protestors were in the prison. Our request was to see the demonstrators. They were denied, but Chinese authorities gave us a tour of the prison's textile and plastic shoe factories. We saw them making socks. These are the socks that they were making. The fact is there are golfers on the side, and in those days they didn't play golf. Tiananmen Square demonstrators were making socks for Americans to wear as they play golf. I took with me some of the socks that prisoners were making because they were coming to our country.

That experience captures, in stark terms, the failure of U.S. foreign policy—the failure of U.S. foreign policy toward China over successive demonstrations, both Republican and Democrat alike. The United States has too often pursued a relationship that is fundamentally inconsistent with the most basic national values, marked by trade and unfettered market access at the expense of human rights, religious freedom, and the rule of law. President Reagan said that the words in the Constitution and the words in the Declaration of Independence were a covenant not only with the people in Philadelphia in 1776 and 1787, but with the people of Tiananmen and the people who want freedom all over the world.

May this resolution by Congressman SMITH and the approaching anniversary of that dark June day serve as a sobering reminder of the unmet yearning for basic human liberty which compels men like Liu Xiaobo, himself an imprisoned Nobel Laureate, won the 2010 Nobel Prize, was in prison, his wife was under house arrest, she couldn't even go to Norway to pick up the prize, and also the thousands of others whose names we do not know, but as Leader PELOSI said: they will be known in the West, someday everyone will know who they are and everyone will know who they are in China and we will know the name of ''tank man,'' because ''tank man'' that Ms. PELOSI talked about has done more to bring about freedom than anybody else, and we will know their names.

I pray for the day that the Chinese Government—the party and system responsible for the crackdown in Tiananmen and responsible for the continued repression—will be relegated to the ''ash heap of history.'' They will be relegated to the ash heap of history. I believe that will come very soon. I believe it will come in my lifetime, particularly if the Democratic aspirations of the Chinese people can find a champion—if they can find a champion in the United States of America.

With that, I thank Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN for bringing this bill up. I thank Mr. SMITH for this resolution and all the effort that he has done. I want to again thank Democratic Leader PELOSI for her leadership in fighting on these issues of human rights and religious freedom.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for this resolution, which I join as an original cosponsor with my good friends and colleagues, Congressman CHRIS SMITH (NJ) and Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI (CA). I cannot express strongly enough my admiration and respect for their leadership on protecting and promoting human rights in China, and their commitment to remembering, commemorating and educating others on the events that took place in Tiananmen Square twenty-five years ago.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of citizens brutally murdered. Students shot down by their own government. Tanks rolling into Tiananmen Square to ruthlessly repress the spark of hope ignited in the hearts of thousands of people. On June 4th, a massacre ended the weeks of student protest and civil society actions that sparked hope for change and good governance, hope for greater inclusion and democracy.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, it has been 25 years since Tiananmen Square—and China hopes that we've forgotten.

But we have not forgotten. We have not forgotten Tiananmen Square, nor have we forgotten all the brave Chinese citizens who every day attempt to exercise the basic rights promised to them under the Chinese Constitution. The right to speak out and to bring grave matters to the attention of their government. Chinese citizens and their legal advocates who have tried to bring issues like government corruption, corporate exploitation of workers, unsafe working conditions, inadequate housing, agricultural mismanagement—so many find themselves the targets of government repression, legal reprisal, harassment, house arrest and even long and brutal imprisonment.

They deserve the right to speak out and engage in intellectual and public debate about what constitutes fundamental human rights and respect, what constitutes the freedom to think and worship as one chooses, what constitutes respect for the ostensible cultural diversity of China when faced with the reality of brutal cultural repression in Tibet and Xinjiang.

There are so many past and current heroes and heroines in China who have dared to think, write, speak and act freely in defiance of government control, censorship and mythology. We remember all of them today, past and present, as we debate this resolution and recall the events of 25 years ago.

We stand with you, today and always. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 599.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 599.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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.

□ 1715

HERMISTON REVERSIONARY LANDS ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3366) to provide for the release of the property interests retained by the United States in certain land conveyed in 1954 by the United States, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, to the State of Oregon for the establishment of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center of Oregon State University in Hermiston, Oregon, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3366

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 ''Hermiston Reversionary Lands Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.—The term ''Map'' means the map entitled ''Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center'' and dated April 7, 2014.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Oregon (acting through the Oregon State Board of Higher Education on behalf of Oregon State University).

SEC. 3. RELEASE OF PROPERTY INTERESTS IN BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND CONVEYED TO THE STATE OF OREGON FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF HERMISTON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER.

(a) RELEASE OF RETAINED INTERESTS.—Any reservation or reversionary interest retained by the United States to the approximately 290 acres in Hermiston, Oregon, depicted as

''Reversionary Interest Area'' on the Map, is hereby released without consideration.

(b) INSTRUMENT OF RELEASE.—The Secretary shall execute and file in the appropriate office a deed of release, amended deed, or other appropriate instrument reflecting the release of retained interests under subsection (a).

(c) CONVEYANCE OF ORPHAN PARCEL.—Notwithstanding the land use planning requirements of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713), not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a request from the State, the Secretary shall convey to the State, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States to and in the approximately 6 acres identified on the Map as ''Bureau of Land Management Administered Land''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 3366 would release the Bureau of Land Management's reversionary interest in 290 acres that were conveyed to the State of Oregon in 1954 for the establishment of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Oregon State University in Hermiston, Oregon. It would also reunite that land with a 6-acre orphan parcel that the Bureau of Land Management has no use for.

In 1954, the Federal Government conveyed the 290 acres affected by this legislation to the State of Oregon. However, the Federal Government retained a reversionary interest in the property which now denies OSU and the city of Hermiston the control and flexibility needed to efficiently manage the property to advance new agricultural research programs.

As Hermiston continues to grow up around this area, lifting the reversionary interest will advance the goals of Oregon State University, benefit the local economy, and create job opportunities to meet the demands of the expanding region.

Adjacent to the 290 acres is a 6-acre parcel of land that previously reverted back to the BLM and that currently stands idle. This parcel is the subject of an amendment being considered with this bill.

If it is not dealt with, it will become an orphan land parcel that is of no use to the Bureau of Land Management, and it will be a challenge to manage. The 6 acres would be better managed when they are rejoined with the adjacent 290 acres that this bill addresses.

Congressman WALDEN, who is from that district, should be commended for his work on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the Hermiston Reversionary Interest Release Act.

In 1954, the Federal Government conveyed 250 acres near Hermiston, Oregon, to the State of Oregon, to establish an agricultural experiment station. The agricultural experiment station ultimately became the Oregon State University Agricultural Research and Experiment Center.

The Hermiston Center focuses on the innovation and implementation of agricultural and horticultural opportunities, and it provides solutions to production restraints. This work is crucial to the agricultural economy of the region.

Oregon State University would like to move the Hermiston Center to a new location and is looking to Congress to remove Federal restrictions placed on the land at the time of conveyance in order to sell or to develop the property.

H.R. 3366 removes these Federal restrictions and will allow Oregon State to develop its agricultural research facilities to meet the future needs of the agricultural sector. Allowing the flexibility that H.R. 3366 provides is a priority for Oregon State University and the region, and we gladly support this bill and the university's continued research.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 8 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), the author of this legislation.

Mr. WALDEN. I thank the chairman and the members of the Natural Resources Committee for their work that brought this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3366, the Hermiston Reversionary Interest Release Act, is very important to the city of Hermiston—as you all have heard—to Umatilla County, and to Oregon State University, so I appreciate being able to speak in support of it today.

Oregon—and the nearly 70,000 square miles that I represent in my district—is full of unique landscapes, ranging from high deserts to green valleys, which produce more than 220 different agricultural crops.

Farmers in this part of Oregon, the Columbia Basin, grow crops from commodities—like corn and wheat—to specialty crops—like onions, potatoes, asparagus, and, of course, the world-famous Hermiston watermelons.

In fact, Umatilla County is the second highest agricultural producing county in the State of Oregon, with sales topping $487 million annually.

Agriculture has always been the economic backbone of Umatilla County. However, growth of the industry would not have been maintained without significant innovation in what types of crops are grown and in improvements in production techniques.

The land that this legislation deals with was conveyed to the State of Oregon and then to Oregon State University by the Federal Government. It is the home of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, capably and ably managed by Superintendent Phil Hamm, with whom we have worked closely on this legislation.

This center has fueled these innovations, and it has helped growers in the region maximize the use of precious water, fight off new pests and diseases, and achieve record-breaking yields.

This commonsense legislation simply places the home of the research center back fully under local control by removing the retained reversionary interest. This bill also conveys 6 acres of land that were orphaned from the station after the construction of a railroad line.

This release and conveyance provides the flexibility OSU needs to better manage the station for the future benefit of area farmers and to meet the needs of the city of Hermiston, eastern Oregon's largest city.

When this land was originally conveyed in 1954, the Hermiston population was fewer than 4,000 people, and the research station was located well out of town. Today, with a population of 16,745 people, the research facilities now lie within the city limits of Hermiston, presenting potential challenges to growth in the future.

Despite economic and population growth in the last 60 years, the needs of farmers have not changed much. They still rely upon the quality work done by researchers at the station to grow top-notch crops and to create jobs in the region.

Unfortunately, as station managers try to plot the path for continued viability of the station as the city continues to grow, they find their hands tied by the reversionary interest the Federal Government maintains over the property.

Commonsense opportunities that could generate additional revenue for research, like siting a cell tower on a small portion of the property that can't be farmed, are passed over because of these improvement restrictions.

Also, if the need arises in the future, the reversionary interest stands in the way of the relocation of the facility, which would provide additional economic opportunities for the city, while maintaining the research capabilities at a site better suited for agriculture production, rather than being stuck between industrial sites or residential communities.

By removing the reversionary interest, H.R. 3366 removes these hurdles and provides opportunities for economic and job growth for the local

community, which is why it has been strongly supported by farmers in the area, by the city of Hermiston, and by the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners as well.

For farmers in the Columbia Basin, it is a way for valuable agriculture research to continue into the future, bringing new techniques they need to tackle new challenges as they continue to feed and clothe the world.

For Oregon State University, it provides the flexibility they need to ensure they continue their mission of providing the quality research they have provided in the area for decades.

Again, I want to thank the staff on the committee, as well as my own staff—Riley Bushue and Thomas Griffin—for their work on this legislation.

I would ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their work on this important piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am glad my colleague from Oregon mentioned the Columbia Basin. My district happens to be just north of that. That part of the Columbia Basin that I represent also is a very plentiful agriculture area, and I am glad my friend from Oregon, just to the south of me, recognizes that.

With that, this is a good piece of legislation, and I urge its passage.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3366, 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.

NATIONAL DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD WAR MEMORIAL ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 503) to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 503

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 ''National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act:

(1) ASSOCIATION.—The term ''Association'' means the National Desert Storm Memorial Association, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Arkansas and described in section 501(c)(3) and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(2) MEMORIAL.—The term ''memorial'' means the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial authorized to be established under section 3.

SEC. 3. MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK.—The Association may establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work, on Federal land in the District of Columbia to commemorate and honor those who, as a member of the Armed Forces, served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—The establishment of the commemorative work shall be in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Commemorative Works Act'').

(c) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS PROHIBITED.—Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the memorial. The Association shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the memorial.

(d) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—

(1) If upon payment of all expenses for the establishment of the memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount required by section 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Association shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the account provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

(2) If upon expiration of the authority for the commemorative work under section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Association shall transmit the balance to a separate account with the National Park Foundation for memorials, to be available to the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator (as appropriate) following the process provided in section 8906(b)(4) of title 40, United States Code, for accounts established under section 8906(b)(2) or (3) of title 40, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 503 authorizes the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish a commemorative work on Federal land outside of the closed National Mall reserve in the District of Columbia to commemorate and honor members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

Over 600,000 American servicemen deployed for Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield and successfully led a coalition of over 30 countries to evict an invading army to secure the independence of Kuwait.

This memorial will recognize their success, but it will also serve as a commemoration of those nearly 300 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

The work would be planned and constructed using non-Federal funds, and unlike recent monuments' proposals, it does not exempt it from the Commemorative Works Act, which was established to place standards and a process for the placement of memorials in the Washington, D.C., area. This is a good piece of legislation, and I urge its passage.

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

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 503, the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act.

Following the ordered invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, the United States, along with the United Nations Security Council, demanded the immediate halt and pullback of forces under the threat of military action.

After Saddam Hussein defied the United Nations Security Council's demands, the United States, along with its NATO and Arab allies, began Operation Desert Shield, followed by Operation Desert Storm—a 100-hour land war which expelled the Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Approximately 700,000 members of the American Armed Forces served as part of Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield. Of those, 293 died in theater, and 148 were killed in action.

H.R. 503 authorizes the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Association to build the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia, in order to honor the members of the American Armed Forces who served on active duty and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in support of our country.

Honoring those who have served and those who have died is a duty shared by all Americans, regardless of political affiliation. We support this bipartisan bill and look forward to its adoption.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee, Dr. ROE, the author of this legislation.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud sponsor of H.R.

503, the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act.

In the previous debate we heard just a moment ago about tyranny and the oppression of human rights, this bill honors those who fought this and freed an entire country—Kuwait.

In having just celebrated Memorial Day, it is fitting that the House today is considering legislation which would establish a monument to honor those who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

□ 1730

2014 marks 23 years since the first U.S. casualty in Operation Desert Shield, the first phase of one of the largest military operations in our country's history.

The seeds for this conflict were sewn on August 2, 1990, when Saddam Hussein ruthlessly invaded Kuwait and imprisoned the people. In less than 24 hours, he dominated nearly 30 percent of the world's oil supply, before setting his sights on Saudi Arabia.

Recognizing Saudi Arabia's important role in the region, President George Herbert Walker Bush and a coalition of 34 supporting countries launched Operation Desert Shield, the deployment of combat forces to Saudi Arabia, and ordered Hussein to remove Iraqi troops from Kuwait by January 15, 1991.

With Kuwait still occupied after the deadline passed, over a half-million United States armed servicemembers led coalition forces in the liberation of Kuwait: Operation Desert Storm.

Of the roughly 600,000 American troops who were deployed in both Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, 294 died in theater, of which 148 were killed in action.

The United States currently lacks a national memorial dedicated to the valor and sacrifices made by those members of our Armed Forces who protected two of our key regional allies. This sacrifice was not just borne by those who deployed, but also by their families on the home front.

Believing that we should have an enduring monument to their service in the Nation's capital, I introduced the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act. This bipartisan legislation would authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish a National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial on Federal lands within the District of Columbia.

It is important to note that no Federal funds will be spent to build this memorial. All funds will be raised privately by the National Desert Storm Memorial Association.

I will include letters of support from veterans service organizations such as AMVETS, the American Legion, the Air Force Association, the National Guard Association of the United States, and Blinded Veterans of America.

AMVETS DRAFT RESOLUTION 14–08

Subject: Support the National Desert Storm Memorial

Source: National Headquarters

Whereas, on Aug. 2, 1990 Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and set in motion a chain of events that would impact America and the rest of the world forever; and,

Whereas, on January 16th 1991 Operation Desert Storm was launched following Saddam Hussein's refusal to withdraw his Iraqi forces from Kuwait; and,

Whereas, there were 293 American men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in extracting the Iraqis and liberating Kuwait; and

Whereas, in 2011 we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of this historical conflict and yet there remains no national memorial to honor the brave men and women from the United States who served and sacrificed in that war; now therefore, be it *resolved:* That AMVETS do everything in its power to support the passage of HR 503, National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2014.

Hon. PHIL ROE, M.D.,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE ROE: On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express our support for the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act of 2013, which would authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia.

American Legion Resolution No. 16: National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial, passed at the 2013 National Convention, states that ''The American Legion will endorse and support building the National Desert Shield / Desert Storm War Memorial, without financial obligation on behalf of the national organization, as a lasting tribute to the bravery, courage, commitment, service, and sacrifice exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces living and deceased.''

The National Desert Shield / Desert Storm War Memorial, located in Washington, DC, will commemorate the service of those 500,000 plus U.S. servicemembers who served our country honorably throughout this campaign, as well as memorialize the over 300 Americans who paid the ultimate price in pursuit of that just cause.

Again, The American Legion fully supports this legislation and we thank you for your leadership on this issue.

For God and Country,

DANIEL M. DELLINGER,
National Commander.

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION,
Arlington, Virginia.

Hon. DAVID P. ROE,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE ROE, I am writing on behalf of the Air Force Association (AFA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization representing approximately 100,000 current and former Airmen and their families, to express our support for a National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial.

We thank you for being a cosponsor of H.R. 503 which would establish this monument to honor those who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

After Saddam Hussein of Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990, he immediately owned nearly 30% of the world's oil supply and threatened Saudi Arabia, and American ally and important regional power. President George H.W. Bush launched Operation Desert Shield and with it the immense threat of force of American and Coalition airpower. President Bush also gave Hussein an ultimatum: Exit Kuwait by January 15, 1991, or face the brunt of all branches of the United States Military as well as Coalition forces. With Iraqi forces still in Kuwait after the deadline, President Bush launched Operation Desert Storm, and for nearly seven months American and Coalition forces used airpower to great effect When ground troops finally rolled in, it took only a few days to clear Kuwait of Iraqi forces.

This major coalition victory resulted not only in the liberation of Kuwait, but also a weakened Iraqi force, and the imposition of sanctions against the government of Iraq. However, the victory was not without sacrifice. America lost 293 of her best men and women during these operations.

AFA believes the nation needs a national memorial dedicated to those members of the armed forces who risked and or lost their lives in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. AFA supports this bipartisan legislation to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Board of Directors to establish this memorial in Washington DC, with all funding raised privately by the National Desert Storm Memorial Association.

AFA urges Congress to act swiftly to get this deserving project underway as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

CRAIG MCKINLEY,
President, Air Force Association.

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, May 28, 2014.

Hon. PHIL ROE,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE ROE: Thank you for introducing H.R. 503, the Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act, that would establish a monument to honor those who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield, including thousands of members of the National Guard.

The selfless service of the men and women who served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm is long overdue for the special recognition that a monument would provide. NGAUS strongly supports this effort.

Thank you for this effort to honor the service of our brave men and women.

Sincerely,

GUS HARGETT,
Major General, USA, (Ret) President.

BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION,
Washington DC, May 28, 2014.

Hon. DAVID ''PHIL'' ROE, M.D. (TN–01),
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ROE; On behalf of the Blinded Veterans Association Board of Directors, its members, and the entire Blinded Veteran community I would like to extend our support for H.R. 503, The National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act.

When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, and seized nearly 30 percent of the world's oil supply, our Nations President George H.W. Bush launched Operation Desert Shield. This deployment of American combat troops was America's way of advising Saddam Hussein that his acts of aggression and tyranny towards Kuwait would not be tolerated. On January 15, 1991, with Kuwait still occupied, over half a million United States armed service members led coalition forces in the liberation of Kuwait, a mission now known as Operation Desert Storm.

The men and woman of our Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard Forces, who answered the call of duty should now, and forever, be remembered for the sacrifices they

made to ensure that this type of aggression and tyranny will not be tolerated by the United States towards our allies. May this memorial reflect those sacrifices for generations to pay tribute and admire, and lest we not forget.

Respectfully;

GLENN MINNEY (U.S.N. RET.),
Director of Government Relations and Congressional Legislation, Blinded Veterans Association.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I would especially like to thank a couple of people, such as JEFF MILLER, my friend from Hendersonville, North Carolina, who introduced me to Scott Stump and his colleagues at the National Desert Storm Memorial Association, for the legwork they have done in support of H.R. 503. Without their efforts, we wouldn't be standing here today. I also would like to thank Lieutenant Colonel Norbert from Canada, who is also in the audience today.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Chairman HASTINGS and Chairman BISHOP for their assistance in moving this legislation to the House floor.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and to honor the service of those who served in these operations.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my colleagues from Tennessee and Washington, and I am very honored to support this piece of legislation, particularly on the day after we formally observed Memorial Day. It is truly an honor to recognize the men and women and the families who give the ultimate sacrifice to protect this country.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation, and I commend Dr. ROE and others for introducing it and bringing it to the floor. I urge its passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 503, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. 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.

SANDIA PUEBLO SETTLEMENT TECHNICAL AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 611) to make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 611

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 ''Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act''.

SEC. 2. SANDIA PUEBLO SETTLEMENT TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

Section 413(b) of the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act (16 U.S.C. 539m–11(b)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of paragraph (4), by striking ''conveyance'' and inserting ''title to be conveyed''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) FAILURE TO EXCHANGE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the land exchange authorized under paragraph (1) is not completed by the date that is 30 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary, on request of the Pueblo and the Secretary of the Interior, shall transfer the National Forest land generally depicted as 'Land to be Held in Trust' on the map entitled 'Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act' and dated October 18, 2013, to the Secretary of the Interior to be held in trust by the United States for the Pueblo—

''(i) subject to the restriction enforced by the Secretary of the Interior that the land remain undeveloped, with the natural characteristics of the land to be preserved in perpetuity; and

''(ii) consistent with subsection (c).

''(B) OTHER TRANSFERS.—After the transfer under subparagraph (A) is complete, the Secretary of the Interior, with the consent of the Pueblo, shall—

''(i) transfer to the Secretary, consistent with section 411(c)—

''(I) the La Luz tract generally depicted on the map entitled 'Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act' and dated October 18, 2013; and

''(II) the conservation easement for the Piedra Lisa tract generally depicted on the map entitled 'Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act' and dated October 18, 2013; and

''(ii) grant to the Secretary a right-of-way for the Piedra Lisa Trail within the Piedra Lisa tract generally depicted on the map entitled 'Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act' and dated October 18, 2013.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. 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 the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 611 authorizes a transfer of land between the U.S. Forest Service and the Pueblo of Sandia in the State of New Mexico. The bill would complete a series of pending land exchanges that were originally authorized under a 2003 law. The exchanges were intended to resolve the Pueblo's ownership claims to Sandia Mountain and to retain certain lands and interests in public ownership as part of the Cibola National Forest.

Some of the land exchanges were not executed because of a disagreement over land valuation. In 2009, Congress attempted to resolve this matter through a technical amendment but, in the view of the Forest Service, the bill did not resolve the land valuation dispute. So, Mr. Speaker, it is hoped that round two of the technical amendments to the 2003 act will conclude the matter.

The Committee on Natural Resources has reported the House companion measure to this bill, H.R. 3605, and we have no objection to passing S. 611 in lieu of H.R. 3605.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 611, the Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act.

Senate 611 provides technical amendments to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, which passed Congress over 10 years ago, in order to settle land claims with the Pueblo of Sandia, but due to uncertainty over the valuation of land within the U.S. Forest Service, has still not been implemented.

Specifically, this bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture, at the request of the Sandia Pueblo and the Secretary of the Interior, to transfer certain national forest land to the Secretary of the Interior to be held in trust for the Pueblo, if a land exchange with the Pueblo required by the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act is not completed within 30 days of this Act's enactment.

The bill would also affect a land conveyance, a transfer of right-of-way from the tribe to the Forest Service, and would require the National Forest land in question to remain undeveloped so that the Pueblo will be able to use the land for ceremonial purposes in perpetuity.

This bill is the companion of H.R. 3605, a bill I introduced in the House. That bill was reported favorably out of committee. Since the Senate bill has already passed that body, we have decided to vote on that bill to, hopefully, pass it with efficiency.

It is difficult for many tribal communities to access and protect sacred sites. So when we have the opportunity to place sacred sites under tribal control, I think it is important for this body to act.

The Pueblo of Sandia and the entire New Mexico delegation supports S. 611.

I ask my colleagues to stand with me in support of this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I will advise my friend from New Mexico that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague.

I just want to reiterate my gratitude to the entire New Mexico delegation; the Governor of Pueblo Sandia, Governor Paisano; the lieutenant governor; and the entire tribal council.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 611.

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.

COUNSELING AND TREATMENT FOR SEXUAL TRAUMA OCCURRING DURING INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2527) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide veterans with counseling and treatment for sexual trauma that occurred during inactive duty training.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2527

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

SECTION 1. COUNSELING AND TREATMENT FOR SEXUAL TRAUMA OCCURRING DURING INACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING.

Section 1720D of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''active duty or active duty for training'' and inserting ''active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training''; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking ''this section, the'' and inserting the following: ''this section:

''(1) The''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) The term 'veteran', with respect to inactive duty training described in subsection (a)(1), also includes an individual who—

''(A) is not otherwise eligible for the benefits of this chapter; and

''(B) while serving in the reserve components of the Armed Forces, performed such inactive duty training but did not serve on active duty.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2527.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 2527 would extend VA's program of counseling, care, and services for veterans who experience sexual trauma during inactive duty training.

Those servicemembers and veterans who experience sexual violence during military service, regardless of where or when such violence is inflicted, should have access to the counseling, care, and treatment they need to recover.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2527, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 2527, the National Guard Military Sexual Trauma Parity Act.

Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank Mr. BENISHEK, the chairman of the Health Subcommittee; Ms. BROWNLEY, the ranking member of the Health Subcommittee; and especially Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD for working with me on this very important issue.

The bill before you is bipartisan legislation which addresses an unacceptable gap in the current law that effectively leaves some victims of military sexual assault without the support and treatment they need.

Members of the National Guard and other reserve components of our armed services have fought bravely for our country, many completing multiple tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since the attacks on September 11, more than 50,000 guardsmen and guardswomen have been called to service, both at home and abroad.

We recognize the value of the National Guard and other reserve components, and thank them for their service. Unfortunately, some, like members of the other Armed Forces, are victimized by sexual assault while on Active Duty. If that happens, they are provided all the VA resources and services they need to recover and heal, both physically and emotionally.

Such benefits, however, are not offered to members of the National Guard and other reserve components who experience sexual assault while on inactive training missions. Members of the Guard are required to participate in training missions one weekend a month and 2 weeks a year, but benefits and services, such as counseling and Medicare, do not extend to victims sexually assaulted during these mandatory training missions. This omission is simply unacceptable and leaves so many who have served our country without any assistance or support during a devastating time.

The National Guard Military Sexual Trauma Parity Act would fix this problem and clarify that all victims of sexual trauma in the National Guard or other reserve components have access to the care they need, whether they are on Active Duty or on a required training mission.

We must make it a priority to change the culture of the military and put an end to acts of sexual trauma within our armed services. Until we do, however, we must be sure that we provide all victims the treatment they need and deserve.

I am proud that many veterans service organizations support this important legislation to ensure that all Guard members who are ''always ready, always there'' to protect our country receive the same support in return from their government.

So, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1745

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I would just conclude my remarks and urge all my colleagues to support this legislation and, again, thank the chairman for working with me to bring it to the floor. We want to send it to the Senate and urge them to pass it quickly and on to the President for his signature.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 2527, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2527.

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.

REESTABLISHMENT OF PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2942) to amend title 38, United States Code, to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2942

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

SECTION 1. REESTABLISHMENT OF PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) REESTABLISHMENT.—Section 3689(e)(5) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by

striking ''December 31, 2006'' and inserting ''December 31, 2019''.

(b) APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS.—In reestablishing the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee under subsection (e) of section 3689 of title 38, United States Code, pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may appoint new members of the Committee under paragraph (3)(A) of such subsection (e) without regard to the individuals who served as members before the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members would have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2942.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I do rise today in support of H.R. 2942, that amends title 38 of the United States Code, reestablishing the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I know my colleague who introduced this bill, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, will go into greater detail as to the importance of this legislation, but I do believe that this bill is another step in the right direction to assist our veterans as they look for work in the civilian sector following their service to our great Nation.

The reestablishment of the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee would improve the quality of both the Department of Veterans Affairs' and State approving agencies' licensing and certification process and will ultimately benefit our servicemembers, as well as employers, and ease the process of placing veterans in civilian careers that match their skills.

Mr. Speaker, although the unemployment rate for veterans is lower than the national average for nonveterans, getting veterans into a job must remain an issue of national importance. Reestablishing this advisory committee will be yet another tool to help veterans get into a career in a timely fashion.

We have already made the investment to train our veterans during their military service for careers in the civilian sector, and by getting advice from industry experts on how to streamline and improve licensing and credentialing, we will make it easier for veterans to find meaningful and timely employment.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2942, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 2942, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2942, a bill that will help transitioning servicemembers find employers who want to make a smart investment hiring a veteran.

This bill, to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs, will allow subject-matter experts to review State licenses and credentialing to certify that military men and women in specific career fields are able to transfer their skills to the private sector.

By the time most of our servicemen and -women leave the military, they have gained a wealth of experience that can translate into civilian career fields. In addition to teamwork, perseverance, loyalty, and leadership, our military servicemembers possess technical skills that are available to employers.

Unfortunately, many of our military servicemen and -women have difficulty finding jobs after leaving the military because they don't have a civilian license or certification.

They possess the same skills and have the same training, but can't obtain employment in their career field because they need a license.

In a tough job market, this creates one more barrier for our transitioning military men and women that can mean the difference between finding and not finding a job.

This bill addresses some of these barriers for our newest veterans. Under this bill, the VA's advisory committee on professional certification and licensure, which ended in 2006, will be reestablished through December 2019.

In addition to helping veterans transfer their skills toward civilian licenses, these subject-matter experts will advise the VA to recognize new licensing and certification programs, so that veterans can use their GI Bill benefits to pay for the cost of these training programs and licensing exams.

This advisory committee will also make it easier for veterans to comply with State licensing requirements that may differ from State to State. This will give veterans more options in their choice of training and certification programs, since veterans cannot use their GI Bill benefits toward programs that are not VA-approved, even though completion of many of these programs would give veterans the licenses they need.

When veterans are able to put their skills to work, they are able to support their families, businesses profit, and communities benefit.

Again, I urge your support for these men and women as they return home and ask you to ensure their valuable time in the military is not lost.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) for introducing H.R. 2942, which will have an important impact on the lives of our servicemen and -women separating from the military.

I also want to extend my thanks to Chairman MILLER for the bipartisan way in which he leads our committee.

During my time as ranking member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, I have seen how transitioning servicemembers can struggle to find employment. Life beyond the military can be complicated, as we found out from employers who attended a March veterans employment roundtable hosted by myself and our committee's ranking member, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD).

These are men and woman who have real work experience, but are still struggling to find steady, meaningful employment. Meanwhile, when they return to their communities, people are shaking their hands and thanking them for their service, when what they really need is a job.

Many employers have recognized the skills veterans bring to the table, but there is still so much more work to be done. By passing this legislation, we will be sending a clear message of our respect for military members' service and their experience as professionals.

Reestablishing the advisory committee on professional certification and licensure will ensure veterans get the broadest and most comprehensive support to acknowledge the skills they have earned and the experience they have gained while in the military.

By supporting this legislation, we will help ensure these men and women can be our next nurse, electrician, or plumber or engineer or any other professional they are qualified to be.

Please, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to thank Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, and the committee staff for working with me on this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to pass this. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to visit some military bases, talking to our men and women who will soon transition out of the military and become veterans, and the number one concern they had was: Where am I going to find a job? How am I going to find a job?

So this bill is critically important to our veterans. They deserve to know that they are going to find meaningful work when they come back and especially in the areas that they have been trained in the military.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the committee and the staff for helping me with this.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentlelady for her fine work, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2942.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2942.

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.

GULF WAR HEALTH RESEARCH REFORM ACT OF 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4261) to improve the research of Gulf War Illness, the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4261

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 ''Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GULF WAR VETERANS' ILLNESSES.

(a) INDEPENDENCE OF COMMITTEE.—Subsection (b) of section 707 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–585; 38 U.S.C. 527 note) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Not later than'' and inserting ''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than''; and

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

''(2) INDEPENDENCE.—(A) The Committee established under paragraph (1) shall be an independent advisory committee which shall provide advice and counsel to the congressional veterans committees and to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (as the head of the department designated under subsection (a) that established the Committee under paragraph (1)).

''(B) In carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Committee, the Committee shall be independent of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Committee shall exert independent control of the budget allocations, staffing levels and expenditures, personnel decisions and processes, procurements, and other administrative and management functions of the Committee. The administration and management of the Committee shall be subject to the usual and customary Federal audit procedures.

''(3) DUTIES.—(A) The Committee shall provide to Congress, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the heads of other departments and agencies of the Federal Government that conduct research on illnesses in Gulf War veterans advice with respect to proposed research studies, research plans, or research strategies relating to the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War.

''(B) The Committee may not conduct scientific research or review research proposals submitted to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs prior to funding. The Secretary shall appoint three members from the Committee who have appropriate scientific expertise to the committee designated to review such research proposals relating to illnesses in Gulf War veterans.

''(C) The guiding principle for the Committee shall be the premise that the fundamental goal of Gulf War health-related research, either basic or applied, conducted by the Federal Government is to ultimately improve the health of ill Gulf War veterans, and that the choice and success of research efforts shall be judged accordingly. The Committee shall assess the overall effectiveness of such research conducted by the Federal Government to answer central questions on the nature, causes, and treatments for health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War.

''(D) The Committee shall meet in public session to review research funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs relevant to understanding and treating the health consequences of military service in the Gulf War, and the processes conducted to solicit, review, and select such funded research to assess methods, results, and implications of such research. The Committee may review research plans, initiatives, and activities from other departments and agencies of the Federal Government supporting research relating to the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War.

''(4) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—(A) Not later than December 1 of each year, the Committee shall submit to the congressional veterans committees and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs an annual report summarizing the activities of the Committee during the period covered by the report.

''(B) The Committee shall submit to the congressional veterans committees, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the head of any other department or agency of the Federal Government that conducts research on illnesses in Gulf War veterans any other reports and recommendations of the Committee regarding Gulf War-related research.

''(C) Reports, recommendations, publications, and other documents of the Committee shall not be subject to review or approval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

''(D) The Committee may submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs proposed recommendations of the Committee for comment for a period not to exceed 30 days.

''(E) Each report submitted by the Committee shall be approved by the Committee meeting in public session prior to such submission.

''(5) MEMBERSHIP.—(A) The Committee shall be composed of 12 members appointed as follows:

''(i) One member appointed jointly by the chairman of the congressional veterans committees, who shall serve as chairman of the Committee.

''(ii) Two members appointed by the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

''(iii) Two members appointed by the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate.

''(iv) Two members appointed by the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

''(v) Two members appointed by the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate.

''(vi) Three members appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, of whom not less than one shall be a veteran.

''(B)(i) The first 11 vacancies from among the members of the Committee (not including a member serving as chairman of the Committee) occurring on or after the date of the enactment of the Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014 shall be filled by—

''(I) the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives appointing a member for the first and sixth vacancy;

''(II) the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate appointing a member for the second and seventh vacancy;

''(III) the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives appointing a member for the third and eighth vacancy;

''(IV) the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate appointing a member for the fourth and ninth vacancy; and

''(V) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs appointing a member for the fifth, tenth, and eleventh vacancy.

''(ii) A vacancy in the Committee of a member serving as chairman shall be filled jointly by the chairmen of the congressional veterans committees.

''(iii) Except as provided by clause (i) or (ii), a vacancy in the Committee of a member shall be filled in the manner in which the appointment of such member was made. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term.

''(C) Of the members of the Committee who are appointed on or after the date of the enactment of the Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014—

''(i) not fewer than three members shall be veterans;

''(ii) not fewer than eight members shall be scientists or physicians who have experience in biomedicine, epidemiology, immunology, environmental health, neurology, toxicology, or other appropriate disciplines; and

''(iii) the chairman shall be a veteran or an expert described in clause (ii), or both.

''(D) Each member of the Committee who is appointed on or after the date of the enactment of the Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014 shall be appointed for a three-year term. Except as provided by section 2(c)(3) of such Act, a member may be reappointed once (not including the initial appointment of a member made before the date of the enactment of such Act).

''(6) MEETINGS.—(A) The Committee shall meet at the call of the chairman, but not less than twice annually.

''(B) A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

''(C)(i) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the head of the Office of Research and Development of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the head of the Office of Public Health of the Department shall attend each meeting of the Committee.

''(ii) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may delegate the attendance of the Secretary under clause (i) to a level not below the Deputy Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs, but the Secretary shall attend at least one meeting each year without making such delegation.

''(D) Each meeting of the Committee shall be open to the public.

''(7) COMPENSATION AND STAFF.—(A) Except with respect to a member who serves a scientific director under subparagraph (C)(ii) and is treated as staff for purposes of compensation, each member of the Committee

shall be paid at the daily rate provided for temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, for each day during which the member attends meetings of the Committee.

''(B) The members of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of service of the Committee.

''(C)(i) The chairman of the Committee may appoint a staff of not more than four employees to provide the Committee scientific and administrative support. Such employees may be—

''(I) detailees of the Department of Veterans Affairs or other departments or agencies of the Federal Government;

''(II) individuals employed as temporary employees of the Federal Government; or

''(III) at the request of the chairman of the Committee, provided under a contract entered into by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and a medical school or other medical research institution selected by the chairman of the Committee.

''(ii) The chairman of the Committee may appoint, from the members of the Committee, a scientific director to supervise the operations of the Committee. Such director shall count as one of the four employees authorized under clause (i).

''(iii) At the request of the chairman of the Committee, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall procure services from nongovernmental consultants to assist the Committee in preparing reports, background papers, and other material for consideration by the Committee. Such services may be procured under the contract described in clause (i)(III).

''(8) APPLICATION OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—(A) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the Committee shall be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

''(B) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall consult with the chairman of the congressional veterans committees in designating an officer or employee of the Department under section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

''(C) Notwithstanding such section 10, such designated officer or employee may not have authority—

''(i) over the agenda or conduct of a meeting;

''(ii) to adjourn a meeting of the Committee; or

''(iii) to take any other action that is inconsistent with the independence of the Committee under paragraph (2).

''(9) FUNDING.—Amounts for the activities of the Committee shall be derived from amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of this subsection.

''(10) TERMINATION.—(A) Except as provided by subparagraph (B), the Committee shall terminate on the date that is two years after the date on which the Committee submits to the congressional veterans committees, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a report (signed by not less than nine concurring members) explaining that each Secretary is carrying out an effective research program relating to the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War.

''(B) If during the two-year period described in subparagraph (A) the Committee notifies the congressional veterans committees, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that the information contained in the report submitted under subparagraph (A) is no longer applicable, the two-year period shall toll until the date on which the Committee submits a new report described in subparagraph (A).''.

(b) DEFINITIONS; REDESIGNATION; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Such section 707 is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'congressional veterans committees' means the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

''(2) The term 'Gulf War' means the Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 2, 1990, to July 31, 1991.

''(3) The term 'Gulf War veteran' means an individual who served as a member of the Armed Forces in the Gulf War.''.

(2) REDESIGNATION.—Subsection (a) of such section 707 is amended by striking '', and may redesignate from time to time,''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section 707 is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (1) of subsection (b), as designated by subsection (a)(1) and amended by paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting ''(in this subsection referred to as the 'Committee')'' after ''an advisory committee''; and

(ii) by striking ''and representatives of such veterans'' and inserting ''representatives of such veterans, and individuals from the scientific and medical community'';

(B) by striking ''Persian Gulf theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War'' each place it appears and inserting ''Gulf War'';

(C) by striking ''Persian Gulf War veterans'' each place it appears and inserting ''Gulf War veterans''; and

(D) by striking ''during the Persian Gulf War'' each place it appears and inserting ''during the Gulf War''.

(c) MEMBERS CURRENTLY SERVING.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—Notwithstanding paragraph (5)(A) of subsection (b) of such section 707, as amended by subsection (a)(2), the chairmen and ranking members of the congressional veterans committees shall jointly designate 10 members of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses established pursuant to such subsection (b) who are serving as members as of the date of the enactment of this Act to continue to serve as members for periods determined pursuant to paragraph (2) rather than for the term for which the members were appointed before such date of enactment.

(2) PERIOD OF SERVICE.—The chairmen and ranking members of the congressional veterans committees shall jointly determine the period of service of each member specified in paragraph (1) in a manner that staggers the periods of such members in periods of one, two, or three years beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act. In determining such staggered periods, the chairmen and ranking members shall take into account the order of filling vacancies pursuant to subsection (b)(5)(B) of such section 707, as amended by subsection (a)(2). Any vacancies occurring of such members shall be filled in accordance with such subsection.

(3) NEW MEMBERS.—Upon designating members under paragraph (1), the chairmen of the congressional veterans committees shall each appoint one additional member to the committee from among individuals who have not served on the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses. Such appointments shall be treated as the first and second vacancies described in subclauses (I) and (II) of subsection (b)(5)(B)(i) of such section 707, as amended by subsection (a)(2), respectively.

(4) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member of the Committee specified in paragraph (1) who has served more than three years may not be reappointed after the period for the member specified in paragraph (2) expires.

SEC. 3. RESEARCH CASE DEFINITION OF GULF WAR ILLNESS.

(a) STANDARD DEFINITION.—Except as provided by subsection (b), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that any research conducted or funded by the Secretary on the chronic multisymptom illness that afflicts approximately 25 percent of Gulf War veterans—

(1) refers to the illness as ''Gulf War Illness''; and

(2) uses the research case definition of such illness that is recommended from time to time by the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses established by section 707 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–585; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(b) ALTERNATIVE DEFINITION.—During any period in which the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses has not recommended a research case definition for Gulf War Illness, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that any research on such illness conducted or funded by the Secretary uses a research case definition that is consistent with the definition of the term ''chronic multisymptom illness in Persian Gulf War veterans'' provided by section 805(e) of the Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–275; 124 Stat. 2890).

(c) ADVICE.—The Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses shall submit to the Secretary of Defense advice regarding the best type of organization and process for the Gulf War Illness Research Program of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program to use to develop a research case definition of ''Gulf War Illness''.

SEC. 4. STUDIES AND REPORTS ON GULF WAR ILLNESS.

(a) CONDUCT OF NEW STUDIES.—

(1) EVALUATION OF ANIMAL STUDIES.—In conducting or funding any study relating to illnesses of Gulf War veterans on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that such study is conducted in a manner such that animal studies are considered to the same extent in all respects as human studies.

(2) SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF ASSOCIATION.—In conducting or funding any study relating to illnesses of Gulf War veterans, or other health matters of veterans, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies shall ensure that such study is conducted in a manner that defines ''sufficient evidence of an association'' in the ''categories of association'' used in the study as the following: ''Evidence is sufficient to conclude that there is a positive association. That is, a positive association has been observed between an exposure to a specific agent and a health outcome in human or animal studies in which chance, bias, and confounding could be ruled out with reasonable confidence.''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON NATIONAL COHORT STUDY.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should conduct an additional follow-up study of a national cohort of Gulf War and Gulf-War-Era veterans that includes questions described in the ''Symptom Inventory Required to Ascertain Case Status for Gulf War Multisymptom Illness, as Defined by both the Fukuda and Kansas criteria'' published by the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses on June 9, 2012, in appendix F of the document titled ''Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Findings and Recommendations''.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON STUDY ON RISK OF DEVELOPING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS, MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS, PARKINSON'S DISEASE,

BRAIN CANCERS, AND OTHER CONDITIONS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should submit to the congressional veterans committees each report required by section 804 of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–389; 122 Stat. 4187).

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PREVIOUSLY CONDUCTED STUDIES.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should—

(1) seek to enter into an agreement with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies to carry out the review described in section 805 of the Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–275; 124 Stat. 2890), regardless of any previous review conducted under such section, in a manner that ensures that the Institute of Medicine convenes to conduct the review a group of medical professionals who are experienced in treating individuals who served as members of the Armed Forces in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations of the Persian Gulf War during 1990 or 1991 and who have been diagnosed with Gulf War illness, chronic multisymptom illness, or another health condition related to chemical and environmental exposure that may have occurred during such service;

(2) seek to enter into an agreement with the Institute of Medicine to carry out the review described in section 1603 of the Persian Gulf War Veterans Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–277; 38 U.S.C. 1117 note), regardless of any previous review conducted under such section, addressing the matters originally reviewed by the Institute of Medicine in the reports titled ''Gulf War and Health: Volume 1. Depleted Uranium, Sarin, Pyridostigmine Bromide, and Vaccines'', ''Gulf War and Health: Volume 2. Insecticides and Solvents'', and ''Gulf War and Health: Volume 3. Fuels, Combustion Products, and Propellants''; and

(3) not disseminate or use for research, clinical care, benefits, or any other purpose the results of the report of the Institute of Medicine titled ''Gulf War and Health Report: Volume 9. Treatment for Chronic Multisymptom Illness''.

(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CONSULTATION.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should, prior to entering into a contract or agreement with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies with respect to research or studies on the health of Gulf War veterans, obtain the advice of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses established by section 707 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–585; 38 U.S.C. 527 note) regarding the scope of work and the charge to be given to the Institute of Medicine.

(f) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INCLUSION OF CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS IN SCIENTIFIC OR MEDICAL GROUPS.—It is the sense of Congress that, in any contract requiring the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies to convene a committee to study the health of Gulf War veterans, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should ensure that any such committee convened should contain not less than three members of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses established by section 707 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–585; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(g) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON NOTIFICATION OF UNDUE INFLUENCE.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should promptly notify the congressional veterans committees of any employee or contractor of the Federal Government whom the Secretary believes influenced, or attempted to influence, the outcome of a report or study on the health of Gulf War veterans conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies if such influence was not related to a scientifically objective outcome.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The term ''congressional veterans committees'' means the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(2) The term ''Gulf War'' means the Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 2, 1990, to July 31, 1991.

(3) The term ''Gulf War veteran'' means an individual who served as a member of the Armed Forces in the Gulf War.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members would have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4261.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, we paused to remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of this great Nation, but it is also important to remember those who are still suffering as a result of their service.

It has been estimated that as many as 250,000 veterans have some form of Gulf War illness. Despite millions of dollars in government funding and years of research, it is clear that more has got to be done to better understand this disease, so we can properly care for and compensate these veterans.

The bill before us today reaffirms the essential role of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses and provides the committee with the independence that it needs, so that it can continue its vital work.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 4261.

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of H.R. 4261, the Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank the chairman of our committee, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN), for his sponsorship of this bill. It is such an important one, and I am a cosponsor on that.

For many of the veterans of the gulf war who suffer from Gulf War illness, it has been a long, hard-fought battle, just to have this government recognize that their illness and serious physical conditions were caused by toxic exposures.

Congress first created the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses because the research being done at the time was considered inadequate, partially due to a mistaken belief that it was a psychological condition.

Through the research, we now know that Gulf War illness is a debilitating physical condition, not something that is all in your head, as many veterans were initially told.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4261 will ensure that the Gulf War illness research advisory committee conducts and reviews objective research to help our veterans who are suffering from Gulf War illnesses. This research is essential to finding treatments that improve veterans' health and quality of life.

It is also important that causes of these illnesses be identified so that our veterans with illnesses connected to service during the gulf war can receive VA medical treatment and VA benefits, and it will also help our military, so that commanders can work to prevent and limit our troops' exposure to toxic chemicals in the future.

□ 1800

This bill will allow the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses to direct research and review research findings independent of the VA. It will restore the independent authority of the Research Advisory Committee by having the chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees appoint nine members and allowing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to appoint three members.

Additionally, the Advisory Committee will provide advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and to the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on proposed research studies, research plans, or research strategies related to the health consequences of military service during the gulf war.

Our gulf war veterans suffer from real illnesses. These illnesses require real treatments that can only be found through proper, objective, evidence-based research. This Research Advisory Committee has the potential to find these treatments with the right combination of researchers directing and reviewing research.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, there has been a gentleman who chairs the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations who has been at the forefront of making sure that health care is provided in a timely fashion to our veterans, somebody who himself is a combat veteran. I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN).

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a gulf war and Iraq war veteran, I am grateful for the leadership of the gentleman from Florida, Chairman MILLER, on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and for his support of H.R. 4261.

H.R. 4261, the Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014, which I sponsored along with Ranking Member KIRKpatrick and full committee Ranking Member MICHAUD, restores the independence of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses to perform the role it has historically played, as intended by Congress, to improve the lives of ill gulf war veterans.

This bill is necessary because some career VA staff have been trying to revive the discredited 1990s fiction that nothing special happened to gulf war veterans' health and that the problems experienced by gulf war veterans are just ''what happens after every war'' due to psychological stress factors.

Because there is no scientific evidence for this position, VA staffers have resorted to manipulating research studies and reports to try and revive this discredited theory. A major new VA gulf war veteran survey, for example, included the questions necessary to identify PTSD but not Gulf War illness.

Most shockingly, VA has even manipulated new research of the Institute of Medicine by limiting the terms of its contracts. VA transformed the Institute of Medicine gulf war treatments study ordered by Congress into a report based largely on psychotherapies. The Research Advisory Committee objected strongly to these actions, which threatened to mislead treatment research just as science is finally turning the corner. VA retaliated by eliminating the independence of the committee, changing its charter to remove its authority to review the effectiveness of government research programs, and replacing the members serving on the committee. The effect of these changes can already be seen.

The section of the new 2014 Research Advisory Committee report that detailed VA's manipulations of research had to be removed because the committee's authority to review the effectiveness of VA's research programs had been eliminated.

The independent voice, so critical to honest research, will be all but replaced by September with those who seem to bend to VA's will.

H.R. 4261 will restore the authority of the committee and provide that its membership, instead of being appointed entirely by VA, will consist of nine members appointed by the chairs and ranking members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and three members chosen by VA. This arrangement follows the longstanding model of the bipartisan Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance at the Department of Education.

Current law provides that the Research Advisory Committee membership may include veterans, representatives of veterans, and the general public. While there are those who seek to limit veteran members to ill veterans, excluding most veterans service organization representatives and others, the Research Advisory Committee has been well-served by having both ill and other veterans serve on the committee.

It is important to remember that the unwillingness of the VA to honestly address this illness is the reason Congress created the Research Advisory Committee in the first place. The 1997 congressional report that led to that legislation was entitled, ''Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses: VA, DOD Continue to Resist Strong Evidence Linking Toxic Causes to Chronic Health Effects.''

Science has made great progress since then, thanks in no small measure to the work of the Research Advisory Committee, as well as to the effective Gulf War Illness Research Program that Congress created at the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. But this progress is all at risk if VA is able to again mislead science down blind alleys, directing scarce research dollars at the wrong target, as so often happened in the 1990s and 2000s.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I yield the gentleman an additional 1½ minutes.

Mr. COFFMAN. I thank the chairman.

It is also important to ask why the VA has pursued this course. Last month, we learned the answer. On April 22, 2014, Military Times reported that the VA Under Secretary for Benefits, Allison Hickey, objected even to using the term ''Gulf War illness'' because it ''might imply a casual link between service in the gulf and poor health which could necessitate . . . disability compensation for veterans who served in the gulf.''

Even if this policy was morally justifiable and saving money was the only goal, it is wrong. It will cost the Federal Government far less in the long run to face this problem honestly and pursue effective treatments, rather than to deny benefits and provide misleading research.

We have strong support for this legislation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Veterans, or AMVETS, and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Without an independent Research Advisory Committee, the slow but steady progress toward identifying treatments for Gulf War illness will most surely end.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to acknowledge the work of Mr. Jim Binns of Arizona, who has made countless trips back here advocating for this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support it. We really need to do right by our gulf war veterans.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 4261, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4261.

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 8 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. TERRY) 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 motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 599, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 503, by the yeas and nays.

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

URGING CHINA TO RESPECT THE FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, EXPRESSION, AND RELIGION AND ALL FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 599) urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the freedom of assembly, expression, and religion and all fundamental human rights and the rule of law for all its citizens and to stop censoring discussion of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations and their violent suppression, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 1, not voting 51, as follows:

[Roll No. 241]

YEAS—379

Aderholt	Amodei	Bachus
Amash	Bachmann	Barber

Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Holt
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—1

Jones

NOT VOTING—51

Beatty
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Campbell
Capito
Davis, Danny
Dingell
Duckworth
Esty
Fortenberry
Foster
Fudge
Gibbs
Griffin (AR)
Hanna
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hinojosa
Honda
Hultgren
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kind
Lankford
Loebsack
McCarthy (NY)
McIntyre
McKeon
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Palazzo
Pearce
Peters (MI)
Quigley
Renacci
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rush
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Schakowsky
Sewell (AL)
Shuster
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stivers
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Turner
Waters

□ 1857

Mr. BECERRA changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA, TRAGEDY

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with a heavy heart. On Friday night, my home community was rocked by unspeakable violence, which left six students and their assailant dead and 13 others injured. The rampage shook the communities of Isla Vista and the University of California in Santa Barbara, Californians, and the Nation.

Last night, I joined with my community at UCSB and in Isla Vista to honor those we lost. Together, we have taken the first steps towards making sense of the senseless. It will be a long journey. We have many questions, and over the weeks and months ahead perhaps more will be posed than we can answer. But we will work through it together.

While we all struggle to make sense of this tragedy, I want to thank you, my colleagues, and communities across the Nation for your prayers, your kind words, and your support. This act was fueled by hate, but in the wake of this tragedy, we as a Nation have shown that in a dark time we do not walk alone, we do not grieve alone, so we will not have to heal alone.

Today, we remember the victims: George Chen; "James" Chung You-on Hong; Way-han "David" Wang; Katherine Breann Cooper; Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez; and Veronika Weiss.

We send our deepest sympathies to their families and to their friends. We lend support to the injured. We pledge to stand with the Santa Barbara community, and all those touched by violence, to do all we can to prevent this sort of tragedy in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to ask that the House observe a moment of silence for the victims, for their families, their friends, the UC-Santa Barbara community, and all who mourn in the wake of this senseless tragedy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will please rise for a moment of silence.

NATIONAL DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD WAR MEMORIAL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 503) to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 370, nays 0, not voting 61, as follows:

[Roll No. 242]

YEAS—370

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay

Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Holt
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Wasserman Schultz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—61

Beatty
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Campbell
Capito
Davis, Danny
Dingell
Duckworth
Esty
Fortenberry
Foster
Fudge
Gibbs
Griffin (AR)
Hanna
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hinojosa
Honda
Hultgren
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kelly (IL)
Kind
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Loebsack
Lowey
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maloney, Sean
McCarthy (NY)
McIntyre
McKeon
Meeks
Meng
Miller, Gary
Moran
Mulvaney
Palazzo
Pearce
Peters (MI)
Quigley
Renacci
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rush
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Schakowsky
Sewell (AL)
Shuster
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stivers
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Turner
Walz
Waters
Waxman

□ 1909

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, because of flight delays due to extreme weather I will not be present for tonight's rollcall vote No. 241 and 242. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 241 and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 242.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcalls No. 241 and No. 242 I did not cast my vote due to a weather-related flight delay. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill, H.R. 4660, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 585 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4660.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1914

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mrs. WAGNER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

□ 1915

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to begin the consideration of H.R. 4660, making appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies. This bill has a far-reaching impact, from the safety of people in their homes and communities, to exploring the farthest reaches of space.

The bill before the Committee today reflects a delicate balance of needs and requirements. We have drafted what I consider a responsible bill for FY 2015 spending levels for the departments and agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction. We have had to carefully prioritize the funding in the bill and make hard choices about how to spend scarce resources.

I want to thank Chairman ROGERS for supporting us with a very fair allocation and for helping us to move the bill forward.

I want to thank the subcommittee ranking member, Mr. FATTAH, who has been a valued partner and colleague. I appreciate his commitment and his understanding of the wide variety of programs in this bill, and I thank him for his help.

I want to thank all of the members of the subcommittee for their help and assistance and also thank Mrs. LOWEY, the ranking member of the full committee.

I want to thank the majority staff for their hard work—subcommittee clerk Mike Ringler, Leslie Albright, Jeff Ashford, Diana Simpson, Colin Samples, and Taylor Kelly.

I also appreciate the professionalism and cooperation of the minority staff. In particular, I want to thank Bob Bonner and Matt Smith for their help during all of the long hours spent putting this bill and report together.

The bill totals $51.2 billion in discretionary spending, a reduction of $398 million, or approximately 1 percent below the current fiscal year. Since the beginning of the 112th Congress, the committee has cut the total amount of the CJS bill by $13.3 billion, or 20 percent, over five fiscal years.

We have focused limited resources on the most critical areas—fighting crime and terrorism, including a focus on preventing and investigating cyber attacks; and boosting U.S. competitiveness and job creation by investing in

exports, manufacturing, science, and space exploration.

For the Department of Commerce, the bill includes $8.4 billion, $391 million below the President's request.

The bill provides funding above the request for the National Weather Service operations, weather research, and NOAA's two flagship weather satellite systems that will result in more timely and accurate warnings and forecasts.

Severe weather events often result in the loss of life and economic ruin. We saw this again, recently, with devastating tornadoes in Arkansas, Mississippi, and elsewhere. These investments saved lives in Arkansas and Mississippi, and they will save lives wherever the next severe weather event strikes.

The bill makes critical investments in manufacturing, export promotion, and job creation, including a Commerce Department task force to incentivize U.S. companies to bring their manufacturing and services activities back to the United States.

The bill includes $856 million for NIST research and standards work that is critical to innovation and competitiveness, including $130 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program to help advance job growth in the manufacturing sector.

It also funds the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence at NIST to work with companies to bolster cybersecurity in the retail sector and encourages the development of a cyber breach database, especially in light of the attacks on Target and Neiman Marcus, which impacted millions of Americans.

A primary area of focus in the bill this year is scientific research, innovation, and competitiveness. Investing in basic research is key to growth and job creation, and it is the foundation for the economic security of future generations, which enables us to stay ahead of China.

The bill includes $7.4 billion for the National Science Foundation, an increase of $232 million, or 3.2 percent, above FY14 for basic research and science.

Despite the constrained allocation, this is an all-time high watermark for NSF basic research funding that will keep America's economy strong by setting the groundwork for the development of new technologies—again, not to be competitive with, but to stay ahead of the People's Republic of China, a Communist government.

With increased funding comes increased responsibility. I respect the NSF to follow through on the commitments it has made to the committee to increase accountability and transparency in its grant decision making. No funny grants is what I am trying to say. The new director must take every necessary step to ensure that research grants are scientifically meritorious, that funding allocations reflect national priorities and that the taxpayer investments in science are being used wisely.

Developing a well-educated STEM workforce is also critical to American competitiveness. More than $1 billion is provided throughout the bill for these efforts, including $876 million for NSF programs to improve the quality of science education.

For NASA, the bill includes $17.9 billion, including funding above the request to keep the development schedule and flight milestones for the Orion crew vehicle and the Space Launch System, which will provide the capability for the U.S. to return to the Moon and to go to Mars.

It is important for the U.S. to end our reliance on Russia for crew access to the International Space Station as soon as possible, which is why Commercial Crew Development is funded at $785 million, with instructions to NASA to find the fastest and safest way to close this gap.

The bill includes an increase of $100 million for aeronautics research, a long overdue boost to this part of NASA's research portfolio. Aerospace is a pillar of the American manufacturing sector and is one of our leading exports. This investment will boost our aviation competitiveness and improve airspace safety.

The President's request for NASA science programs would have inhibited progress on planetary science goals, including missions to Mars and Europa. This bill includes $5.2 billion for NASA Science, which restores those cuts. The bill also includes important resources to address critical security gaps throughout NASA.

As the recent espionage case further demonstrated, countries like China are engaged in an unprecedented effort to steal cutting-edge technology from U.S. labs and companies. This includes the groundbreaking space and aeronautics research done at NASA every day. We need to make sure we are doing everything possible to prevent the theft or unauthorized disclosure of this technology.

Last year, at the committee's direction, a National Academy of Public Administration team, led by former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, conducted an external review that found troubling vulnerabilities in NASA's security controls and practices.

They found NASA's systems were compromised, and they found a troubling culture throughout the agency that failed to prioritize or to enforce security. Funding is included in this bill for NASA to protect its cutting-edge technology with improved IT security, export control training, additional counterintelligence staffing, and the operation of a new Foreign National Access Management program.

The bill also calls for NASA to submit a followup report by the end of FY15 on NASA's progress in implementing the recommended improvements. The committee will continue to hold NASA accountable for the implementation of these security professions.

For the Department of Justice, the bill includes $27.8 billion, $384 million above the current level. The top mission priority of the Justice Department is defending national security from both internal and external threats.

The bill includes $8.5 billion, an increase of $125 million, for the FBI—including funds to prevent and combat cyber intrusions, which Director Comey believes may overtake terrorism as the number one threat facing the Nation.

Every major company in the United States has now been hit by the Chinese with cyber attacks. Many Members of Congress have had their computers stripped by the Chinese. The FBI continues to build a nationwide capability for cyber investigations.

Last week, the Justice Department, for the first time, charged five officers of China's People's Liberation Army with economic cyber espionage, which is the first time foreign state actors have been so charged.

I commend the administration, but in having served in the Army and in having been a private—a private never did anything a sergeant didn't tell him to do; the sergeant didn't do anything the lieutenant didn't tell him to do; the lieutenant didn't do anything that the major didn't tell him to do—right up to the Commander in Chief.

So this is not just five low-level Chinese officers. This goes to the highest level of the Chinese Government. This case is an example of the great work the men and women of the FBI are doing with these investments in this bill over the last several years to confront cyber attacks, and we thank the FBI. These efforts are necessary to stop the plundering of American innovation, jobs, and trade securities.

The FBI is also at the forefront of the effort to combat violent gangs. This bill increases the funding for Safe Streets task forces to check this growing problem and to better support State and local law enforcement efforts to deal with gang networks in their communities.

The bill includes $8.5 million for the National Gang Intelligence Center, and it gives the center a new name and an additional mission to provide and coordinate intelligence on human trafficking networks nationwide and to disseminate that intelligence to law enforcement partnerships.

The Bureau of Prisons is responsible for the custody and care of more than 215,000 Federal offenders in 119 institutions nationwide. The bill includes $7 billion to ensure the safe and secure operation of the Federal Prison System.

The bill continues funding for the Chuck Colson Task Force on Federal Corrections. When he got out of prison, Chuck Colson dedicated his life to reforming the prisons, so we have named this prison reform commission after Chuck Colson, which will recommend reforms to increase public safety, improve offender accountability, reduce

recidivism, and control costs in the Federal Prison System.

This effort will distill lessons learned from innovations at the State level—many States are farther ahead, Texas is farther ahead, and many others are farther ahead than the Federal Bureau of Prisons—and enable these reforms to take hold in the Federal system and in corrections systems nationwide.

The bill directs the Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime to provide the survivors and families of the victims of the November 2009 terrorist attack at Fort Hood all possible and appropriate assistance. We are going to help the victims of Fort Hood and their families.

We are going to require the office to report to Congress what, if any, role the classification of the attack as a workplace violence incident, rather than as a terrorist attack, played in determining what types of assistance would be provided.

Awlaki was in touch with the major when he shot them. If you look at emails, this was a terrorist attack. It was not workplace violence.

The bill includes a number of important provisions in support of Second Amendment rights, including a new provision prohibiting the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, by executive order or otherwise.

The bill includes $2.1 billion for Justice grant programs that support States, localities, and nonprofits. This is a reduction of $73 million from the current level. In fact, since 2009, these programs have been reduced by 49 percent. I know we are going to get amendments here, complaining, but we had an allocation, and we had to work within that allocation.

Despite the reduction, the bill prioritizes proven, high-priority programs, including Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, State Criminal Alien Assistance, Violence Against Women programs, human trafficking grants, and DNA backlog reduction.

This is a significant bill for reducing violence against women and providing services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The bill includes $425.5 million for these programs, more than the current level and more than the President's request.

This bill triples the current level for human trafficking task forces and victim services. We are determined to make a difference and bring an end to the heinous crime that is happening not only in other countries, but right here in the United States.

So we triple the current level—not just talk, not just rhetoric, words—we triple the amount, and every FBI office is involved, and every U.S. attorney has to have a task force to see if we can actually end this, perhaps, in the same way that William Wilberforce ended the slave trade.

It also directs the Attorney General to hold a national conference on sex trafficking with every Governor, with every U.S. attorney, and Federal, State, and local law enforcement to elevate awareness and to share the very best practice.

What is going on in Texas can be done in Virginia. What is going on in Pennsylvania can be done somewhere else. At this national conference, they will all be together with the idea of ending this.

The unacceptable backlog of DNA tests at crime labs and law enforcement agencies demands action. This bill includes $125 million for existing DNA programs and an additional $36 million to address the backlog of sexual assault kits at law enforcement agencies nationwide.

The bill includes funding for prescription drug monitoring grants, thanks to Chairman ROGERS. It also includes a significant increase for the DEA's Tactical Diversion Squads to address our Nation's fastest growing drug problem—prescription drug abuse.

Finally, after the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007, Congress passed a bill to improve the National Instant Background Check System, NICS, which is a critical tool for keeping firearms out of the hands of prohibited persons, but NICS is only as effective as is the State database on which it relies.

□ 1930

The bill, for the second straight year, includes funding above the request for grants to States to improve NICS records. This bill includes $58.8 million, an increase of 6 percent above the President's request, and $40 million above the FY13 level.

The bill also includes $2 million for the National Center for Campus Public Safety, which the committee established with the support of the Virginia Tech Family Foundation. This center serves as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of information and best practices. There was no money requested for this, but we wanted to fund it.

Additionally, the bill includes $75 million for the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative. The National Institute of Justice will study the role of mental health, as well as exposure to violent media—such as video games and violent movies—in school violence at the K–12 level. The initiative also provides pilot grants to test effective mental health interventions at schools across the Nation.

NSF is also active in this area. They are currently seeking proposals that will enable a better understanding of the factors, causes, and consequences of youth violence.

That is a summary of the bill before you today.

It provides for the increases and cuts that were necessary. It carries on the fight against terrorism, cyberattacks, crime, trafficking in persons, and violence against women, and provides important increases to boost scientific research, innovation, and competitiveness.

It provides strong support for all the various NASA missions and continues the effort to improve weather forecasting accuracy.

It represents our best take on matching needs with scarce resources. We have tried hard to produce the best bill we possibly could within the resources we had to work with.

I urge all Members to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4660)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
International Trade Administration					
Operations and administration	470,000	506,731	473,000	+3,000	-33,731
Offsetting fee collections	-9,439	-9,439	-10,000	-561	-561
Direct appropriation	460,561	497,292	463,000	+2,439	-34,292
Bureau of Industry and Security					
Operations and administration	69,450	74,549	67,500	-1,950	-7,049
Defense function	32,000	36,000	36,000	+4,000	---
Total, Bureau of Industry and Security	101,450	110,549	103,500	+2,050	-7,049
Economic Development Administration					
Economic Development Assistance Programs	209,500	210,000	210,500	+1,000	+500
Salaries and expenses	37,000	38,182	37,000	---	-1,182
Total, Economic Development Administration	246,500	248,182	247,500	+1,000	-682
Minority Business Development Agency					
Minority Business Development	28,000	28,286	30,000	+2,000	+1,714
Economic and Statistical Analysis					
Salaries and expenses	99,000	111,033	99,000	---	-12,033
Bureau of the Census					
Salaries and expenses	252,000	248,000	248,000	-4,000	---
Periodic censuses and programs	693,000	963,428	858,500	+165,500	-104,928
Total, Bureau of the Census	945,000	1,211,428	1,106,500	+161,500	-104,928
National Telecommunications and Information Administration					
Salaries and expenses	46,000	51,000	36,700	-9,300	-14,300
United States Patent and Trademark Office					
Salaries and expenses, current year fee funding	3,024,000	3,458,000	3,458,000	+434,000	---
Offsetting fee collections	-3,024,000	-3,458,000	-3,458,000	-434,000	---
Total, United States Patent and Trademark Office	---	---	---	---	---
National Institute of Standards and Technology					
Scientific and Technical Research and Services	651,000	680,000	670,500	+19,500	-9,500
(transfer out)	(-2,000)	(-9,000)	(-2,000)	---	(+7,000)
Industrial Technology Services	143,000	161,000	130,000	-13,000	-31,000
Manufacturing extension partnerships	(128,000)	(141,000)	(130,000)	(+2,000)	(-11,000)
Advanced manufacturing technology consortia	(15,000)	(15,000)	---	(-15,000)	(-15,000)
Manufacturing innovation institutes coordination	---	(5,000)	---	---	(-5,000)
Construction of research facilities	56,000	59,000	55,300	-700	-3,700
Working Capital Fund (by transfer)	(2,000)	(9,000)	(2,000)	---	(-7,000)
Total, National Institute of Standards and Technology	850,000	900,000	855,800	+5,800	-44,200

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4660)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration					
Operations, Research, and Facilities	3,157,392	3,237,993	3,089,480	-67,912	-148,513
(by transfer)	(115,000)	(123,164)	(116,000)	(+1,000)	(-7,164)
Promote and Develop Fund (transfer out)	(-115,000)	(-123,164)	(-116,000)	(-1,000)	(+7,164)
Subtotal	3,157,392	3,237,993	3,089,480	-67,912	-148,513
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction	2,022,864	2,206,392	2,176,290	+153,426	-30,102
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery	65,000	50,000	65,000	---	+15,000
Fishermen's Contingency Fund	350	350	350	---	---
Fisheries Disaster Assistance	75,000	---	---	-75,000	---
Fisheries Finance Program Account	-6,000	-6,000	-6,000	---	---
Total, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	5,314,606	5,488,735	5,325,120	+10,514	-163,615
Departmental Management					
Salaries and expenses	55,500	57,637	54,000	-1,500	-3,637
Renovation and Modernization	4,000	11,733	4,000	---	-7,733
Office of Inspector General	30,000	30,596	30,596	+596	---
Total, Departmental Management	89,500	99,966	88,596	-904	-11,370
Total, title I, Department of Commerce	8,180,617	8,746,471	8,355,716	+175,099	-390,755
(by transfer)	117,000	132,164	118,000	+1,000	-14,164
(transfer out)	-117,000	-132,164	-118,000	-1,000	+14,164
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
General Administration					
Salaries and expenses	110,000	128,851	103,851	-6,149	-25,000
Justice Information Sharing Technology	25,842	25,842	25,842	---	---
Total, General Administration	135,842	154,693	129,693	-6,149	-25,000
Administrative review and appeals	315,000	351,072	335,000	+20,000	-16,072
Transfer from immigration examinations fee account	-4,000	-4,000	-4,000	---	---
Direct appropriation	311,000	347,072	331,000	+20,000	-16,072
Office of Inspector General	86,400	88,577	88,000	+1,600	-577
United States Parole Commission					
Salaries and expenses	12,600	13,308	13,308	+708	---
Legal Activities					
Salaries and expenses, general legal activities	867,000	935,854	893,000	+26,000	-42,854
Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund	7,833	7,833	7,833	---	---
Salaries and expenses, Antitrust Division	160,400	162,246	162,246	+1,846	---
Offsetting fee collections - current year	-103,000	-100,000	-100,000	+3,000	---
Direct appropriation	57,400	62,246	62,246	+4,846	---
Salaries and expenses, United States Attorneys	1,944,000	1,955,327	1,970,000	+26,000	+14,673
United States Trustee System Fund	224,400	225,908	225,908	+1,508	---
Offsetting fee collections	-224,400	-225,908	-225,908	-1,508	---
Direct appropriation	---	---	---	---	---

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4660)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Salaries and Expenses, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission	2,100	2,326	2,326	+226	---
Fees and expenses of witnesses	270,000	270,000	270,000	---	---
Salaries and expenses, Community Relations Service	12,000	12,972	12,000	---	-972
Assets Forfeiture Fund	20,500	20,514	20,514	+14	---
Total, Legal Activities	3,180,833	3,267,072	3,237,919	+57,086	-29,153
United States Marshals Service					
Salaries and expenses	1,185,000	1,185,000	1,199,000	+14,000	+14,000
Construction	9,800	9,800	9,800	---	---
Federal Prisoner Detention	1,533,000	1,595,307	1,595,307	+62,307	---
Total, United States Marshals Service	2,727,800	2,790,107	2,804,107	+76,307	+14,000
National Security Division					
Salaries and expenses	91,800	91,800	94,800	+3,000	+3,000
Interagency Law Enforcement					
Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement	514,000	505,000	515,000	+1,000	+10,000
Federal Bureau of Investigation					
Salaries and expenses	3,345,322	3,358,219	3,390,377	+45,055	+32,158
Counterintelligence and national security	4,900,480	4,920,000	4,966,480	+66,000	+46,480
Subtotal	8,245,802	8,278,219	8,356,857	+111,055	+78,638
Construction	97,482	68,982	110,982	+13,500	+42,000
Total, Federal Bureau of Investigation	8,343,284	8,347,201	8,467,839	+124,555	+120,638
Drug Enforcement Administration					
Salaries and expenses	2,378,917	2,384,680	2,420,000	+41,083	+35,320
Diversion control fund	-360,917	-366,680	-366,680	-5,763	---
Total, Drug Enforcement Administration	2,018,000	2,018,000	2,053,320	+35,320	+35,320
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives					
Salaries and expenses	1,179,000	1,201,004	1,200,000	+21,000	-1,004
Federal Prison System					
Salaries and expenses	6,769,000	6,804,000	6,865,000	+96,000	+61,000
Buildings and facilities	90,000	90,000	115,000	+25,000	+25,000
Limitation on administrative expenses, Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated	2,700	2,700	2,700	---	---
Total, Federal Prison System	6,861,700	6,896,700	6,982,700	+121,000	+86,000
State and Local Law Enforcement Activities					
Office on Violence Against Women:					
Prevention and prosecution programs	417,000	422,500	425,500	+8,500	+3,000
Office of Justice Programs:					
Research, evaluation and statistics	120,000	136,900	124,250	+4,250	-12,650
State and local law enforcement assistance	1,171,500	1,032,900	1,235,615	+64,115	+202,715
Juvenile justice programs	254,500	299,400	223,500	-31,000	-75,900

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4660)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Public safety officer benefits:					
Death benefits	81,000	71,000	71,000	-10,000	---
Disability and education benefits	16,300	16,300	16,300	---	---
Subtotal	97,300	87,300	87,300	-10,000	---
Total, Office of Justice Programs	1,643,300	1,556,500	1,670,665	+27,365	+114,165
Community Oriented Policing Services:					
COPS programs	214,000	274,000	96,500	-117,500	-177,500
Total, State and Local Law Enforcement Activities	2,274,300	2,253,000	2,192,665	-81,635	-60,335
Total, title II, Department of Justice	27,736,559	27,973,534	28,110,351	+373,792	+136,817
TITLE III - SCIENCE					
Office of Science and Technology Policy	5,555	5,555	5,555	---	---
National Aeronautics and Space Administration					
Science	5,151,200	4,972,000	5,193,000	+41,800	+221,000
Aeronautics	566,000	551,100	666,000	+100,000	+114,900
Space Technology	576,000	705,500	620,000	+44,000	-85,500
Exploration	4,113,200	3,976,000	4,167,000	+53,800	+191,000
Space Operations	3,778,000	3,905,400	3,885,000	+107,000	-20,400
Education	116,600	88,900	106,000	-10,600	+17,100
Safety, Security and Mission Services	2,793,000	2,778,600	2,779,000	-14,000	+400
Construction and environmental compliance and restoration	515,000	446,100	446,000	-69,000	-100
Office of Inspector General	37,500	37,000	34,000	-3,500	-3,000
Total, National Aeronautics and Space Administration	17,646,500	17,460,600	17,896,000	+249,500	+435,400
National Science Foundation					
Research and related activities	5,741,398	5,739,460	5,906,125	+164,727	+166,665
Defense function	67,520	68,000	67,520	---	-480
Subtotal	5,808,918	5,807,460	5,973,645	+164,727	+166,185
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction	200,000	200,760	200,760	+760	---
Education and Human Resources	846,500	889,750	876,000	+29,500	-13,750
Agency Operations and Award Management	298,000	338,230	335,000	+37,000	-3,230
Office of the National Science Board	4,300	4,370	4,370	+70	---
Office of Inspector General	14,200	14,430	14,430	+230	---
Total, National Science Foundation	7,171,918	7,255,000	7,404,205	+232,287	+149,205
Total, title III, Science	24,823,973	24,721,155	25,305,760	+481,787	+584,605
TITLE IV - RELATED AGENCIES					
Commission on Civil Rights					
Salaries and expenses	9,000	9,400	9,000	---	-400
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission					
Salaries and expenses	364,000	365,531	364,000	---	-1,531

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4660)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
International Trade Commission					
Salaries and expenses	83,000	86,459	84,500	+1,500	-1,959
Legal Services Corporation					
Payment to the Legal Services Corporation	365,000	430,000	350,000	-15,000	-80,000
Marine Mammal Commission					
Salaries and expenses	3,250	3,431	3,250	---	-181
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative					
Salaries and expenses	52,601	56,170	53,500	+899	-2,670
State Justice Institute					
Salaries and expenses	4,900	5,121	5,121	+221	---
Total, title IV, Related Agencies	881,751	956,112	869,371	-12,380	-86,741
TITLE V - GENERAL PROVISIONS					
NTIA, Public Telecommunications Facilities, Planning and Construction (rescission)	-8,500	---	---	+8,500	---
Commerce, Departmental Management, Franchise Fund (rescission)	---	-2,906	-2,906	-2,906	---
DOJ, Working Capital Fund (rescission)	-30,000	-54,000	-54,000	-24,000	---
DOJ, Assets Forfeiture Fund (rescission)	-83,600	-193,000	-193,000	-109,400	---
Federal Prisoner Detention (rescission)	---	-122,000	-122,000	-122,000	---
Violence against women prevention and prosecution programs (rescission)	-12,200	-12,200	-12,200	---	---
Office of Justice programs (rescission)	-59,000	-59,000	-59,000	---	---
COPS (rescission)	-26,000	-26,000	-26,000	---	---
Total, title V, Rescissions	-219,300	-469,106	-469,106	-249,806	---
Grand total	61,403,600	61,928,166	62,172,092	+768,492	+243,926
Appropriations	(61,622,900)	(62,397,272)	(62,641,198)	(+1,018,298)	(+243,926)
Rescissions	(-219,300)	(-469,106)	(-469,106)	(-249,806)	---
(by transfer)	117,000	132,164	118,000	+1,000	-14,164
(transfer out)	-117,000	-132,164	-118,000	-1,000	+14,164

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to offer to the House our support for the base bill. The chairman of this committee, whom I have had the honor to work with for a number of years, has laid out in some detail some of the appropriations in this bill. And as our Constitution requires, no dollar out of our Treasury shall be appropriated, except by act of Congress. So we are here in our constitutional roles.

I want to thank Chairman WOLF for all of the courtesies extended to the minority. Obviously, if we were drafting a bill, we might have a different set of numbers in different areas, whether for legal services or COPS. But in the main, this is a bill that the chairman has extended himself in every effort that could be done to accommodate the minority. I want to thank him for his work with me over these many years, inasmuch as this will be the last bill that he will carry on the floor.

This bill, I think, represents a set of priorities important to our Nation that he has laid a predicate for that will be carried on even by others who may assume the role that he sits in today.

As for the Democrats, I want to say a number of things. One is that we are very pleased that in this bill the science accounts have been a focus of high priority. For NASA, over $17 billion. For the National Science Foundation, $7.4 billion. As has been indicated, it is the highest amount to date. The Office of Science and Technology is fully funded at the President's request.

I think some of us know now that I consider the science activities in this bill to be very, very important. In particular, superior among equals in terms of science-related activities is neuroscience. Here, again, you will see an extraordinarily significant increase. It is one of the highest increases in any of the science accounts.

The World Health Organization says well over a billion people are suffering from brain-related diseases and disorders. The National Institutes of Health says that 50 million Americans suffer from dementia and epilepsy and all manner of neurological-based diseases and disorders.

In this bill, we continue to fund a neuroscience initiative that was crafted—and the chairman supported me in this effort—in our very first bill. We continue to lay important foundations for the effort to actually come to grips with some of these challenges. So I am very pleased about that.

On the manufacturing initiatives, the manufacturing extension partnership is very important. Today, we lead the world in manufacturing. Our lead that was absolute is now relative. We see other countries who are moving aggressively in this field.

The chairman led an initiative in terms of re-shoring these jobs. I have focused on trying to bring in more technology into our manufacturing plants. But the two of us share a concern that America has to be a country where we make things and where the manufacturing sector is secure in terms of being an important part of our economy's future.

I want to also mention the focus here on youth mentoring. It is above the President's request. This includes groups such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which is a congressionally chartered organization serving some 4 million young people; Big Brothers Big Sisters; and Girls, Inc.

We could go through the list. These are national evidence-based organizations that are really making a difference in the lives of young people. And the committee is aware of the great work that these organizations are doing. So we have seen fit—and appropriately so—with the chairman's support, to raise the appropriations in this regard even above the President's request.

So there will be a number of amendments that we will debate. Democrats may have a different opinion on some of these items from our colleagues on the other team. There may even be circumstances where there will be intramural differences on some of these issues.

At its base, I think the CJS bill we present today reflects the Nation's priorities. Obviously, if we had a larger allocation, we would invest even more in a variety of these priorities.

I think some of the points that the chairman has pointed to in terms of human trafficking and aeronautics investments, on the manufacturing side, there are a number of areas where you can see clearly that the chairman has taken extraordinary care to make sure that a number of items get the appropriate revenues that are needed so that we can truly make a difference.

So we are anxious to have the debate and to get to the amendments and have the House work its will.

I want to thank the majority as we come here today. We have an open rule so the House will have an opportunity to work its will.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), chairman of the full committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding the time.

Madam Chairman, I rise in support of this bill. I want to congratulate and thank Chairman WOLF and Mr. FATTAH, the ranking member, especially, and all the members of the subcommittee and staff for bringing us a bill that I think we can be proud of and support entirely.

This is the third of the 12 appropriations bills that make up our work—and this is the third that we have brought to the floor this year. I think this bill, like the other two that passed, deserves our support. We are moving at a very fast clip in the committee. That should allow us to complete our appropriations work for the 2015 fiscal year on time. I promise that my committee will do everything it can to make that a reality.

As Chairman WOLF has said, the bill provides $51.2 billion for the Department of Justice, the Department of Commerce, NASA, the National Science Foundation, and related agencies. This very thorough piece of legislation, which was approved by the committee on a bipartisan basis, makes clear our priorities of keeping our Nation safe and growing our economy.

To achieve these goals, the committee has targeted precious tax dollars toward those programs with proven results and economic benefit.

For example, they increase the funding for the Department of Justice by $383 million over last year. Within that total, the bill targets FBI funding toward counterterrorism programs and programs that fight cyber intrusion, gangs, and human trafficking.

We also work to fight drug trafficking by providing the DEA with $2.4 billion. That includes $367 million to combat prescription drug abuse, which has quickly become our Nation's number one drug threat. Prescription drugs abuse is described by the Centers for Disease Control as a national epidemic.

The funding in this bill will also help to protect communities across the country from the risks of devastating natural disasters. We rejected the President's proposed cuts to the National Weather Service and have made sure that adequate funding is provided for hurricane forecasting and tsunami warning grants. We have also made investments in the future of weather forecasting technology.

In addition to the efforts in the bill to keep the Nation safe, we have also funded programs that will help our Nation prosper.

Within the National Science Foundation and the Department of Commerce, the bill invests in programs that foster innovation and boost our economic competitiveness. This includes funding for programs that conduct research on manufacturing, cybersecurity, neuroscience, and STEM education, as well as $5 million in grant funding to encourage the repatriation of overseas jobs.

But, as my committee will do with every bill we bring to the floor this year, we have ensured that this funding is responsible, is reasonable, and will make the most out of every single tax dollar spent. By scouring out waste and trimming unnecessary or lower-priority spending, we have produced a bill that comes in nearly $400 million below the current year.

I would like to note that the committee did this in spite of the President's request, which had $800 million in false savings and offsets and underfunded a variety of critical programs. This bill rejects those gimmicks and makes sure that these programs have received funding levels that allow them to do their important work.

To make sure this good work does not fall to the wayside, the committee included several oversight provisions that will ensure our tax dollars are being spent responsibly.

In addition, the bill includes several provisions that will assure the life, liberty, and property of the American people, such as prohibiting the transfer or release of Guantanamo detainees into the U.S., protecting our Second Amendment rights, and preserving the sanctity of life.

Madam Chairman, before I close, let me take a moment to again thank the chairman, FRANK WOLF; Mr. FATTAH; and members of the committee and staff for all their hard work on this bill. This is a tough bill to put together, and the allocation they had to work with was not the greatest in the world. But they have, I think, fit the needs of the country into this bill.

I want to particularly draw attention to the chairman of this subcommittee and the author of this fine piece of legislation.

FRANK WOLF has served in this House the same number of days that I have. We came together in January 1981. Over that 34 years of service in this body, Chairman FRANK WOLF has been a stalwart, passionate, compassionate legislator, and a dedicated, conscientious Member of Congress and appropriator. His expert work on this committee can be summed up in the legislation that we have before us today.

I know that when he is gone, FRANK WOLF's absence will be deeply felt by me, all of his colleagues, and I think by the country, because he has truly served America for all these years unselfishly and with hard work and with compassion.

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So, Chairman WOLF, for all you have done for this bill, the Appropriations Committee, the House of Representatives, your native Virginia and the United States of America, we thank you, and we will miss you.

With that, Madam Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the great State of New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member for the Democratic team on Appropriations.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, the Fiscal Year 2015 Commerce-Justice-Science bill before us today provides good funding levels for important programs to support public safety, such as Byrne Justice Assistance Grants and Violence Against Women Act services.

I thank Chairman WOLF for working with me to include report language directing the FBI to publish annual reports on the types of records submitted by each State and Federal agency to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. It is only as useful as the information it includes, and these reports will help improve the system.

Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH should be commended for fully funding the Office of Science and Technology Policy, including its working group on Neuroscience, as well as an increase of $21.5 million for National Science Foundation's BRAIN Initiative.

Investments in research and development grow our economy and help to ensure that future scientific breakthroughs happen in American labs, not those overseas.

In addition, I am extremely pleased that this bill will provide $125 million for the DNA Initiative, as well as $36 million for a new community backlog reduction program to process sexual assault kits which, currently, are often untested for years—sometimes decades—when information contained in these kits could help put violent criminals behind bars.

However, I continue to be baffled by efforts aimed at limiting the ability of the Federal Government to keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals. An ill-advised and dangerous amendment was included during the markup to make it more difficult for the ATF in four Southwest border States to be aware of multiple purchases of powerful semiautomatic rifles.

ATF already receives this information for handguns. It is unfathomable that we would prevent law enforcement from having this information for semiautomatic rifles, especially when this amendment would make it more difficult to prevent the smuggling of guns to Mexican drug cartels. This backwards policy will put lives at risk. We must not let it stand in the final bill.

Other measures must also be addressed before final enactment. The COPS program would be cut by $118 million. The ''wet side'' of NOAA is also cut, including a 40 percent reduction to fisheries habitat conservation and restoration, and the complete elimination of the community-based restoration program.

While the bill funds NOAA weather satellites and the National Weather Service, it includes a sizable cut of 24 percent to NOAA climate research.

As the National Climate Assessment showed, storms and weather events are becoming more frequent, more severe and, as a result, more costly. We should be investing in research to combat the threat of climate change, not sticking our heads in the sand, pretending the science is wrong because combating such an obstacle would be too costly and inconvenient.

While far from perfect in its current form, this is a reasonable bill that I can support. However, it is imperative that no poison pill policy riders be included during House consideration.

As I close, I want to say to the chairman—Chairman WOLF—and Ranking Member FATTAH, this really is an example of bipartisan cooperation. You worked so effectively in putting this bill together, and I want to congratulate you.

Before I close, I also want to thank the retiring chairman for your amazing service to our country. It really has been a pleasure for me to work with you, and we know there is never a doubt, when FRANK WOLF gets up to speak, he speaks with conviction and power and determination.

You are so impressive. I do want to wish you and your family the very best. For me, it has really been a delight getting to know you. Thank you so much for your service.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Chairman, when I was first assigned to the Appropriations Committee, I asked specifically to serve on the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Committee because of my passion for the sciences, for NASA, for law enforcement, but especially to serve alongside FRANK WOLF.

I have come to know FRANK WOLF as a model public servant. He is someone who always does the right thing for the right reasons, and the country is generally going to miss this good man. I can't think of a single issue that we have dealt with in this bill that FRANK hasn't been the first to see the problem approaching over the horizon—he has recognized from the beginning.

When we took the majority several years ago, Chairman WOLF, Chairman ROGERS, all of us in the majority, as fiscal conservatives, recognized the urgent need to prioritize our constituents' hard-earned tax dollars and target them on those areas that are the highest priority for our Nation.

This bill, as Chairman ROGERS said, is a true reflection of FRANK WOLF's priorities, the fact that it is one that we are all able to work on together, without regard to party labels, because we found common ground.

One of the great joys of serving on this committee is to find so many areas where we are able to work together and find areas of agreement when it comes to the sciences or law enforcement.

The work that Chairman WOLF has done, for example, in protecting persecuted Christians and religious minorities around the world, this committee, all of us, Democrat and Republican alike, have been there to support him.

Chairman WOLF was one of the first to spot the problem of cyber crime coming primarily out of Communist China. FRANK was one of the very first to ring the firebell and warn us of the dangers of the People's Liberation Army and the cyber attacks on this Nation and on private industry. We have now recognized the scope of that problem, and it is because of FRANK WOLF's leadership that we are in a position to fight it.

FRANK WOLF has led the way in strengthening the FBI and their war on terrorism and fighting human slavery

around the world in this bill and in previous bills to help local law enforcement agencies clean up the backlog of rape kits, preventing abuse in our prisons, preventing the release of Guantanamo terrorists into the United States, FRANK WOLF has led the way.

It was Chairman WOLF's bill to create the Select Committee on Benghazi. Anywhere he sees a problem and genuinely recognizes in his heart of hearts that that is something that is for the good of the Nation, he has been fearless about stepping forward and dealing with it.

In the area of the sciences, we see Chairman WOLF's leadership in increasing funding for the National Science Foundation and NASA and NOAA.

The country will miss you, Chairman WOLF, and I thank you for your service to the people of America and the people of Virginia.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), the ranking member on the Science Committee, the authorizing committee here in the House, and an extraordinary leader on science and innovation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Chairman, funding for research innovation and STEM education is an investment in our future, perhaps the single most important investment we can make.

Many of our competitors understand this and are striving to surpass the United States in innovation capacity and in the creation of a highly-skilled 21st century workforce.

It used to be that the world's best and brightest flocked to our shores. Now, many of our own best and brightest are finding better opportunities in other countries, or we are chasing them from STEM careers altogether.

In 2007 and, again, in 2010, the U.S. Congress passed the America COMPETES Act, recognizing the importance of increased investment in research, innovation, and STEM education, signed into law by Presidents Bush and Obama, respectively.

Appropriations have not kept pace with authorizations, but not from the lack of effort and commitment by appropriations colleagues, CJS Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman WOLF, Ranking Member FATTAH, Chairman ROGERS, and Ranking Member LOWEY.

I want to thank them, my colleagues, for their enduring support for science, even when it meant making very difficult cuts elsewhere.

As this is Chairman WOLF's last CJS bill, I want to express my personal gratitude to him in particular for being a strong and unwavering champion for the National Science Foundation and for STEM education. I will miss him greatly. We all will.

In sad and puzzling contrast, last week, my own committee debated COMPETES reauthorization legislation that would turn back the progress we have made in securing our Nation's future innovation capacity and voted out a bill this afternoon, a substitute today, without a single Democratic vote.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues, in the strongest possible terms, to add their own vote of confidence in our Nation's premier science agency, the National Science Foundation. It is the only agency to fund basic research across all fields of science and engineering, including, importantly, the social and behavioral sciences.

The returns on our 65-year investment in the National Science Foundation are too many and too significant to list here. But perhaps NSF's most important investment is the investment it makes in human capital—the great scientists, innovators, and job creators of tomorrow and the workforce for tomorrow's high-skilled, high-paying jobs.

Some of my colleagues' efforts to cut funding, to impose political review over peer-review, to establish a message of distrust of scientists, and to inhibit the normal advance of science, are sending a chilling message to smart young people across the nation to not bother entering or sticking with STEM studies or careers.

A vote to retain the modest 2.9 percent increase to NSF in today's legislation is a vote to hold onto our nation's future innovators and job creators.

I will make just a few brief remarks about other agencies within this appropriations bill.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology is playing an increasingly critical role in cyber security, forensics, advanced manufacturing, and technology, and so many other topics critical to our nation's security and wellbeing. I just wish we could do more for NIST in this bill, but I understand this was one of the difficult decisions that the appropriations committee confronted.

I also want to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for their support for NASA. While I would like to see NASA funding at even higher levels, commensurate with the tasks that we are asking the agency to carry out, I am pleased that this bill proposes to fund NASA at an increase of about 1.4 percent over the Fiscal Year 2014 enacted appropriation.

In particular, I support the bill's sustained funding levels for exploration and the Orion spacecraft and Space Launch System, which are being prepared for critical flight tests in 2017 and 2021, and which will enable our nation's return to human exploration of deep space.

I also support the committee's emphasis on the need to enhance research on the International Space Station, a unique and perishable asset that is important for both basic and applied research and for enabling our goals in human exploration of outer space.

I am also pleased that the committee has sustained robust funding for NASA's science programs and, in particular, restored funding to NASA's planetary science program, which has experienced cuts in recent years.

In addition, I applaud the committee for providing a robust increase for NASA's aeronautics program, which provides critical R&D to benefit our nation's commercial aviation industry and helps sustain our nation's competitiveness in global aviation.

Finally, I must express one significant concern, and that is the large cut to climate research activities at NOAA. The level proposed in this bill is 44 percent below the President's request and 23 percent below current spending.

A number of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to bury their heads in the sand as it relates to climate change, but cutting the research that will improve our understanding of and our ability to adapt to the impacts associated with climate change is not the answer. If anything, given the uncertainties that remain, we should be supporting increased funding not less. I hope the needed funding will be restored when this bill is conferenced with the Senate.

In closing, I again want to thank Chairman WOLF, Ranking Member FATTAH, and the rest of your Committee members for your efforts to protect and grow our nation's science and innovation capacity.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Chair, I appreciate all the great things that the chairman has done. I echo the remarks, the praise that was sung by our friends from Texas to the great job that Chairman WOLF has done in his career.

I appreciate, for example, tonight that he is yielding me this time, knowing that he has strong disagreement about which I will be speaking.

Tomorrow, I will be offering an amendment to the CJS appropriations bill, along with my colleagues SAM FARR, DON YOUNG, EARL BLUMENAUER, TOM MCCLINTOCK, STEVE COHEN, PAUL BROUN, JARED POLIS, STEVE STOCKMAN, BARBARA LEE, JUSTIN AMASH, and DINA TITUS.

Very simply, our amendment would prohibit the Department of Justice from using funds in the bill from preventing States from implementing their State medical marijuana laws.

Importantly, this amendment gives us an opportunity to show our support and what we really believe about the 10th Amendment to the Constitution, and it gives us an opportunity to support the intentions of our Founding Fathers and Mothers. They never meant for the Federal Government to play the preeminent role in criminal justice.

It should be disturbing to any constitutionalist that the Federal Government insists on the supremacy of laws that allow for the medical use of marijuana.

So far, 28 States and the District of Columbia—that is a majority of the States of the Union—have enacted laws to allow access to medical marijuana or its chemical derivatives. They obviously believe enforcing such restrictions on the medical use of marijuana is a waste of extremely limited resources.

This amendment has solid bipartisan support, and we have the opportunity now, with this amendment, to tell the Department of Justice that they are not permitted to waste limited Federal dollars interfering with the duly-enacted laws of our States concerning medical marijuana.

I urge my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, liberals and conservatives, to support my amendment. Respect State medical marijuana laws.

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Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of California, Congressman SAM FARR.

Mr. FARR. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise in general debate to talk about NOAA. But I first also want to echo everything that has been said about our great colleague from Virginia, FRANK WOLF. FRANK is one of the few Members of Congress who has visited my district. He actually went onto my property in Big Sur and ended up coming back and saying: Now I understand why you are so passionate about the oceans.

It is an interesting committee that both Ranking Member FATTAH and Chairman WOLF head because it is a committee that has all of the Department of Commerce; it has all of the Department of Justice; and it has the science programs, NASA, NSF, and the Office of Science and Technology. Essentially, the science of America is in your hands. And this bill has a lot of it in there.

Particularly, I would like to talk about NOAA. NOAA is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. And what has been happening is that, as we have gotten interested in the weather and as we have gotten interested in sort of the sky, we are putting a lot more money into it and sucking funds away from the oceans. And yet what is happening in the oceans is that they are dying; and if the ocean dies, planet Earth dies. So while there is money in this to look at the moons and oceans of other planets, we are going to do it at the peril of our own ocean.

Our coastal economies support 81 percent of all U.S. employment in the United States, over 100 million jobs. Coastal economies contribute to 84 percent of the U.S. GDP. Ocean tourism is an $89.25 billion industry. It relies on healthy marine mammal populations, healthy coral reefs, and healthy clean waters and beaches. Just think of all of the people who recreate on beaches. If those were polluted, they wouldn't be able to do so.

The United States plays a big role in the world. We are, in fact, hosting the international oceans conference next month. And one of the topics is going to be the blue economy: What does it mean to all the countries of the world and to the United States?

So as we go through this bill, I just want to emphasize that the wet side needs as much attention as the sky side.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Virginia, FRANK WOLF, for the great job that he has done.

Mr. WOLF. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Madam Chair, I rise today first in recognition of the great professional public service offered by Chairman WOLF. I appreciate that so much.

I also rise in support of H.R. 4660, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that he and his staff have worked so hard on.

This important measure provides funding for a number of vital agencies, of course one of which is the Office of the United States Trade Representative. This approps bill provides funding for the USTR to continue advocating on behalf of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, or TTIP, and to continue enforcing existing free trade agreements. More specifically, funding USTR will help protect intellectual property rights abroad.

Now, I continue to maintain very serious concerns with Canada's misapplication of internationally recognized patent standards, which appears to violate their international obligations, and it is having a real economic impact on innovative American companies.

I appreciate that the USTR has expressed serious concern about these practices in last year's Special 301 Report, given Canada's continued failure to bring its patent standards in line with international obligations and best practices. Accordingly, I strongly urge the elevation of Canada to the Special 301 Priority Watch List in 2014.

IP is one of the main engines of the United States' innovative economy. Approximately one-third of U.S. jobs and 60 percent of our exports rely on IP. With more than 95 percent of the world's population living outside of the United States, strong IP protections are essential to future U.S. economic growth and competitiveness.

Funding USTR will ensure a continued enforcement of existing free trade agreements while furthering future U.S. economic interests through negotiation of TPP and TTIP.

I would like to, again, thank Chairman WOLF and his staff for their important work in putting together this approps bill.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I want to take a minute to acknowledge someone else who has played a very important role in our country's science activities and is now retiring.

I spent some time over at NASA headquarters, and I also went out to visit the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to see the Mars Rover land after 8½ months of travel. The NASA team is an extraordinary team.

One of its members, the head of the Education Office, a former astronaut, is retiring, and I wanted to take a minute during general debate to acknowledge his great service to this country. Leland Melvin hails from the chairman's great State of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and we want to wish him well and thank him for his service to our country.

I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), my colleague who has worked here on small business and research connections to science to commercialize technology and to help build the American economy.

Mr. LIPINSKI. I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4660. I would like to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for their hard work on this bill.

While they have had to make some tough budget choices with a reduced level of funding, this bill still shows a strong commitment to scientific research at the National Science Foundation and also NASA.

Investment in research is vital to our economic future because it helps us achieve discoveries that will keep the U.S. at the cutting edge of science and technology and creating new American jobs.

I also want to take a moment to honor my good friend from Virginia, Chairman WOLF. Even in an era of partisan polarization and heated rhetoric, he has taken great pains to craft bills like this one that get broad support from Members on both sides of the aisle. He has been a strong defender of American security and a strong supporter of American manufacturing; and, most importantly, throughout his career, he has been a courageous fighter for human rights around the world, while never losing sight of his duty to his constituents here at home. He has been a good example for all of us in this body.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to support the strong funding, especially for the National Science Foundation, in this bill.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey, RUSH HOLT, my friend, the great science leader here in the Congress. He is the only one among us who has a terminal degree in nuclear science, and he is also retiring this year.

Mr. HOLT. I thank the gentleman. I certainly appreciate the very admirable Chairman WOLF and my good friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) for the work they have put into crafting this bill.

Madam Chair, however, I do have some serious concerns, especially as regards the cuts that are being made to NOAA's climate research programs. This bill cuts NOAA's climate research for the next fiscal year by $38 million below the current year, or $69 million below the President's request.

Now, deeper droughts, heavier rains, more flooding, superstorms, tornadoes,

rising seas, huge storm surges are all getting worse. Would we not want to understand what is going on?

I will be offering an amendment later this evening to restore funding for critical NOAA climate research programs. NOAA climate research programs support ocean and atmospheric research, global data collection and sharing so we can understand climate change.

This year, the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the U.S. National Climate Assessment were released. They agreed. They come to the same conclusion: the climate is changing. Greenhouse gases by human activities are the principal cause. We have already begun to experience the effects, which will continue to be costly in lives and dollars.

Those who would deny these changes, some here in this very House, can't stop the changes from occurring. Denying funding for the research won't stop the changes. It will just leave us ignorant and less prepared. We need to support the science behind climate change.

Now, since we are talking about science, it is true, ostriches don't actually bury their heads in the sand, but it is a metaphor for what is going on here. We should not bury our heads in the sand. We should be supporting this research vigorously because of all the ways that the climate change will affect our lives and our well-being both around the world and here in the United States.

Mr. FATTAH. I have no further requests for time during general debate, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

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

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment who has caused it to be printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for international trade activities of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, and for engaging in trade promotional activities abroad, including expenses of grants and cooperative agreements for the purpose of promoting exports of United States firms, without regard to sections 3702 and 3703 of title 44, United States Code; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas and employees temporarily posted overseas; travel and transportation of employees of the International Trade Administration between two points abroad, without regard to section 40118 of title 49, United States Code; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services; rental of space abroad for periods not exceeding 10 years, and expenses of alteration, repair, or improvement; purchase or construction of temporary demountable exhibition structures for use abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed $294,300 for official representation expenses abroad; purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use abroad, not to exceed $45,000 per vehicle; obtaining insurance on official motor vehicles; and rental of tie lines, $473,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, of which $10,000,000 is to be derived from fees to be retained and used by the International Trade Administration, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided*, That, of amounts provided under this heading, not less than $16,400,000 shall be for China antidumping and countervailing duty enforcement and compliance activities: *Provided further*, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities; and that for the purpose of this Act, contributions under the provisions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 shall include payment for assessments for services provided as part of these activities.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,000,000)''.

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

Page 45, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Chair, before I get started, I just want to join the chorus here and congratulate Chairman WOLF on his remarkable career as a leader here in this Congress and as someone who has worked diligently on behalf of his constituents but also in a way that I think has reflected greatly on this body. I think that the work product in this bill produced by Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH is a wonderful example of the possibilities when people work together.

Madam Chairman, my amendment would increase by $3 million the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the Drug Courts program. The $3 million added to the Drug Courts program will be offset by decreasing by $3 million the amount appropriated for funding the International Trade Administration.

Madam Chair, drug addiction in the United States is at an epidemic level. To call it otherwise grossly understates the problem. This epidemic affects every city and town across America, and it cuts across every demographic. It simply does not discriminate.

Drug and alcohol addiction shatters lives, destroys families, and costs taxpayers billions of dollars annually. In fact, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, estimates of the total overall costs of substance abuse in the United States—including lost productivity, in-hospital care, incarceration, rehab, and crime-related costs—tally to over $600 billion annually in the United States.

□ 2015

Now, many of us understand that drug addiction is a disease, and certain actions taken by people under the influence of drugs are typically uncharacteristic of that person. A handful of countries, as well as much of our own society here in the United States, have begun to realize that we need to deal with addiction and its outcomes in a way that can have a long-term, positive effect on the parties and families involved. Drug courts offer just such an opportunity by providing a support system and a roadmap for moving forward.

Madam Chair, drug courts are specialized court dockets designed to handle cases involving drug and/or alcohol-dependent offenders charged with offenses such as possession of a controlled substance or other nonviolent offenses determined to have been caused or influenced by their addiction.

Drug court cases are handled through a comprehensive program of supervision, drug testing, treatment services, and immediate sanctions and incentives designed to reduce the recidivism rates of these offenders by helping them overcome their substance abuse problems, which are the primary and proximate cause of their criminal activities.

Drug courts coordinate the efforts of the judiciary, prosecution, defense attorneys, probation departments, law enforcement agencies, rehab facilities, mental health and social services, and also involve the community, the family, and the employer in many cases in an effort to break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction, and crime.

If we can break that cycle, we all benefit. I have had the opportunity to visit many of the prisons and houses of correction in Massachusetts, where about 91 percent of those inmates have substance abuse problems or are dually addicted.

The bottom line is that drug courts save money, they reduce crime, and restore families. Quite simply, drug courts work. According to the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the drug court approach reduces crime by as much as 45 percent compared to traditional sentencing options. In fact, the available data indicate that nationwide, 75 percent of drug court graduates remain arrest-free at least 2 years after leaving the

program, and reductions in crime have been maintained for at a minimum 3 years, and in many cases over 14 years.

In addition to reducing crime, drug courts save money. As reported by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, for every dollar invested in drug courts, taxpayers save as much as $27 when compared to the historic approach to these problems. This substantial savings comes from avoided criminal justice costs, reduced prison costs, and reduced recidivism and health care utilization—all areas, as we know, that devour vast sums of money annually in this country.

And very important to us all, drug courts help restore families. According to statistics, family reunification rates for drug offenders are 50 percent higher for drug court participants. People struggling through addiction can become isolated from friends and loved ones. Reuniting with their family is often the first step in returning to normalcy and again becoming a productive member of the community.

Madam Chairman, the underlying bill provides $41 million for drug court funding, $2.5 million over the 2013 post-sequester level. And I would like to thank Chairman WOLF—he has long been a champion of drug courts—as has Ranking Member FATTAH. But these have been underfunded for a long time, and the adoption of this amendment would meet the need that has been amplified lately.

I just urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I accept the amendment. The President's request had proposed eliminating this as a separate program. We rejected that proposal, and instead we funded the program above, as the gentleman from Massachusetts said—and I appreciate it—above the level of $41 million. This takes it to 44. He makes a very powerful case. I think it makes a lot of sense, so I accept the amendment, and I think it is a good amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I concur with the chairman.

Mr. WOLF. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. DAVIS OF CALIFORNIA

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

Page 34, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Chair, first, I certainly want to thank Chairman WOLF, Ranking Member FATTAH, and, of course, the committee for putting together a strong bill in what we all know has become an increasingly tough environment for appropriations bills.

This year's Commerce-Justice-Science bill is clearly the product of a great deal of bipartisan collaboration, and, as a result, this bill provides strong funding for a number of important priorities that both Democrats and Republicans can get behind. In that vein, I want to offer an amendment which I believe both sides of the aisle should be able to support.

While only a small portion of the overall Department of Commerce budget, the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service plays a critical role in helping American small business owners export their products to foreign countries—and we know that about 95 percent of the world's customers live overseas.

Unfortunately, while this year's CJS bill does a decent job of funding the Department of Commerce, it failed to fully match the President's requested increase of funds for the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service. Unfortunately, that will mean that we will, once again, continue the trend of underfunding this vital national resource.

Specifically—and I wanted to note these three points—this amendment helps small businesses who can benefit from overseas consumer activity by helping them learn how to navigate red tape imposed by governments overseas. Big companies we know don't necessarily need this help but our small business owners do.

Second, it will help them increase exports, create jobs, and boost economic recovery. Third, the funding that was requested in this amendment is $3 million. The agency is currently $15 million below the President's request. So I want to share where the offset comes from. It comes from the Bureau of Prisons, which was overfunded by $61 million—and that is out of $7 billion. The offset does not touch funding for new construction, which we know there are concerns about overcrowding from time to time. That is not an issue in this amendment.

Madam Chair, in order to remain competitive in an increasingly globalized economy, we must do everything that we can to help our exporters gain access to overseas markets. While this amendment only amounts to really a small increase in funding, we know from past experience that it will pay enormous dividends. I certainly have seen that in my community in California.

Most importantly, it will allow U.S. exporters to compete on a level playing field with the rest of the world and will help strengthen the overall economy, putting Americans back to work.

I urge my colleagues to support small business owners all across this country and adopt this amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentlelady's amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, the recommendation in this bill includes $323 million for the Global Markets program, which includes the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service. This amount is $3 million more than the current operating level. Despite the continued fiscal constraints, the committee has supported increases to the International Trade Administration over the last few fiscal years in order to support deployment of additional commercial service and staff at embassies. But this offset totally takes it from the Bureau of Prisons. It reduces the Bureau of Prisons' salaries and expenses account by $3 million.

The prisons are overcrowded. We have had several prison guards killed. With our high- and medium-security institutions exceeding 51 and 41 percent of their rated capacity, the prisons are overpacked. They are maxed out. And so with a population of 215,000 inmates and 2,500 more expected in 2015, the Bureau of Prisons just can't keep up. So this bill helps them recover. We don't want to have another prison guard killed. So I think where they take the money from—I would urge a ''no'' vote on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I rise in the first instance in support of the focus of the gentlelady's amendment, but I have to oppose the amendment because of the offset. One of the prison guards that was murdered was from my home State of Pennsylvania, and I think that depleting $3 million from this account at a time when we have a situation where we have far too many people in prison—and hopefully through our criminal justice reform efforts, we will do something about that—but while we have people in prison, we have a responsibility to administer these prisons safely, and I think it will be unwise.

Now, I support wholeheartedly export initiatives. We have increased this account each year. I have visited and spent time focused on this. And the chairman had mentioned a number of initiatives. We also fund the SelectUSA and the other parts of the President's export initiative. But I am opposed to this amendment solely on the basis of the offset as offered.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. REICHERT

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1)''.

Page 4, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1)''.

Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $110,000,000)''.

Page 52, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $110,000,000)''.

Page 53, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $110,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer a critical amendment with Representatives PASCRELL, KING, GRIMM, WELCH, JOHNSON, REED, ENYART, DEFAZIO, and others.

This amendment funds the highly successful COPS hiring program at the fiscal year 2014 level. Ensuring the safety of our communities and neighborhoods should be one of our first priorities, and we cannot afford to do that without a sufficient number of capable police officers trained across our country.

I became a law enforcement officer because I wanted to serve and help others. I brought that same desire to Congress. The COPS program helps others do the same. We cannot protect this Nation without adequate funding for law enforcement. Their service is our gain.

Madam Chairman, this program is vital. I was in law enforcement for 33 years. I started out in a patrol car and was actually hired in 1972 under a Federal grant. After 30 some years or so, I became the sheriff of King County, and I was able to use those grants again to hire additional police officers in the sheriff's office, and those additional police officers are used to be a part of Federal teams, Federal law enforcement task force efforts, across this country. To mention a few, the cyber security task force we have in some of the major cities across this country is integral to protecting this Nation, not only our entire country, but our communities. You cannot do that with just Federal resources.

We always talk about the Federal, State, and local partnerships as Federal representatives, and the FBI came to me when I was the sheriff and said that we want to work with you; provide a police officer to our joint terrorism task force, provide a police officer to our task force to fight gangs, and provide a police officer to be a part of our DEA effort to impact the use of drugs and reduce the use of drugs in our communities.

Well, Madam Chairman, local police departments and sheriff's offices don't have the money to continue to supply police officers to these Federal efforts. But they know they are needed.

I would like to join everyone in congratulating the chairman on his distinguished career and his efforts here today in support of protecting our country. Mr. WOLF has done an outstanding job over his years of service. From my perspective, though, we really need to strengthen this partnership, and the way that you do that is you allow these grants to be fully funded, you allow police chiefs and sheriffs across this country to hire additional police officers to be a part of a national effort to reduce human trafficking. And I know this is one of Mr. WOLF's passionate issues right now, as well as other Members of Congress. It has been highlighted, and we need to highlight it still. But the Federal Government cannot stop human trafficking alone. They need the help of those local police officers and detectives on the street. If we don't have the people, we won't be putting them on the street.

□ 2030

If they are not on the street, if they are not working these cases, they will not solved, and if they are not solved, Madam Chair, our children will be at risk, so I stand today to offer this amendment because I know it is the right thing to do.

I know it creates a partnership, a true partnership between the Federal, the State, and the local agencies. It is critical. It is vital to our local law enforcement communities to have access to these grants, to be a part of the national effort, and to fight not only local crime, but those crimes across State borders; and international crimes are something that we also get involved in.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I am going to accept the amendment. My father was a policeman—Philadelphia policeman, badge 3990.

I think Mr. REICHERT makes a very, very powerful case, and I have great respect for law enforcement. I just want to put it in context. We are going to accept the amendment, but article I, section 2 of the Constitution requires a census every 10 years.

This is one of the few areas where the Constitution actually requires this body to do something. Frankly, this body, a lot of times, does nothing. This, we are required to do it. This amendment cuts funding for the periodic census. Without getting into detail, we will try to work this out when we go to conference because I am sympathetic.

We are going to start getting a lot more amendments: cut census, it is not for a few more years. But then the time comes. However, I think Mr. REICHERT makes a powerful case. We do respect law enforcement, and he makes a powerful case.

We cannot solve the issue of sexual trafficking with just Federal officers. We need the sheriffs and the police departments. Having said all that, there will be some pain, and we will have to work this thing out, but I accept the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I support the chairman in accepting this amendment, but his warning about census and the need for us not to assume that we can walk out with a bill with zero for census and live up to our responsibilities—our constitutional responsibility—is not an appropriate notion for this Congress, so I do support this one. I am going to be opposing many others.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Chair, I just want to say to FRANK WOLF: you are good man, and I wish you the best of luck. You raised the respect of this institution, and that is pretty difficult to do nowadays, FRANK. I wish you the best of luck.

As cosponsor of this amendment, along with some others, I want to thank all of those folks who came aboard. We have to struggle every 2 or 3 years. I think it is the responsibility that we, in some way, support our local communities, our county sheriff departments.

The COPS program has been a great success. In fact, the two most effective and efficient programs in the Congress of the United States are the COPS program and the fire program—FIRE Act. We know where every dime is going, we know how it is spent, but we certainly couldn't accept a 61 percent cut for a fiscal year.

So this is going to allow us, Madam Chair, to hire over 1,000 police officers. God knows we need them. When we take our oaths, some of us who have had good fortune every 2 years, God willing, the first thing we talk about is defending the United States, defending the Constitution, and defending against attacks from the outside, as well as inside. We have an obligation and responsibility.

So we are taking this very, very seriously. The gentleman from Washington and I were the cochairs of public safety in the Congress, and we work on this all year around, not just budget time.

So I am proud to work with the Congressman from Washington, and I thank, wholeheartedly, the gentleman from Virginia and wish him the best of luck. You have made a big difference in this Congress, and I mean that sincerely.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIMM. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIMM. Madam Chair, first, let me start by thanking my colleagues, Mr. REICHERT and Mr. PASCRELL, for their continued leadership on this issue and specifically in joining me on this COPS amendment.

I would also like to recognize Chairman WOLF for all of his outstanding service and specifically his work and with the subcommittee for their efforts to fund the critically important programs within this bill while facing a very tight fiscal environment. I recognize this is absolutely no easy task.

While I agree Congress must rein in our spending, doing so at the expense of men and women in uniform who risk their lives every single day to protect our communities is simply unacceptable. That is why I am proud to cosponsor this bipartisan amendment to replace the drastic cuts to the Community Oriented Policing Services hiring program.

While some will argue that the COPS program is a bailout to our local governments, the truth is that this funding can only be used to supplement—not replace—State, local, and other funds used to hire and rehire additional police officers.

Further, unless an agency can demonstrate severe fiscal distress, COPS funding has specific limits based on sworn force strength and service population.

Let me give you an example. An agency can only request funding to hire or rehire no more than 5 percent of their sworn force strength and agencies with a service population of a million or more are capped at 25 officers. These limits ensure that the COPS program promotes community safety in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner.

The reality is that our local and State budgets are also being reduced, and this 60-plus percent reduction to Federal COPS funding would exacerbate the many dangers police officers face on a daily basis because of low staffing levels.

I also support the COPS hiring program's incentive to promote veteran hiring by giving additional consideration to agencies that commit to hiring or rehiring at least one military veteran.

As of 2013, 336 veterans have been hired with this funding. So considering the good that the COPS program has done and that it will continue to do in creating good-paying, career-oriented jobs and enhancing safety in our communities across the Nation, I want to urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

In closing, I want to emphasize we spoke about human trafficking and the horrors entailed there, and we need every effort we can to combat that, but I also want to highlight the prescription drug epidemic which plagues my district and many districts throughout this country.

If we are going to be able to fight to keep our children safe and keep people from overdosing on prescription drugs, we are going to need more and more police officers to combat this.

I seriously urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $8,000,000)''.

Page 63, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Chair, my amendment would ensure that the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center under the International Trade Administration's budget is funded at this President's requested level of $15 million by moving $10 million from NASA's $4.2 billion exploration fund, which is funded $191 million above the President's request.

Here is the problem: Mr. PETERS and I, who offer this amendment, represent the State of Michigan, but I assume this problem, the problem of access to markets across the globe for American products, is one that other Members in this body experience on a regular basis and hear about all the time.

We may disagree, and I suspect that we would disagree on the elements of our trade policy and particularly the elements in form that many of the trade agreements that this country enters into with other Nations.

In fact, there is a debate brewing now over the extent to which we continue to expand those international trade agreements, but the one thing we ought not to disagree on is whether or not we enforce the existing structures that are in place and ensure that American-made products have access to markets that should be open to us and, under existing agreements, would be open to us if we had the strength and the resources to enforce those agreements the way they ought to be enforced, and this is having a real effect.

I represent Michigan, as I said, and the auto sector particularly has suffered greatly as a result of trade practices. Just recently, as a matter of fact, the WTO sided with the U.S. in a dispute with China on duties it imposes on imported American vehicles, duties ranging from 2 percent to 21.5 percent, affecting two-thirds of the $8.5 billion worth of American vehicles that are sold into that market.

This amendment would ensure that there are adequate resources to ensure that we enforce existing trade policy. American workers and companies are harmed when other countries are allowed to use unfair trade policies unfettered.

This amendment would ensure that the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center has the necessary resources to go after unfair trade barriers. It sends a strong message to the world that: If you violate global trade laws, the rules will be enforced and that there will be consequences for bad behavior.

American workers deserve this. American companies deserve this. We should stand strong. This amendment would make sure that the resources are available to do just that.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I rise in opposition to the amendment. The amendment would take away from NASA's Commercial Crew Program. This is a program where we are paying the Russians—Putin, who invaded the Crimea—Putin, we are paying Putin—this takes it away from that, allowing NASA to fund fewer development and testing activities.

It would increase the likeliness that we will have to extend our reliance on Russia for access to the space station. The Russians have even said that we are going to have to use a trampoline to get to the space station. They are going to stop cooperating after 2020.

I could say more, but I don't think we want to take money from that program. Because of that, I urge a ''no'' vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. I support the intent of the amendment. I can't support the offset. It comes out of the general exploration account of NASA, but it would put additional strains on programs like Commercial Crew and Commercial Cargo, which are very, very important—not just because we have to depend on the Russians at the moment to take astronauts to the space station, this was put in place years ago—but given the political circumstances, and the chairman is right, there have been threats to whether or not we will have access to transport.

We do have to think about accelerating our Commercial Crew Program. It has been very successful to date, in terms of cargo, but we have not utilized the commercial cargo system yet to actually put human beings into lower Earth orbit on private spaceships like SpaceX or Orbital Science, so it is a concern now that this offset would be used.

So I think what I am saying is that I hope the gentleman will consider the fact that we will look at this issue in conference and try to find other ways to do it, but I cannot support this offset. It would not be a responsible thing for us to do, given where we are.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2045

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr, Kildee).

The amendment was rejected.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce, including costs associated with the performance of export administration field activities both domestically and abroad; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed $13,500 for official representation expenses abroad; awards of compensation to informers under the Export Administration Act of 1979, and as authorized by section 1(b) of the Act of June 15, 1917 (40 Stat. 223; 22 U.S.C. 401(b)); and purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use and motor vehicles for law enforcement use with special requirement vehicles eligible for purchase without regard to any price limitation otherwise established by law, $103,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities: *Provided further*, That payments and contributions collected and accepted for materials or services provided as part of such activities may be retained for use in covering the cost of such activities, and for providing information to the public with respect to the export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce and other export control programs of the United States and other governments.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 4, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000) (increased by $5,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Rhode Island is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chair, the amendment that I offer today addresses a topic that is of the utmost importance to our national defense, that is, cybersecurity.

Before I go into the particulars, I would like to first acknowledge the important work of my colleague, Chairman WOLF, on this vital issue. Although he is retiring at the end of the year, he has certainly left a legacy of support for cybersecurity funding which he and Ranking Member FATTAH have continued in this bill. I thank them both for their important work.

Madam Chair, bad actors in cyberspace are growing in number and in sophistication, and as policymakers we have an imperative to act in the public interest. When Congress came up short in its efforts to enact comprehensive cybersecurity legislation in the 112th Congress, the administration rightly acted as best it could to advance the ball on cybersecurity. The President issued an executive order on this topic, and among the many things it did, it charged the National Institute for Standards and Technology with the creation of a framework for cybersecurity, and it ensured an open process, engaging all parties from across the spectrum of industry, government, and academia.

Madam Chair, my simple amendment endorses the use of routine Department of Commerce surveys in order to measure the extent to which businesses have adopted the NIST voluntary cybersecurity framework. In fact, my amendment will ensure that the Bureau of Industry and Security's Office of Technology Evaluation uses its Defense Production Act authority to conduct a survey about use of the NIST framework.

While I applaud the President's focus on cybersecurity, and the NIST process has been widely regarded as a laudable example of public-private partnership, much more needs to be done, and the administration cannot go it alone. It will take congressional action to address issues such as incentives, liability protections, information sharing, and breach notification.

However, while we continue to work toward passage of bipartisan cybersecurity legislation, it is important that we measure how well the NIST framework is faring. Our routine Commerce Department survey, using existing authority under the Defense Production Act, will enable an assessment of the NIST framework's adoption rate, a key component of its effectiveness.

Information sharing is also an important part of the framework, so the survey will also allow BIS to ask companies what, if any, information from the government they have used and how they have used it. This brief survey should be designed in a way to minimize the burden on companies: determining if their using the framework or information shared from the government does not require an exhaustive survey of their cybersecurity practices.

The NIST framework is a model for cybersecurity. It doesn't demand adherence to a particular set of standards, nor does it proscribe certain activities. Instead, it describes processes that entities can adopt to help them decide which standards and risk levels are appropriate for their own situations.

I believe that this framework is a useful tool for companies to help them navigate new threats in the information age. I know that some of my colleagues believe otherwise, but without hard data, these sentiments would be just that: beliefs. Measuring adoption of the framework is a concrete step in the right direction that we can take to help develop our own best practices for what works in the realm of cyber policy.

So with that, Madam Chair, we have all heard about major cyber attacks in the news, including the Target breach and the Heartbleed security vulnerability. Just this month alone we have seen the Department of Justice indict Chinese soldiers for hacks of American companies. We have seen the breach of up to 145 million emails, birth dates, and passwords from a major Internet commerce site. We have even seen the Department of Homeland Security warned about a successful attack on a public utility that compromised the utility's control system network.

My amendment will not solve all of these problems at once, but it will help policymakers here and in the administration take effective and informed steps to protect our networks from cyber attacks.

So with that, let me again congratulate Chairman WOLF and thank him for his distinguished service to this body.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, the gentleman is absolutely right. I completely agree with him. We will make every effort to make sure this is in there. He has been ahead of almost everybody else here, but I accept the amendment. I think it is a very good amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the amendment also.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I thank the chairman for agreeing to accept it.

I want to spend a second on this. There is no more important an issue facing our country in terms of national security than this question of cybersecurity, and Chairman WOLF has been at the very forefront of this.

We have seen the unfortunate circumstance, for instance, with a corporation like Target. Target has invested over a billion dollars in revitalizing libraries in our schools in our country. They have done a lot of great work. They were victimized by cyber criminals emanating from, apparently, Ukraine. I think that whatever assistance we are providing to the new government there should be contingent on making sure that the cyber threat emanating from Ukraine visited upon our companies here should be part of the considerations.

The chairman has also pointed out what has now become obvious, given the DOJ's action, that China is also quite active in this realm. We have seen this problem in places like Nigeria. We can go around the globe. If we are going to protect ourselves, we are going to have to take action.

I thank the chairman for accepting this amendment. I think this is an appropriate improvement to the base bill, and I yield back the remainder of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Chair, parliamentary inquiry.

The CHAIR. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Would a motion be in order to suspend the rules and bring up an amendment that was in the previous section at this time?

The CHAIR. That motion is not available in the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Thank you, Madam Chair.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

For grants for economic development assistance as provided by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, for trade adjustment assistance, for the cost of loan guarantees authorized by section 26 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3721), and for grants, $210,500,000, to remain available until expended; of which $5,000,000 shall be for projects to facilitate the relocation, to the United States, of a source of employment located outside the United States; and of which $5,000,000 shall be for loan guarantees under such section 26: *Provided*, That the costs for loan guarantees, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds for loan guarantees under such section 26 are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed $70,000,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CICILLINE

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 5, line 17, strike ''grants'' and insert ''grants, including grants authorized under section 27 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722)''.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Rhode Island is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Chair, I thank and acknowledge the work of Chairman WOLF and our Ranking Member FATTAH for their exhaustive work on this appropriations bill.

Madam Chair, in an effort to drive innovation and regional collaboration, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 established a Regional Innovation Program within the Economic Development Administration. This program is intended to encourage and support the development of regional innovation strategies, including regional innovation clusters and science and research parks.

For the past few years, the President has consistently requested $25 million to fund the Regional Innovation Strategies Program. The program was provided $10 million in funding in the fiscal year 2014 omnibus appropriations bill passed by this Chamber a few months ago.

Funding for the Regional Innovation Program supports the Economic Development Agency's interagency effort to build regional innovation clusters, including the Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge and the Make It In America challenge. This program helps to ensure we build a cohesive, competitive economy by aggregating existing investments and technical assistance from multiple Federal agencies to develop a network of interconnected firms and institutions. Together, this network and other regional stakeholders can use this funding to accelerate job growth, spur business formation and expansion, encourage innovation, invest in workforce training, and support small business development.

For example, the i6 Challenge grants funded within the Regional Innovation Program have already helped universities and research centers across the country invest in efforts to scale up groundbreaking ideas. This means providing these innovators with the necessary resources to accelerate commercialization and to attract venture capital for the most promising technologies. To compete in the 21st century and win, America must invest in scaling up promising technology and innovative ideas.

In the long-term, these ideas will help ensure our Nation remains at the cutting edge. Importantly, investing now will help jump-start our competitive advantage in terms of producing emerging technologies and supporting advanced manufacturing. Through the Regional Innovation Program, local leaders are empowered to maximize existing assets and are provided resources to ensure that historically underrepresented communities, including those hardest hit by unemployment and economic decline, are able to participate in and benefit from a growth in a regional cluster.

The Regional Innovation Program has traditionally garnered support from both Republicans and Democrats. It is a truly bipartisan, evidence-based method for creating jobs.

My amendment is simple and straightforward. It would not create a new program or new authorization. It does not increase or decrease funding for a single account in the appropriations bill. Instead, this amendment simply serves to include the Regional Innovation Program within the bill and to bring focus to this vitally important job-creating initiative as this appropriations process moves forward.

In addition, the Regional Innovation Program has consistently been specifically supported and cited with a separate line item in previous Senate CJS Appropriations Committee reports.

To close, I strongly believe we must recognize that innovation is critically important to America's ability to compete in the 21st century global economy. Supporting the development of regional innovation clusters strengthens our capacity to create and retain new jobs and sustain our economic recovery. The Regional Innovation Program will help Federal, State, and local entities leverage existing resources, spur regional collaboration, and support economic recovery and job creation in high-growth industries.

I recognize, after conferring with Chairman WOLF, that there is a point of order that has been raised on this.

Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment and look forward to working with the chairman and the committee to see that this program is both reauthorized and funded.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POMPEO

Mr. POMPEO. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 5, lines 17 through 21, after each dollar amount, insert ''(reduced to $0)''.

Page 6, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced to $0)''.

Page 100, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $247,500,000)''.

□ 2100

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Kansas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POMPEO. Madam Chairwoman, today, I rise to ask my fellow Members of Congress to take one small step towards fiscal sanity.

Chairman WOLF has done very nice work on this bill, but we are all familiar with agencies that have outlived their usefulness and no longer can withstand budget scrutiny. In these times, if we don't set priorities, nothing is a priority. Here is one opportunity for all of us to make one tiny step towards getting rid of what is now over $17 trillion in debt.

We often talk on our side of the aisle about having a spending problem. Here is a chance for all of us on both sides of the aisle to begin to attack that. We have an opportunity.

Part of the Department of Commerce, the Economic Development Administration, was established in 1965 as an element of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. The current administration and, to be frank, many administrations, have used this for their own pork barrel projects and their own cookie jar. The EDA has spent over $3.2 billion in grants and does nothing more than pick amongst winners and losers by region, industry, and community. At its very core, the

EDA is nothing more than the purest of wealth distribution programs.

My amendment would eliminate funding for the EDA, totaling $247 million in fiscal year 2015, and send this money to the deficit reduction account. Based on current levels, eliminating EDA will save over $2.5 billion over the next decade.

Even though I ran two small businesses for 16 years, I had never heard of the Economic Development Administration before coming to Congress. I suspect many of my colleagues are similarly situated.

First, let me describe what the EDA does. It takes dollars from all across the country. That money comes to Washington where the EDA takes 20 percent of it off the top. That is the cost of the administrative burden of running the Economic Development Administration. They then ask companies and communities to apply for ''free money'' from the Federal Government to renovate a movie theater or to build a new industrial park.

While many much these projects aren't necessarily bad, some are just plain ridiculous. These are local projects that either have enough support from their local communities so they could certainly advance without Federal funding or they require Federal money because the local community won't support them. Either way, the Federal Government has no role in being involved.

You might not be familiar with EDA projects, so let me just talk about a couple of them.

In 2008, the Economic Development Administration provided $2 million to begin construction of the UNLV Harry Reid Research and Technology Park in Las Vegas, Nevada. Currently, this technology park features a paved road and a Web site claiming to be the first anticipated tenant moving in in 2010. No construction has even begun.

In 2010, $25 million was spent by the EDA for a Global Climate Mitigation Incentive Fund and $2 million for a ''culinary amphitheater,'' wine-tasting room, and gift shop in Washington State.

The EDA then gave New Mexico $1.5 million to renovate a theater in 2012.

In 2013 it gave Massachusetts $1.4 million to promote video games.

Back in the 1980s, the EDA used taxpayer dollars to build replicas of the Great Wall of China and the Egyptian pyramids in the middle of Indiana. They were never completed. It is now a dumping ground for tires.

After doling out your tax dollars, the Economic Development Administration often, along with a local Congressman or Senator, takes credit for these projects. They go to ribbon cuttings. The EDA is a frequent flyer, traveling all around the country, for just such ceremonies.

I first heard about the EDA in one such project. I was sitting in a committee where the director of the EDA proudly took credit for the jobs created at a $1.6 billion new steel plant. There was a $1.4 million grant, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the project. My guess is that the company's CFO knew nothing of the EDA grant.

Cutting the EDA, however, is not just a conservative idea, it is a good idea, and one that gets us closer to fiscal sanity here in America.

Madam Chairwoman, my amendment is fairly modest given the amount of debt we are piling onto our children and grandchildren. But this is an important vote to show that Members of this body are serious about limiting the size and scope of our Federal Government.

I urge passage of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. FOXX). The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

This bill before the House today also includes for the EDA $5 million to support projects to facilitate relocation to the United States of jobs currently being done overseas. If you have an iPhone, it is made in China. GE has moved plants off of the United States to China. This is in order to fund. It will enable EDA to help work with American businesses to bring back, to repatriate, their manufacturing activities back to the United States.

It does not support any projects in my district, but it does support projects in some very, very poor districts throughout the United States. These are areas that are struggling. Because of that, sometimes EDA is only a lifeline, a path, to more economic sustainability.

I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, first of all, in terms of the previous amendment that was withdrawn, it is very important that we note that innovation is the driving force in our economy. The World Economic Forum said: America's economy is built on innovation. So I want to just add my voice in terms of that amendment, but in terms of the offering relative to the Economic Development Administration.

The Speaker of the House earlier was saying that as you listen to Americans, they are concerned about jobs. Well, one entity in the Federal government has a track record of developing jobs in each of our 50 States. Just recently they announced a 300,000-mile initiative in Alaska. Now, Alaska is a little bit away from my hometown in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but wherever you look in our country, the EDA has been working. It stitches together communities of interest, builds support in jobs. It is a program that the majority would love because it is not decisions from on high. These are decisions that are made at the local level about where to build industry, what types of industries to attract. It has a proven record decade after decade stitched throughout America, not one piece of unbroken cloth, but kind of like a quilt, many colors, many different pieces patched together.

So I support the EDA, I oppose this amendment, and I hope that we give a resounding vote in support of the Economic Development Administration. If we can spend American taxpayers' money in far off places in this world building economies under the notion that that is how you strengthen democracies and provide peaceful places in the world, then we can take American taxpayers' money and invest it in communities right here at home so that Americans can go to work.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. My congressional district, Madam Chairman, encompasses rural parts of southern and eastern Kentucky. The region has historically lagged behind others in the Commonwealth and in the country. Particularly in recent years, as we have reeled from a crushing downturn in the coal industry that has cost my district some 8,000 good-paying mining jobs in just the last few months, we have had to think and act strategically to revitalize our economic engine. Creating jobs in a mountainous region without sufficient roadways or suitable water infrastructure might seem an unsurmountable challenge. But I have always encouraged my constituents and community leaders to ''plan their work, and work their plan.'' With the help of EDA, this is what we have been doing.

The Economic Development Administration is one of the few entities in our Federal Government uniquely qualified to address the needs of communities with chronically high unemployment issues or facing enormous setbacks due to natural disasters. EDA's grants, awarded in a competitive fashion, leverage over $10 from the private sector for every Federal dollar invested and are targeted at facilities that are essential for private industry to remain or locate in these underachieving areas. As a result of these targeted investments in water systems, workforce training centers, intermodal facilities, or broadband networks, struggling communities across the country have seen the creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs in just the last decade.

I wholeheartedly concur with the sponsor of the amendment that the role of the Federal Government is not to create jobs, but instead to create the conditions favorable for private sector

job creation. By partnering with local area development districts, leveraging public and private dollars, and engaging the local workforce, EDA does just that.

This bill provides $247.5 million for the agency, which is already below the President's request; rejects the administration's request to shift funds away from vital public works programs; and supports a loan guarantee program to develop innovative manufacturing technologies that will keep rural areas competitive nationally and globally. With unemployment in rural areas around the country still hovering well above the national average, particularly in coal country, the victims of the war on coal, this is an investment we cannot afford to lose.

I urge a ''no'' vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Chairman, let me begin by expressing my admiration for my colleague from Virginia, the chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee, FRANK WOLF. The Commonwealth of Virginia, the Nation, and, indeed, individuals from around the world owe Chairman WOLF a deep debt of gratitude for his years of service.

The positive impacts of FRANK WOLF's efforts literally span the globe as he has been a leader in the fight for, and defense of, human rights and religious freedom around the world. Chairman WOLF is a principled leader, and I and the rest of my colleagues will miss his leadership in this House in the years to come.

Madam Chairman, I also rise to address the issue of funding for research through the National Science Foundation. I believe the Federal Government has an important role to play in basic research, including the research conducted by the National Science Foundation.

The dollars we invest in research in the physical and biological sciences, in particular, have the potential to cure diseases and create new innovations that will become the building blocks for future economic growth and prosperity.

But I have been troubled that the administration has been spending scarce Federal resources allocated to the National Science Foundation, not on these hard sciences, but instead on political and social science research, including, for example, the attitude of Americans on the filibuster, studying ''what makes politics interesting,'' and how politicians change their Web sites.

The National Science Foundation even spent $700,000 to fund a musical—a musical, not research—on climate change.

My colleague, LAMAR SMITH, the chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, has been leading an effort to reform the NSF to eliminate wasteful spending and prioritize research that has the potential of truly benefiting our Nation.

Chairman SMITH's committee currently has a National Science Foundation reform bill under consideration. That bill takes important steps to set appropriate national priorities. I thank him for his efforts on this important front.

In addition, Chairman SMITH is offering an amendment that will be offered tomorrow to this bill that would seek to leave funding for the social, behavioral, and economic sciences directorate at the current year levels and then allocate the $15 million increase requested by the President to other research priorities.

I fully support Chairman SMITH's amendment and urge my colleagues to support it as well. This is the first step of many that I hope we will take to protect taxpayers while at the same time ensuring that high priority research is appropriately funded. I look forward to continuing to work with Chairman SMITH on this initiative.

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

□ 2115

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, first of all, I appreciate the majority leader. I know for certain that he has an interest, particularly in these areas that he has spoken about, because on one day, at the end of a long week, the two of us ventured over to the National Institutes of Health to sit and learn a little bit more about the merit-based selection process for investment and investigations to end diseases, and LAMAR SMITH, who is a great Member, led the effort on patent reform.

However, I think that both are misguided in this attempt to move away from the world-renowned merit-based selection process at the National Science Foundation.

All of our competitors are actually trying to mimic the merit-based selection process that the National Science Foundation utilizes, and it is critically important that the National Science Board, in the ways that these decisions are made, is not going to be influenced by politics.

That was in the wisdom of the creation of this, and it has worked so well that we now lead the world. If we want to continue to lead the world, the last thing we want to do is to interject politics into the decisionmaking process of what basic scientific research should be supported.

There are more proposals that come in than can be funded that are done on a peer-review, science-only basis, and I think it would be a very unwise signal for this Congress to send if we were to move in this direction.

I hope that our colleagues, even though we have great respect for the majority leader, would act with more respect for basic science and for a merit-based selection process.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of administering the economic development assistance programs as provided for by law, $37,000,000: *Provided*, That these funds may be used to monitor projects approved pursuant to title I of the Public Works Employment Act of 1976, title II of the Trade Act of 1974, and the Community Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1977.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Department of Commerce in fostering, promoting, and developing minority business enterprise, including expenses of grants, contracts, and other agreements with public or private organizations, $30,000,000.

ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as authorized by law, of economic and statistical analysis programs of the Department of Commerce, $99,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing and publishing statistics, provided for by law, $248,000,000: *Provided*, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities: *Provided further*, That the Bureau of the Census shall collect data for the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey using the same health insurance questions included in previous years, prior to the revised questions implemented in the Current Population Survey beginning in February 2014.

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing and publishing statistics for periodic censuses and programs provided for by law, $858,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated, $1,551,000 shall be transferred to the ''Office of Inspector General'' account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the Bureau of the Census.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GIBSON

Mr. GIBSON. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,000,000)''.

Page 30, line 24, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $4,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBSON. First of all, let me begin by recognizing my friend, Chairman WOLF, for his long and distinguished career in public service—a role model for all of us. Let me say also how impressed all of us are with the teamwork of Chairman WOLF's and of Ranking Member FATTAH's in putting together this piece of legislation. I am giving it my highest endorsement here.

Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment about an issue that is of grave concern to us in upstate New York, which is of the heroin and opiate epidemic that is going on.

From the stories I have read, this is actually an issue across our country. I will note that the Governor of Vermont spent the time in his State of the State to address this issue. We certainly have to do more on this score.

I have convened meetings in which I have had an opportunity to listen very carefully to district attorneys, to law enforcement professionals, to medical professionals, and to the families of those affected. Without any doubt, we are going to have to do more to address this issue. I see it in three basic categories. One is doing more on prevention. The second is enforcement. The third is treatment. Treatment is handled in the Labor-HHS bill, and I look forward to our addressing that in the weeks to come. Tonight, we can address prevention and enforcement.

I do want to commend the committee, and I do want to read of some specific areas of the bill in which the committee, I think, has done great on this issue.

In DEA Language:

Prescription drug and heroin abuse—the committee is extremely concerned about the continued threat posed by prescription drug abuse, as well as about the resurgence of heroin abuse and overdoses that appear connected to the enforcement of laws against prescription drug diversion. The committee has included in its recommendation funding to support the enhancement of DEA's investigative efforts to deal with these growing threats and directs DEA to report to the committee no later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act on the numbers of actual and estimated heroin investigations in fiscal years 2013 through 2015, the amounts and street value of heroin associated with such investigations and prosecutions resulting from investigations.

In the DOJ General Administration:

Heroin—the committee notes with concern the increase in heroin abuse. The Department shall report no later than 90 days after the enactment of this act on potential ways to address this problem, such as prevention, law enforcement strategies, prescription drug disposal site expansion, and other evidence-based approaches.

Then, finally, in Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force:

Heroin—the recent surge in heroin use, overdose deaths, and trafficking volumes shows it to be one of the gravest problems now facing law enforcement and the drug treatment community. DEA noted in its 2013 threat assessment a trend of users switching to heroin from prescription drug abuse as one explanation for a rise in overdose deaths and warned that persons addicted to opioid prescription pills now find highly pure heroin easier and cheaper to obtain. The committee urges the Department to intensify its use of task forces to address this disturbing trend.

I commend the committee for their work on this.

I rise to offer an amendment to increase, by $4 million, the funding for the account that addresses the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. This will help our country—and my district in particular—in dealing with high-level traffickers and gangs that are selling heroin and opioids. I think this will help.

It will be part of an overarching strategy, and I think it synchronizes with the committee, so I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I have no objection to the amendment. I think it is a very good amendment, and I share the gentleman's concern.

Out in the western part of my district, in the Shenandoah Valley, I think they had one heroin death in 2011 or in 2012. In 2013 and this year, they are surpassing that, and it is only May. This is going to be an epidemic. It is hitting the country.

They are actually finding that growers of marijuana in Mexico are getting out of that business and are growing poppies. So I think it is a very good amendment, and I urge the support of it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I also rise in support of the amendment.

This is a crisis any way you look at it in my home State of Pennsylvania whether it is in the Pocono Mountains area or in the city of Philadelphia. All throughout the country, we see this epidemic. People are losing their lives, and extraordinary action needs to be taken.

I do want to say that our side, even though we support this particular amendment, is concerned about the offset. Just so that we can start to make sure that everyone understands that we are concerned about it, we will want a recorded vote on this, and I will vote in favor of it as we do have a responsibility at some point to think about funding the census. So I will stop there.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. For what purpose does the gentleman from California seek recognition?

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I ask for a recorded vote on the last one.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee had already progressed to the next amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. I indicated in my remarks that we were asking for a recorded vote.

Would you like to read back my remarks?

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair did not see any Member seeking recognition for that purpose at the time the result of the voice vote was called.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I respect your decision then, and we will proceed. Thank you.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCNERNEY

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment offered by the gentleman from California.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,000,000)''.

Page 52, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. First, I want to recognize Chairman WOLF for his service to this body and to this country, and I want to recognize the chairman and Ranking Member FATTAH for their work on this bill.

Madam Chair, my amendment takes $3 million from the Census Bureau and transfers it to the COPS grant program, with the intent that this $3 million will go toward the COPS Technology grants program at the Department of Justice.

I am proud to represent California's Ninth Congressional District and the work our law enforcement agencies are doing in our region. However, they need additional support. Several cities in my district have violent crime rates that are well above State averages.

Law enforcement agencies are understaffed and are struggling to retain and recruit officers. These first responders are doing their best to stretch budgets in tough economic times while trying to manage crime activity.

This is an extremely difficult task that stresses police departments, officers, their families, and our neighborhoods. Consequently, it is even more important that our communities and law enforcement work together to ensure crime fighting is as effective as possible while also yielding the best results.

One way to accomplish this goal is through improvements in technology. This increases effectiveness. It streamlines capabilities and increases information sharing. Most importantly, it

improves the public's and officers' safety.

Through 2010, the COPS Technology program helped more than 3,000 law enforcement agencies acquire essential technology to help meet the needs of their regions. That demand for technology funding by law enforcement agencies across the country has increased in the past 4 years.

I recently met with the chief of police from a city in my district who asked how his department could obtain funding for an innovative project that will help officers identify the exact location of gun shops within the city. This pilot project in a very small area has been extremely successful.

These technology grants would be awarded on a competitive basis, ensuring that each applicant has a fair opportunity to receive money and to acquire and deploy crime fighting technologies.

I do understand the concerns about taking money from the Census Bureau as it begins its preparations for the 2020 census, but I believe that individuals, families, and businesses in high crime areas would greatly benefit from the COPS Technology grant funding in the short and in the long term. This technology will save lives.

Lastly, I want to mention that the International Association of Chiefs of Police supports my amendment, and I urge the adoption of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I announce that we are going to postpone the 2020 census and move it to 2021 or maybe to 2022.

I am going to accept the amendment, but if we keep taking it from the census, there will be no census unless it is going to be done on a voluntary basis, and we can ask people if they will. I think it is a good amendment.

I understand what you are trying to do, but if we keep fining census, census, census, then there will be no census. I accept the gentleman's amendment. He makes a very powerful case, and I think it is a very good issue.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BRIDENSTINE

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $12,000,000)''.

Page 13, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $12,000,000)''.

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

□ 2130

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Madam Chair, my amendment transfers $12 million from the Census Bureau to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research for the specific purpose of weather research.

We now know that technology exists that can predict tornadoes nearly 1 hour in advance. This technology will move us toward a day when we have zero deaths from tornadoes.

My amendment today will direct funds to research and technology vital to saving lives and property. I want to thank Chairman WOLF for working with us towards this goal.

The $12 million added by this amendment is for weather research in NOAA's office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, as authorized in my House-passed, bipartisan Weather Forecasting Improvement Act. Specifically, this increase provides for a total of $76 million for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes to advance observational, computing, and modeling capabilities and quantitative assessment tools for measuring the value of data and specific observing systems. The funding will accelerate research, development, and the development of critical technologies like new aerial weather observing systems; transformative global, national, and regional weather models; advancing high-performance computing using graphic processing information technology networks; and observing system simulation experiments to deliver substantial data improvements in weather forecasting and prediction of high-impact weather events such as those associated with hurricanes and tornadoes. This will save countless American lives in the future and allow our citizens to better protect their personal property. This should be NOAA's highest priority.

Another critical part of the Weather Forecasting Improvement Act is a joint technology transfer initiative between NOAA Research and the National Weather Service. I urge the Weather Service to follow through on this House's bipartisan voice vote back in April and transfer the full $20 million authorized in that legislation to NOAA Research to carry out the transition of the latest scientific and technological advances into the Weather Service operations. This will sunset outdated and expensive operational methods and tools to enable the cost-effective transfer of new methods and tools into operations.

Madam Chair, NOAA is the only Federal agency tasked with providing accurate and timely forecasts. I believe this amendment is a big step forward in reflecting this priority.

Again, I am grateful for the chairman's guidance in working on this amendment, and I am thankful for his leadership on this issue. I hope that we can work together to keep weather research funding at this level when it comes time to conference with the Senate. This amendment will save lives and property.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. I have no objection to the amendment. And the gentleman's area has been hit. We have all seen the pictures of the towns in Oklahoma. So I appreciate his efforts and diligence.

I just want Members to know the Commerce-Justice-Science bill already includes strong funding for the National Weather Service. The bill is $16 million above the request for the National Weather Service. We restore the $10 million proposed reduction for information technology officers at each weather forecast office. We restored a proposed $8 million cut to the Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program. We restored $6 million in proposed cuts to the tsunami community education awareness program.

But I think the gentleman makes a very, very powerful case, and we will work to make sure that this stays in until we go to conference. As he said, we can save lives. And that is what we want to do.

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

Mr. FATTAH. I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment. I have spent a lot of time and effort on this issue. I join with the chairman in acknowledging the fact that in the chairman's mark is a very significant investment in the National Weather Service and in our severe weather forecasting activities.

And, again, the offset here is the U.S. Census. And so even though I support the amendment, I am going to be seeking—and will remain standing—a recorded vote. Because the House needs to acknowledge that if we are taking money from the Census now, there will come a time in which we will have to ante up on our constitutional responsibilities.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

Mr. JOLLY. Madam Chairwoman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. JOLLY. Madam Chairwoman, I rise for the purpose of entering into a colloquy with Chairman WOLF, someone I have great respect for, and I compliment him on a bill that he has prepared, along with the ranking member.

I prepared an amendment at the desk this evening that would reduce $8 million from the Census Bureau and instead move that money to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's operations, research and facilities account for the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations—essentially, NOAA marine research.

I appreciate the chairman's comments about continuing to slice at the Census Bureau account, and for that reason, I rise for purposes of a colloquy.

I understand the bill includes $175 million to operate and maintain NOAA's ships. While I would have liked to see that number increase, I understand it does match the President's budget, and in fact represents an increase of over $5 million above the enacted level from last year for purposes of funding additional days at sea.

NOAA marine research is critical for a number of reasons. I represent a gulf coast district. Many Members of this House do. One of the purposes of NOAA marine research and one of the benefits that we see from it is more and better stock assessments when it comes to fisheries.

We need to do better as a Nation in our stock assessments and how we study fisheries. We need to have additional study and research into the survivability of juvenile stocks. We need to have better research into invasive species and how that leads to closures. Perhaps the best way we could ever address closures is with additional research into studying the survivability of juvenile stocks.

NOAA marine research also advances our interest in water quality. It educates us and provides additional research for Federal agencies when it comes to emergency situations like oil spills; red tide plumes, which are critical in the gulf; as well as responding to the stranding of endangered marine mammals.

NOAA marine research also, ultimately, improves the economy for areas along the gulf and other areas in the Nation. It affects the quantity of fish that we are able to produce for our food supply, but it also addresses quality of life for communities like mine in Pinellas County. It also assists the economic development of regional economies that depend on a robust fish stock.

The increase that I would have proposed tonight was in an effort to help NOAA better fulfill this research mission as something I believe we need to continue to put an emphasis on. I thank the chairman for his commitment thus far already in the chairman's mark in the bill we are considering today when it comes to NOAA marine fisheries and marine research, but I would simply ask the chairman to consider continuing this commitment as this process winds its way. As you get to conference, if there is an opportunity to identify additional resources, I certainly would appreciate the chairman and the ranking member's consideration.

Mr. WOLF. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. JOLLY. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. I thank the gentleman for withdrawing the amendment.

As the gentleman is aware, the bill before the House today includes $175 million to support the operation of NOAA's research vessels. This amount is the same as the request—a $5 million increase above the enacted level.

We will take a look at it, and I appreciate the gentleman raising it. We will stay with him as we go to conference.

Mr. JOLLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Chairwoman, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NUGENT

Mr. NUGENT. Madam Chairwoman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,000,000)''.

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $4,000,000)''.

Page 45, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

Page 48, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

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

Mr. NUGENT. Chairman WOLF, I want to thank you for your leadership and all the years of service to this body, and to the Nation in general.

Each day, more and more Americans are realizing that we need to take action to deal with mental health issues in this country. You merely need to watch the news. We need to make it a priority.

My amendment, in keeping with that sentiment, would provide additional funding for programs under the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act, or MIOTCRA, and for Veterans Treatment Courts. These programs have a proven track record of effectively addressing some of the important issues associated with mental health illnesses.

My amendment would offset this increase by taking $4 million from the periodic censuses and programs account, which I have heard had been hit over and over again. This is less than one-half of 1 percent.

Madam Chairman, both of the programs that would receive an increase in funding under my amendment highlight the need for our justice and mental health systems to work together.

As a former sheriff, I can tell you cooperation is vital. If our justice and mental health systems are collaborating, we can provide more positive outcomes—not only for those with mental health issues, but for our taxpayers as well.

Grants provided under MIOTCRA are used, among other purposes, to set up mental health courts, for community reentry services, and training for State and local law enforcement to help identify and respond to people with mental illnesses, which should be obvious to folks back home, just as with what happened in California.

During my 37 years as a cop, I saw firsthand how our jails are becoming warehouses for people with mental health issues. No one is well served by this process—not those with mental health issues, not our taxpayers, and certainly not our veterans.

Let me provide some numbers to illustrate what is actually going on in our jails.

According to the Florida Mental Health Institute, over a 5-year period, 97 individuals in the metro Miami-Dade area accounted for 2,200 bookings into the county jail, 27,000 days in jail, and 13,000 days in crisis units, State hospitals, and emergency rooms. The cost to the State and taxpayers was nearly $13 million for just 97 people over a 5-year period. However, the type of programs my amendment supports have shown to dramatically reduce these rates.

In Pinellas County—another county in Florida—for instance, a mental health jail diversion program showed an 87 percent reduction in rearrests for nearly 3,000 offenders that were enrolled in that program. Not only does my amendment support these programs but recognizes the unique responsibilities that we have to our veterans.

Veterans are disproportionately affected by mental health issues. Even more, they likely wouldn't have these issues had it not been for their service to our country. We owe them a better outcome. And Veterans Treatment Courts can help.

The point, Madam Chairman, is we don't have to waste taxpayer dollars warehousing people in jail. We don't have to be content with a system that isn't effectively serving the people it is supposed to. We have programs to help and that save money. And we can make this a priority.

I know that this account has been hit numerous times, but I would tell you that you need only to see what is going on in this country. Mental illness is a

problem that needs to be addressed. The Veterans Treatment Courts that can be put in place by this, I think, is owed to our veterans, and certainly is owed to the people we represent.

So I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2145

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment. I think Mr. NUGENT makes a very powerful case. As more veterans return from combat, we are seeing the increased involvement in the justice system.

The committee did establish the Veterans Court program in fiscal year 2013 and has increased its funding for this year. The President did not request funding specifically for this program.

The Mental Health Court Program is important as well and, given that a significant percentage of the justice-involved population have mental health disorders, these courts help with recidivism.

I think Mr. NUGENT again, as I said, makes a very powerful case, so I support the amendment and urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I will not request a recorded vote on this amendment, but I did want to speak on behalf of it.

Colleagues in my home State of Pennsylvania, Congressman MEEHAN and Congressman BRADY, have been very interested in the Veterans Courts.

I was originally involved in the creation of the drug courts in Pennsylvania years ago. I think this is a very important effort, particularly as it relates to our veterans, but in terms of a host of populations to help divert people, when possible, from the criminal justice system and make our communities safer at the same time, so this is a very important amendment.

I disagree with the offset, and I want that to be registered, but I will not burden the House with another recorded vote.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCDERMOTT

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $3,000,000)''.

Page 13, line 21, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Chairman, fisheries management is something that has had a long history on the Pacific coast. As we built the dams on the Columbia River back in the 1930s, we made treaties with the Canadians. The Mitchell Act was passed, and we have been subsidizing the propagation of fish since that period.

We also have Canadian and United States treaties for the fish caught in the rivers along our borders. The fish don't know where they came from. They don't know whose fish they are, and the human beings have got to sort it out.

We have had these treaties in place, but we have been gradually reducing the amount of money we spent in this enforcement and propagation of fish.

Now, this $3 million seems like a very small amount, but what it is really all about is it means a hatchery closure, which will reduce, by 3 million, the Chinook that are released next year, along with another 500-some odd thousand other kinds of salmon.

You can't do this fisheries management by turning on the switch and turning off the switch. The fish go out for 3 years, they come back, and it is a longstanding process, and we are gradually whittling down what we are doing to one of the major sources of protein for this country.

It is a huge economic effect on Alaska, Washington, Idaho, and northern California, and it is money well-spent.

If you don't understand fish and you don't live in a community, as I do, where the entire Alaska fishing fleet is right now getting ready to go up and catch the salmon that you are used to eating in this country, you don't understand what it means when you don't have hatcheries producing salmon.

The enforcement issue is really a matter of getting people to count and make sure that we get what is ours and also make sure that the fish are counted, so we know about the sustainability.

One of the issues that is going on in the world today that people are not paying attention to is the acidification of the ocean. Acidification of the ocean means that salmon eggs are not as fertile as they were before, and you are coming to a time when we are going to have serious problems with our fisheries all along the northwest coast of the United States.

So this $3 million, although it seems like a very minimal amount, is necessary to continue the treaties with the Canadians and to continue the propagation.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I am going to oppose the amendment. We are just taking out of census, and so the Members know, this is the same as last year's level, so there are not any big major cuts here.

Also, we are above the request. We are $3 million above the request, so I don't question what the gentleman says. He knows a lot more about salmon than I do. He has probably forgotten more about salmon than I will ever know, but we can't keep going into the census and going into the census.

Since it is $3 million above the request, it is at the same level last year, we added money into the salmon in the full committee, and so I am going to ask for a ''no'' vote on the amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. FATTAH. The chairman and I sat through some hearings last year, listening to and learning about the hatcheries in Washington State and learning about both the treaty responsibilities and the natural hatchery programs. I think we funded it at the level that was requested and then above that.

On top of the fact that we are at a level beyond what was requested, this, again, would diminish the accounts for the census.

We have a constitutional responsibility. We swear our oath to the Constitution. It requires the United States Congress to fund a census, and even though the hatcheries in Washington State deserve appropriate support, I think that the committee has moved in that direction.

I have to oppose this on the basis that it, again, attacks an account that we have a responsibility to protect, even though it may not have the same level of political or popular support as some of these items.

I love eating the fish, but we have got to make sure we count the census, so that we can live up to our responsibility as a Congress.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as provided for by law, of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), $36,700,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1535(d), the Secretary of

Commerce shall charge Federal agencies for costs incurred in spectrum management, analysis, operations, and related services, and such fees shall be retained and used as offsetting collections for costs of such spectrum services, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to retain and use as offsetting collections all funds transferred, or previously transferred, from other Government agencies for all costs incurred in telecommunications research, engineering, and related activities by the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences of NTIA, in furtherance of its assigned functions under this paragraph, and such funds received from other Government agencies shall remain available until expended.

PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

For the administration of prior-year grants, recoveries and unobligated balances of funds previously appropriated are available for the administration of all open grants until their expiration.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) provided for by law, including defense of suits instituted against the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, $3,458,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as offsetting collections of fees and surcharges assessed and collected by the USPTO under any law are received during fiscal year 2015, so as to result in a fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the general fund estimated at $0: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2015, should the total amount of such offsetting collections be less than $3,458,000,000 this amount shall be reduced accordingly: *Provided further*, That any amount received in excess of $3,458,000,000 in fiscal year 2015 and deposited in the Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Director of USPTO shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for any amounts made available by the preceding proviso and such spending plan shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That any amounts reprogrammed in accordance with the preceding proviso shall be transferred to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Salaries and Expenses account: *Provided further*, That from amounts provided herein, not to exceed $900 shall be made available in fiscal year 2015 for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That in fiscal year 2015 from the amounts made available for ''Salaries and Expenses'' for the USPTO, the amounts necessary to pay (1) the difference between the percentage of basic pay contributed by the USPTO and employees under section 8334(a) of title 5, United States Code, and the normal cost percentage (as defined by section 8331(17) of that title) as provided by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for USPTO's specific use, of basic pay, of employees subject to subchapter III of chapter 83 of that title, and (2) the present value of the otherwise unfunded accruing costs, as determined by OPM for USPTO's specific use of post-retirement life insurance and post-retirement health benefits coverage for all USPTO employees who are enrolled in Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) and Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), shall be transferred to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, the FEGLI Fund, and the FEHB Fund, as appropriate, and shall be available for the authorized purposes of those accounts: *Provided further*, That any differences between the present value factors published in OPM's yearly 300 series benefit letters and the factors that OPM provides for USPTO's specific use shall be recognized as an imputed cost on USPTO's financial statements, where applicable: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, all fees and surcharges assessed and collected by USPTO are available for USPTO only pursuant to section 42(c) of title 35, United States Code: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated, $2,000,000 shall be transferred to the ''Office of Inspector General'' account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the USPTO.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), $670,500,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $9,000,000 may be transferred to the ''Working Capital Fund'': *Provided*, That not to exceed $5,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That NIST may provide local transportation for summer undergraduate research fellowship program participants.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, $130,000,000, to remain available until expended.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

For construction of new research facilities, including architectural and engineering design, and for renovation and maintenance of existing facilities, not otherwise provided for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as authorized by sections 13 through 15 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278c–278e), $55,300,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in the budget justification materials that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Institute of Standards and Technology construction project having a total multi-year program cost of more than $5,000,000 and simultaneously the budget justification materials shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of activities authorized by law for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including maintenance, operation, and hire of aircraft and vessels; grants, contracts, or other payments to nonprofit organizations for the purposes of conducting activities pursuant to cooperative agreements; and relocation of facilities, $3,089,480,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, except that funds provided for cooperative enforcement shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That fees and donations received by the National Ocean Service for the management of national marine sanctuaries may be retained and used for the salaries and expenses associated with those activities, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That in addition, $116,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the fund entitled ''Promote and Develop Fishery Products and Research Pertaining to American Fisheries'': *Provided further*, That of the $3,220,480,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading $3,089,480,000 is appropriated from the general fund, $116,000,000 is provided by transfer, and $15,000,000 is derived from recoveries of prior year obligations: *Provided further*, That the total amount available for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration corporate services administrative support costs shall not exceed $215,654,000: *Provided further*, That any deviation from the amounts designated for specific activities in the report accompanying this Act, or any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years, shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That in addition, for necessary retired pay expenses under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plan, and for payments for the medical care of retired personnel and their dependents under the Dependents Medical Care Act (10 U.S.C. 55), such sums as may be necessary.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 13, line 21, and page 14, lines 8 and 9, after the dollar amounts insert ''(increased by $37,450,000)(reduced by $37,450,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I rise today as a member of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Caucus. This coalition of Members has formed in order to advance policies to promote clean energy; protect our land, air, and water; and to address one of the dominant issues of our time: human-induced global climate change.

I am joined in this amendment tonight by Representatives MORAN, PETERS of California, POLIS, LOWENTHAL, CONNOLLY, HASTINGS of Florida, HUFFMAN, TONKO, and CARTWRIGHT, and we rise because, unfortunately, this bill fails to make the critical investments that are needed to further our understanding of the atmospheric changes that we know are affecting our planet.

This bill we are debating here tonight would cut NOAA climate research for the next fiscal year by $37.5 million dollars below the current year or $69 million below what the President is asking for.

NOAA climate research funds atmospheric and oceanic research, climate research laboratories, cooperative institutes, regional climate data and information, competitive climate research global data collection and sharing.

As the climate changes, we will continue to experience deeper droughts, more intense wildfires, more frequent storms and floods, superstorms like Hurricane Sandy, higher sea levels, bigger storm surges. Would we not want to understand what is going on?

It is ironic that, as Members here tonight are trying to outdo each other in supporting weather research, they propose to cut climate research. I suppose, when we come to NIH, they will be tripping over themselves to talk about research in symptoms, but ban any study of the causes of the disease.

Now, earlier this year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released their fifth assessment report, and earlier this month, the Federal Government released the U.S. National Climate Assessment.

Both reports, which were the product of years and years of research, the combined efforts of literally thousands of scientists spanning the globe, came to the same conclusions: the climate is changing.

Emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are the principal cause, and the result is costly, in lives and dollars—yes, deadly.

Just about a year ago, we passed a landmark in human history, 400 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the air worldwide. Now, I say in human history because, indeed, it is human activity, the way we produce and use energy, that is primarily responsible for this large increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide.

It is of historic importance because, as scientists have made clear, this great concentration of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is changing our very climate.

Now, we know some Members, even in this Chamber, have their doubts about manmade climate change—the human-induced climate change. They say: maybe the climate is changing and humans aren't to blame; or maybe humans are changing the climate, but it is really not as bad as the alarmists say.

Still, others outright deny the science, reject the calls for action by scientists. Why this denial?

It wouldn't happen in other instances. If a firefighter bangs on your door to tell you that your house is on fire, would you look at this stranger dressed in fireproof clothing and wearing a helmet and an oxygen tank and say, I don't believe you? Or would you get out?

□ 2200

Why, then, when thousands of the world's best scientists are telling us that humans are dangerously changing the planet's climate, that your house, planet Earth, is in deep trouble, wouldn't we get moving? This is not a joke. It is not a hoax. It is not a false alarm.

This bill would cut critical investments that are needed for ongoing climate research, and failing to provide the resources necessary to study our changing climate won't make the problem go away; it will just make it harder to predict and more difficult to understand. Denial is the result of ignorance and only deepens our ignorance.

We need to support the science behind climate change. We need to develop policies that would help us mitigate and adapt to the threats of climate change.

I yield back the balance of my time

Mr. FARR. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. FARR. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the gentleman from New Jersey, Dr. RUSH HOLT, who is probably the smartest scientist we have ever had in the United States Congress. He gave us a warning that we need to pay attention to climate research. It is not weather research. Weather, we have just put a lot more money into. We are worried about prediction. We are worried about what is going to happen. They want to know in the next few days whether there is going to be a tornado or a hurricane.

But climate is what tells us what is going to happen in the long-term future, whether we are going to have a sustained drought, whether we are going to have fire danger because of winds and droughts, whether we will have rainfall patterns—that it falls in one part of the country and not in the other—that will affect agriculture and water resources.

I live on the coast. And although a lot of people deny that there is global warming and, therefore, ice melting and, therefore, the oceans rising, I can tell you that it is actually asked in all the zoning matters and building permits. Now in California, if you are going to build along the coastline, what is that coastline going to look like 10 years out? What does the climate forecast—climate, not weather forecast—tell us about these rising oceans that will not allow your house to be built exactly where you want it to be built? So this is really important information to have.

We have understood how important ports are to the United States' trade. We can't live without goods going out of this country and goods coming in, and they come through our ports. And if the oceans are going to rise and destroy our docks and our facilities, that is going to have a huge impact on our national economy.

Ocean chemistry, the next amendment is going to talk about ocean acidification. I am going to rise on that as well, which is very important to our fisheries.

So I think that an amendment like this is really important to invest in. We cannot really understand weather unless we understand the patterns of climate.

Climate change will impact trade. Climate change will impact food security. Climate change will impact national security. Climate change will impact human health.

It is imperative that we robustly fund NOAA climate research in order to be prepared for and adapt to the changing weather and changing climate.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Chair, this bill is providing reasonable levels of funding for research and development to the National Science Foundation and NASA, but in the NOAA accounts, climate research is singled out for major cuts below last year's spending.

It seems there are a number of us who believe that we can improve weather forecasting without doing climate research. This simply is not the case.

The distinction between weather and climate is created by the time period we define to examine the temperature, precipitation, humidity, and other atmospheric phenomena we are experiencing.

As our society and our economy have become more advanced, more interconnected, and more global, we increasingly operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. For better or worse, we assume that everything can and is operating all the time. Well, often because of weather conditions, that assumption is challenged. Travel delays in the airline industry alone due to weather events can result in multibillion-dollar losses.

Phenomena such as droughts and floods and fires are not merely single weather events. Their probability of occurrence, duration, and intensity is a function of climactic factors that can only be understood and predicted if we can better understand short-, medium-, and long-term climate trends.

I would note that the bill before us retains funding for the National Drought Information System. That is good news. But by cutting the climate research that drives improvements in the information delivered through this system, we are stifling the potential for this tool to provide better information to farmers, to ranchers, water managers, energy utilities, and the many other businesses, communities, and citizens who require dependable, adequate water supplies.

It was climate research that led to our much-improved understanding of the El Nino and La Nina cycles that drive predictable changes in weather. As a result, farmers are able to adjust crop varieties or practices to prevent losses.

We are spending an increasing amount of money every year on relieving drought, fighting forest fires, and on relieving disasters from tornadoes, hurricanes, and flood events. Instead of cutting climate research funds, we

should be expanding them. Instead, this Congress continues to deny what is all too obvious to many of our citizens and to those of other nations: that climate change is underway.

Some of our agricultural systems, transportation systems, and essential infrastructure are at risk. We can adapt. We can redesign and rebuild infrastructure, but we need to know where to concentrate our efforts and what type of adaptations will be necessary. We need to have a better understanding of the rate of change that we will experience. Climate research is providing that understanding.

In February last year, the Government Accountability Office added the financial risk of climate change to its High Risk List. This past February, GAO testified before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs about the fiscal liability associated with weather and climactic disasters.

GAO's recent work on this topic found that the number of disaster declarations increased from 65 in 2004 to 98 in 2011. The financial risk from the two primary Federal insurance programs—National Flood Insurance Program and the Federal Crop Insurance Program—are over $1 trillion. We paid over $60 billion on Hurricane Sandy recovery alone. And these are only the financial costs.

Hurricanes Irene and Lee swept through my district in 2012. I saw firsthand the suffering caused by these storms. The loss of human lives and the destruction of homes and communities exact a terrible cost on those who experience these devastating events.

We should be doing much more to spare our citizens from these experiences. With financial exposure of over $1 trillion and the known risks to individuals, communities, businesses, and infrastructure from climate and weather, it is absurd to claim that we are saving money by cutting $37 million from these programs.

We must do our part to ensure that future generations have the opportunities that our parents and grandparents secured for us. Past generations built this Nation through their willingness to tackling the challenges of their time, by believing in the future of this Nation, and by investing in it.

Climate change is real, and it will not have less impact if we pretend it isn't happening. We must stop ignoring this problem. We can choose to deny. We can bury our heads in the sand. When that sand is washed away, however, by climate change, it is over.

Climate research is vital to our national security, our food security, our economic security, and to our future as a Nation. We should continue this important research effort and use the knowledge gained from it to inform and implement an adaptive strategy.

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Chair, I rise also in support of the amendment offered by my dear friend from New Jersey, Dr. Holt. And I also want to echo the words of the gentleman from California, Representative FARR, in saying that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve in his company in the United States House of Representatives.

Madam Chair, average temperatures have risen across the contiguous 48 States since 1901, with an increased rate of warming over the past 30 years. Seven of the top 10 warmest years on record have occurred since just 1998. Tropical storm activity in the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean, and the Gulf of Mexico has increased during the past 20 years. In the past 2 years alone, extreme weather events resulted in 109 Presidential major disaster declarations, 20 events that each inflicted at least $1 billion in damage, 409 deaths, and $130 billion in economic losses in 44 States. All that was caused by these 20 events alone.

Every part of the Southwest experienced higher average temperatures between 2000 and 2013 than the long-term average dating back to 1895. Some areas were nearly two degrees warmer than average. We simply cannot afford to ignore this increasing threat in the future. In times like these, it would be irresponsible to cut funding for research dedicated to predicting future extreme weather events, but that is just what this legislation does.

Madam Chair, research is how we educate ourselves. And the familiar maxim to everyone is, if you think education is expensive, try ignorance.

The bill, as it stands, currently would cut $37.5 million from research on the effects of climate change, like tropical storms, floods, and droughts. That is why I support Dr. Holt's amendment, which would restore funding to the FY14 budget levels so that we can continue our research into these disasters and save the lives and businesses affected by climate change.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. POLIS. Madam Chair, I am very concerned with regard to the House CJS appropriations bill and the drastic cuts to climate research. The House bill provides for $69 million below the President's request and $37.5 million below the 2014 level. These cuts endanger our economy, our recovery, would harm our understanding of climate change, and will set scientists back years with regard to understanding our climate.

Climate research is critical for our economy. It provides us with forecasts beyond 2 weeks, including heat waves, hurricanes, droughts, and tornado predictions. Cutting these functions would negatively impact transportation, agriculture, commerce, and all industries that make important planning decisions based on these long-term forecasts. Cutting this important investment will hurt economic growth and destroy jobs in these critical sectors.

Based on climate research information, some examples of how it is used are: a cargo ship can reroute its course to circumvent a storm; a trucker can choose a different road to mitigate delays; or a water manager may restrict types of water use to plan for extended droughts, like we have had in Colorado these last few years.

The Second Congressional District of Colorado is home to two world-class universities—the University of Colorado at Boulder and Colorado State University at Fort Collins—in addition to the numerous Federal labs, collaborative institutes, and research institutions. I am proud to represent a community that has deep roots in science, with many scientists among my constituents, providing technology, research, and innovation in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors. Science is an incredibly important driver of economic growth in my district.

Federally funded research is a linchpin in helping our country understand and respond to the concerns of climate change, severe storms, drought, and fire risks. We need to invest more in climate research in order to plan for and respond to severe weather events and climate events, reducing damage and increasing economic growth. That is why, for the second year in a row, I was proud to lead an appropriations letter, along with 73 of my colleagues, requesting full funding for the NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Science. Climate research is an important part of this program.

I urge my colleagues to support climate research and restore critical funding to at least the 2014 levels, and hopefully more, so that we can have the very best science guiding our decisions, provided to companies in commerce, transportation, and agriculture, and employing the very best information that we have with regards to climate science.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

□ 2215

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Chairman, I join my colleagues tonight in opposition to the irresponsible cuts in this bill to vital climate research. The CJS mark slashes NOAA's climate research program by 24 percent below the fiscal year 2014 levels and 37 percent below the President's fiscal year 2015 request.

Does the majority think that with less climate research we can make better informed decisions? Does the majority think that with less climate research we can better prepare our communities for higher storm surges? Does the majority think with less climate research we can better understand why the Western United States has increased wildfires and water shortages? Does the majority think that with less climate research we can improve our predictions and responses in our planning for hurricanes? And, finally, does the majority think that with less climate research we can improve our ability to model regional weather pattern changes, which will affect the productivity of our agricultural sector?

Unfortunately, the majority's bill shortchanges our ability to realize all these vital benefits of climate research. If we hide our heads in the sand, the laws of physics will not change. We cannot wish away this problem. Denying a changing climate is not just another political position. It is a denial of reality.

I want to make this point to those in Congress who think the verdict is still out on whether human actions contribute to climate change. This is false, it is wrong, and it is misleading. The case is closed: climate change is happening, and humans are contributing.

Today, there is not a single scientific body of national or international standing that rejects the findings of human contribution to climate change—not one. To further make this point, let me share the latest work from researcher Dr. James Powell, a geochemist and 12-year member of the National Science Board who was appointed by both President Reagan and President George H.W. Bush.

Dr. Powell recently completed an update to his comprehensive study of the peer-reviewed literature on climate change. Dr. Powell found that of the 10,885 peer-reviewed scientific papers that were published on climate change in all of 2013, only two papers reject human contributions to climate change—two out of nearly 11,000. That is less than two-hundredths of 1 percent of all scientific journal papers published in 2013 that are peer reviewed rejected some form of human contribution to climate change.

This is not disagreement. This is not a divided scientific community. The reason for this is simple: there is no convincing scientific evidence against a human role in climate change. Period. End of discussion. Those that deny human contributions to climate change offer no compelling evidence to better explain the undeniable rise in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and accompanying rising global temperature.

The case is closed. We need to put this illusion of major scientific disagreement behind us and take action. We should be fully funding NOAA's climate research hopefully at the level requested by President Obama in his 2015 budget request.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this amendment.

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

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

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 13, line 21, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $9,000,000) (increased by $9,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Chair, I rise in support of increasing funding to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, to support its Integrated Ocean Acidification research line and fulfill the administration's requested funding level of $15 million in fiscal year 2015.

The administration's requested increase of funds for ocean acidification research reflects a growing consensus in both the scientific community and the coastal and fishing communities that I and so many of our colleagues represent that ocean acidification is already affecting marine organisms and could irreversibly alter the marine environment and harm our coastal ecosystems and economies.

On the west coast alone, a $270 million shellfish industry has experienced disastrous oyster production failures and near collapse in recent years because of changes in water conditions that have been attributed to ocean acidification. This change in chemistry is caused by carbon dioxide in the atmosphere dissolving into the ocean, and the increased acidity of the ocean is harming the basic building blocks for life in the ocean, making it more difficult for marine organisms to build their skeletons and shells, and slowing the formation of important ecosystem features such as coral reefs.

In the Pacific Northwest, for example, the combination of seasonal upwelling of acidic waters, low alkalinity, and increased anthropogenic CO_2 create some of the most corrosive ocean conditions in the world.

In just the last few years, the scientific community has been increasingly raising concerns about ocean acidification with policymakers. Researchers at Oregon State University have been working with the fishing community in Oregon to determine the impacts of acidification. They have been helping the shellfish industry, especially the hatcheries, assess the causes of oyster die-off and how to mitigate the harmful upwelling events through monitoring the water entering their facility. This exemplifies the kind of academic and industry partnerships that become possible when the Federal Government supports the academic research enterprise.

Funds provided by NOAA's Integrated Ocean Acidification research program will support extramural research awards that will fund studies on the impact of acidification in coastal, estuarine, coral reef, and shell environments. Not only will NOAA support studies on the impact of acidification, the agency runs the observing system that helps monitor areas experiencing increased acidity, and it also helps coastal communities and impacted industries develop adaptation strategies.

Now, my examples thus far have focused on the impact in Oregon and on the west coast, but, colleagues, this is important to everyone because it affects the whole shellfish industry. I know from working with my colleagues in the Pacific coast States that this is a problem that their constituents raise with them more frequently, and they point to it as an immediate threat to coastal economies. In conversations I've had with many constituents, the threat is made more immediate by how little is known about how these changes could impact the marine organisms and the people who depend on ocean resources for their livelihoods. This is why we need more information, and this is why we need NOAA's Integrated Ocean Acidification research program and why it needs more robust funding. The science community at large is still grappling with the extent and impact of changing ocean conditions.

The bill before us today is full of important priorities and accounts that could use more funding if we in Congress were able to provide it. Researchers at NOAA have indicated that even increasing the funding to $15 million does not provide them with enough resources to fully address a problem of this magnitude. But even a modest increase will go a long way to supporting our hard-hit coastal communities and industries and would better prepare communities to address the creeping threat of changing ocean chemistry.

Now, Madam Chair, at the appropriate time, I plan to withdraw my amendment, but I do hope that the chairman, the ranking member, and the committee will work with me on this important issue going forward, and I know there is at least one additional Member who wishes to speak on this issue.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARR. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. FARR. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this amendment and this concept. I want to thank the gentlewoman from the Northwest, Congresswoman BONAMICI, for introducing this amendment.

Look, this is a science bill, and there is a lot of discussion tonight on science, and a lot of it is on weather and climate. What generates the climate of this planet is the ocean, and we sometimes often overlook the importance that the ocean plays. Now, if we are killing the ocean, which some people think we are doing, because if you think about it, we have dumped everything we don't want on the mainland into the ocean, including nuclear waste and all kinds of other waste, we have caught everything that is in the ocean that is edible, and we have never found the balance. There is one industry that has, and that is the shellfish industry, which doesn't have to go out and just collect wild shellfish anymore. It is the fish farming industry, and it is a $270 million industry on the west coast.

Guess what is happening to that industry? The seawater that they use that is necessary has become acidic, and therefore the shells can't form. It is sort of like, remember what we were doing with DDT and you had eggshells from birds, pelicans, that couldn't get hard? And we eliminated the DDT. We got sensible about that.

Well, we have to get sensible about what we are going to do about ocean acidification. DON YOUNG, our colleague from Alaska, and I are working on a bill, on a substantive bill, for the policy of ocean acidification. But that policy can't be implemented unless the Department carries it out, which the amendment that the gentlewoman has introduced will allow it to do.

I don't know how to put this in any clearer terms, but if our water that we were trying to drink was getting so bad that it was killing people, we did something about it in Congress. We passed a national Clean Water Act that says that you can't do bad things to water that we use for beneficial purposes. When air was getting so bad that people were getting harmed by air, Congress enacted a national air pollution act—the Clean Air Act—and said we have to clean up the air. It certainly was a big impact in California with all the smog in southern California, and we tackled it. We invested money into it, we invested politics into it, and we cleaned up the air in the southern California basin—not perfectly, but it is certainly a lot better than it used to be.

So the point of it here is, look, if we don't pay attention to the ocean and what is happening to the chemistry of the ocean, in the long run our concerns about deficits, war, and pestilence around the world mean nothing because if that ocean gets so toxic, it kills us all, it kills all living things on Earth. Seventy-three percent of the planet is ocean.

So let's begin doing what we have done well in paying attention to clean air and clean water and start thinking about, what is it going to take to pay attention to clean oceans or do no harm or stop dumping into the oceans? Let's not kill one of Earth's life forms that is so important. And particularly, since we get so much sustenance from the oceans in the shellfish industry, let's not kill a private sector business that is managing itself well because we are not paying attention to acidification of our oceans.

So please adopt this amendment. If you are going to withdraw it, I hope we can work something out in conference to pay attention to this very important issue.

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment from our colleague from Oregon.

There has been a lot of talk tonight on both sides of the aisle about science. The point of science research is to teach us things that we don't already know. In fact, it was just a few years ago that science research showed something that we should have known but didn't, which was that our oceans were becoming acidic, that our oceans were becoming acidic to the point of damaging fisheries, damaging coral reefs, and damaging many of the things that we value and should value in this world of ours.

This is an important amendment, and although I understand that the gentlelady intends to withdraw it, I do hope that the chair will find some way to address her point as this bill goes through the legislative process, as I also hope the chair will find some way to address the point of my earlier amendment about NOAA climate research.

With that, expressing strong support for this amendment, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2230

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment be withdrawn.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Chair, in lieu of offering my amendment at the desk, I rise to engage in a colloquy with the chairman.

Madam Chairman, I rise to discuss with you the importance of our Nation's fisheries and, in particular, the survey of horseshoe crab populations along the Atlantic coast. The Delaware Bay supports the largest population of horseshoe crabs in the world.

This unique and ancient species is critical to not only the ecology of the Atlantic coast region, but to my State's economy as well.

Horseshoe crab eggs are a critical food source for migrating shore birds. An estimated 450,000 to 1 million of these shore birds visit Delaware Bay each year, along with them come birdwatchers who contribute to Delaware's tourism economy. Horseshoe crabs also provide bait for commercial American eel and conch fisheries along the coast.

Less well known is that horseshoe crabs are used for biomedical applications. Extract of horseshoe crab blood is used to ensure that injectable medications like intravenous drugs, vaccines, and medical devices are free of bacterial contamination.

While there are some indications that horseshoe crabs are thriving in the Delaware Bay, we need additional research about their migratory patterns and prevalence in other parts of the mid-Atlantic region.

Congress has, in the past, provided funding for comprehensive surveys of horseshoe crab populations. The data collected through these surveys allows the Atlantic coastal States to set annual quotas for the Delaware Bay region to protect both horseshoe crabs and migratory shore birds.

For a very small investment, we can generate the research necessary to ensure this critical species remains on a sustainable path.

Although I am withdrawing my amendment, I look forward to continuing to work with the Appropriations Committee on ways to improve funding for the science and data collection needed for surveys of horseshoe crab populations along the Atlantic coast.

Mr. WOLF. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CARNEY. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. I thank the gentleman for withdrawing the amendment. I understand how important the horseshoe crab is. I have been to Lewes, Delaware, many times; and I understand.

You make a very powerful point, but as the gentleman is aware, the bill before the House today includes $72 million for stock assessments, which is the same as the request, and a $3 million increase above the enacted level. We will continue to work with the gentleman, and I appreciate his comments.

Mr. CARNEY. I thank the gentleman and look forward to working more with the committee on this issue.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I concur with the chairman and look forward to working with the gentleman from Delaware on this issue of horseshoe crabs because they are critically important to both biomedical research and to the economy. We look forward to working with him as we go forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

For procurement, acquisition and construction of capital assets, including alteration and modification costs, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, $2,176,290,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, except that funds provided for construction of facilities shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the $2,189,290,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading, $2,176,290,000 is appropriated from the general fund and $13,000,000 is provided from recoveries of prior year obligations: *Provided further*, That any deviation from the amounts designated for specific activities in the report accompanying this Act, or any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years, shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in budget justification materials that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration procurement, acquisition or construction project having a total of more than $5,000,000 and simultaneously the budget justification shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated, $1,302,000 shall be transferred to the ''Office of Inspector General'' account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to satellite procurement, acquisition and construction.

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY

For necessary expenses associated with the restoration of Pacific salmon populations, $65,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That, of the funds provided herein, the Secretary of Commerce may issue grants to the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, and Alaska, and to the Federally recognized tribes of the Columbia River and Pacific Coast (including Alaska), for projects necessary for conservation of salmon and steelhead populations that are listed as threatened or endangered, or that are identified by a State as at-risk to be so listed, for maintaining populations necessary for exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, or for conservation of Pacific coastal salmon and steelhead habitat, based on guidelines to be developed by the Secretary of Commerce: *Provided further*, That all funds shall be allocated based on scientific and other merit principles and shall not be available for marketing activities: *Provided further*, That funds disbursed to States shall be subject to a matching requirement of funds or documented in-kind contributions of at least 33 percent of the Federal funds.

FISHERMEN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

For carrying out the provisions of title IV of Public Law 95–372, not to exceed $350,000, to be derived from receipts collected pursuant to that Act, to remain available until expended.

FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2015, obligations of direct loans may not exceed $24,000,000 for Individual Fishing Quota loans and not to exceed $100,000,000 for traditional direct loans as authorized by the Merchant Marine Act of 1936.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the management of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, including not to exceed $4,500 for official reception and representation, $54,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall maintain a task force on job repatriation and manufacturing growth and shall produce an annual report on related incentive strategies, implementation plans and program results.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 17, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 22, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,000,000)''.

Page 35, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,500,000)''.

Page 35, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,500,000)''.

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $19,500,000)''.

Page 46, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $19,500,000)''.

Page 70, line 17, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

Mr. THOMPSON of California (during the reading). Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Chair, I want to thank my friend, Mr. WOLF, for all of your years of outstanding service to this fine institution.

I rise in support of the bipartisan Thompson-King-Esty-Heck-Fitzpatrick amendment to strengthen the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Everyone agrees that we don't want criminals, domestic abusers, or dangerously mentally ill folks getting guns; and the first step in stopping this is through our background checks system, but the background checks system is only as good as the data you put in it.

Right now, all of the information isn't getting in. When the information doesn't get into the system, we can't enforce the law, and dangerous people who otherwise wouldn't pass a background check can slip through the cracks and buy guns.

A recent USA Today report found that, in just five States, records for 2.5 million fugitives weren't entered into the NICS system. Six States have fewer than 30 total records in the NICS system, and 12 States have submitted fewer than 100 mental health records to the NICS system.

When States fail to submit these records, there is nothing to stop a dangerously mentally ill person from passing a background check and buying a gun. This is exactly what happened in the tragedy at Virginia Tech.

My bipartisan amendment will address this dangerous shortfall. It provides an additional $19.5 million to help States improve their submissions into the criminal background checks system. It will bring NICS grant funding to $78 million.

Many people on both sides of the aisle have already voted to support funding at levels that are much higher. After the Virginia Tech shooting, Congress unanimously enacted legislation that authorized DOJ to provide up to $190 million per year to help States improve submissions into the NICS system.

The NRA supported it, too. In fact, Wayne LaPierre said:

> Our members don't want mental defectives and criminals buying handguns. We supported the background checks and support the money to make it work effectively.

Since the unanimous passage of this NICS improvement legislation, Congress hasn't come close to appropriating these funds. In FY 2013, Congress appropriated just $18 million.

Last year, we started to move in the right direction, increasing funding to almost $59 million. While this was a good bump, it wasn't enough because, also last year, almost $20 million in requests from States went unfunded.

Our States need more resources to get all their information into the NICS system. If we give them the resources, we can stop dangerous people from getting guns, and we can save lives.

Every day, our background checks system stops more than 170 felons, some 50 domestic abusers, and nearly 20 fugitives from buying a gun; but millions of dangerous purchasers could be passing background checks when they shouldn't be, all because States don't have the money they need to get records into the criminal background check system.

Madam Chair, this is dangerous. We can only stop criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill from getting guns if their information is in the system, so let's pass this amendment and give our States the resources they need to keep people safe.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. WOLF. I rise in strong support of the gentleman's amendment, and I thank him for taking the initiative and doing what he has done. Enforcing existing laws that keeps guns out of the hands of prohibited individuals is a goal we all share.

The bill already includes funding over 6 percent above the President's request for NICS grants. The level is $40 million above the fiscal year 2013 level. We can maybe even get it up higher than the gentleman has when we go to conference.

I think what he is doing is very important. I am going to ask for a roll call vote on this. I think it is very, very important. It is not enough to just talk about something; I think it is important we do it. I thank the gentleman and strongly support his amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. FATTAH. I rise in support of this amendment and thank the chairman for accepting it. I join with the chairman in asking for a recorded vote.

My home State, like many of our States, rushed forward with hundreds of thousands of names into the system after the Newtown shooting of 20 schoolchildren, but names that should have been in the system from the beginning.

So I think it is very important that, if we are going to have this system, that we have the information in it, and this amendment provides the resources, and none of the offsets are from the census account.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESTY. Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the Thompson-King-Esty-Heck amendment to increase funding for the National Instant Criminal Background Checks Systems (NICS).

The NICS database provides critical information on prospective firearms buyers, protecting the 2nd Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners. Information in the database is used to determine whether an individual is ineligible to purchase a firearm because they are a felon, a domestic abuser, or seriously mentally ill. The NICS database allows sellers to conduct criminal background checks to make sure firearms are not getting into the hands of people who may be a danger to the public or even themselves.

Unfortunately, many states do not have adequate funding and resources to submit the most recent and comprehensive data to the NICS database. Our amendment would increase funding for NICS by $19.5 million to meet the growing demand from states to responsibly update the database.

According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, criminal background checks have blocked more than 2.1 million illegal gun purchases, including more than 291,000 by domestic abusers. Background checks prevent more than 171 convicted felons from purchasing firearms every single day. These simple checks have saved countless lives in the past two decades, and it is essential that states have the necessary tools to prevent more tragedies in the future.

I thank my good friends Rep. MIKE THOMPSON, Rep. PETER KING, and Rep. JOE HECK for their outstanding partnership on this commonsense amendment. Their leadership proves that legislation to prevent gun violence and protect our families should not be a partisan issue. I urge all Members to support this commonsense amendment to save lives.

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

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

For necessary expenses for the renovation and modernization of Department of Commerce facilities, $4,000,000, to remain available until expended.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), $30,596,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 18, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $596,000)''.

Page 100, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $596,000)''.

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chair, this amendment would eliminate the increase of $596,000 for the Office of Inspector General under the Department of Commerce and apply that amount to the spending reduction account. This amendment has the support of the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight, Representative MAFFEI, as well.

As chairman of the House Science Oversight Subcommittee within the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I have had the unfortunate responsibility of discovering an incidence of whistleblower intimidation perpetrated by top-level agency employees at the Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General.

Consequently, the Office of Special Counsel was brought in to investigate these allegations of whistleblower retaliation.

The investigation in this particular case found that the counsel to the inspector general and the principal assistant inspector general for investigations and whistleblower protection had threatened whistleblowers with an ultimatum: to either sign an agreement to not ''disparage the agency to Congress and their staff, the Office of Special Counsel, and the media'' or have failing performance reviews added to their permanent files.

Unfortunately, the Office of Inspector General ignored these findings and took minimal action against these individuals. That is not enough.

As a result, I, along with all of the members of the subcommittee, sent a letter on April 1, 2014, to the Commerce IG demanding he immediately fire the two officials in question.

The inspector general responded by saying, in part, that the office had ''moved on.''

It is beyond hypocritical that the inspector general's office has conducted itself in this manner.

According to its website, the Office of Inspector General ''endeavors to detect and determine waste, fraud, and abuse'' throughout the Commerce Department and ''keep Congress fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies and the need for corrective action.''

□ 2245

As lawmakers, we depend on just and ethical inspectors general to protect taxpayers' interest and to hold Federal Government officials accountable to the law. Yet we can't depend on the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Commerce to even police its own, much less others who may seek to violate whistleblower protection laws. At the very least, we must refuse to increase the OIG's appropriation until corrective action is taken.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this nonpartisan amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I reluctantly rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Commerce IG performs an important oversight for the Department and for our subcommittee and committee.

I understand that the inspector general has asked the Integrity Committee of the Council of Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency for an objective review and recommendations concerning this matter taking into account all the facts; the OIG has implemented each of the corrective actions proposed by the Office of Special Counsel, and that those actions were accepted by the Office of Special Counsel to address concerns contained in its report as a result of its investigation. Further, I understand there was no testimonial or documentary evidence that the inspector general had committed any prohibition with regard to personnel. It appears also that the IG has asked the counsel—they call it the CIGIE—to further review this matter. Until that process is concluded, it could be premature to reduce the common inspector general funding.

Because of that, I rise in opposition to the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SEC. 101. During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations and funds made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act shall be available for the activities specified in the Act of October 26, 1949 (15 U.S.C. 1514), to the extent and in the manner prescribed by the Act, and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3324, may be used for advanced payments not otherwise authorized only upon the certification of officials designated by the Secretary of Commerce that such payments are in the public interest.

SEC. 102. During the current fiscal year, appropriations made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act for salaries and expenses shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343 and 1344; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902).

SEC. 103. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Commerce in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall notify the Committees on Appropriations at least 15 days in advance of the acquisition or disposal of any capital asset (including land, structures, and equipment) not specifically provided for in this Act or any other law appropriating funds for the Department of Commerce.

SEC. 104. The requirements set forth by section 105 of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55), as amended by section 105 of title I of division B of Public Law 113–6, are hereby adopted by reference and made applicable with respect to fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may furnish services (including but not limited to utilities, telecommunications, and security services) necessary to support the operation, maintenance, and improvement of space that persons, firms, or organizations are authorized, pursuant to the Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act of 1976 or other authority, to use or occupy in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Washington, DC, or other buildings, the maintenance, operation, and protection of which has been delegated to the Secretary from the Administrator of General Services pursuant to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis. Amounts received as reimbursement for services provided under this section or the authority under which the use or occupancy of the space is authorized, up to $200,000, shall be credited to the appropriation or fund which initially bears the costs of such services.

SEC. 106. Nothing in this title shall be construed to prevent a grant recipient from deterring child pornography, copyright infringement, or any other unlawful activity over its networks.

SEC. 107. The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is authorized to use, with their consent, with reimbursement and subject to the limits of available appropriations, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, or of any State, local government, Indian tribal government, Territory, or possession, or of any political subdivision thereof, or of any foreign government or international organization, for purposes related to carrying out the responsibilities of any statute administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 108. The Department of Commerce shall provide a monthly report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on any official travel to China by any employee of the U.S. Department of Commerce, including the purpose of such travel.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Commerce Appropriations Act, 2015''.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the administration of the Department of Justice, $103,851,000, of which not to exceed $4,000,000 for security and construction of Department of Justice facilities shall remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

Ms. MOORE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 22, line 25, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Ms. MOORE (during the reading). Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Wisconsin is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Madam Chair, my amendment adds $1 million to the Executive Office for Immigration Review, EOIR, and is offset through the Department of Justice salaries and expenses account.

Now, I really do want to acknowledge the committee for their great work in increasing funding for the EOIR for this fiscal year, but even with this increase, Madam Chair, funding is still woefully short of the President's request. This bill doesn't nearly go far enough to address the crisis our immigration courts face today.

This House has spared no expense—no expense—when it comes to throwing money at our failed enforcement-only immigration system. Since we are spending about $18 billion a year on enforcement, we are detaining and deporting immigrants at record levels. An estimated 1,000 deportations take place each day. Yet, Madam Chair, we have done little to nothing to ensure that our Nation's immigration courts keep up with that pace, let alone fix many of these problems. This is one more example to demonstrate why we should have passed comprehensive immigration reform this year.

But that having been said, this amendment seeks to address that disparity. This mismatch, Madam Chair, between immigration review resources and aggressive enforcement efforts has created a backlog of over 366,000 cases in our immigration courts. The average wait for a hearing is over 570 days.

Many justified—justified—immigration relief and asylum seekers can find themselves waiting years in limbo. And these unacceptable delays waste taxpayer dollars by keeping people in detention.

Moreover, our tradition of due process is in serious jeopardy. EOIR has been forced to do everything in its power to accommodate their dockets, but only so much can be done without sacrificing essential aspects of the court.

Now, Madam Chair, in February, a Washington Post article described the day-to-day world of one of our immigration courts, where a judge had, on average, 7 minutes to decide each case: 7 minutes to decide whether to deport a person who might be eligible for asylum because they could be killed if they are sent back to their home country; 7 minutes for a judge to decide if a child will grow up without that father or mother—7 minutes. One judge described it in testimony before Congress: It is like doing death penalty cases in a traffic court setting.

My amendment also highlights the need to fund and expand the Legal Orientation Program. This important program gives detainees basic legal information, makes our system more efficient, and strengthens due process.

About 41 percent of those awaiting hearings before an immigration judge don't have legal representation. Children, Madam Chair, would benefit from this. In March of 2014, a U.N. refugee agency report cited a strong link between instability and violence in the Americas region and the new displacement patterns of children fleeing northward. Yet these children, ranging from toddlers to teenagers, are so vulnerable, but they are less likely to have legal advice and counsel, our notion of guardian ad litem, to help them navigate the complex immigration laws. This is so important, Madam Chair. I hope we can work together to expand it.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I understand it takes a million from Attorney General Holder's office and puts it into the immigration area. I think she makes a powerful case. I have no objection.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. I concur with the gentleman's remarks.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Chair, I rise today to express my support for the fiscal year 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill and to thank Chairman WOLF for his steadfast service as chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

On behalf of the members of House Judiciary, I would like to express my gratitude for the cooperative spirit in which Chairman WOLF and the CJS Subcommittee has worked with us to ensure that many of the Judiciary Committee's concerns were addressed.

Funding for immigration courts, intellectual property rights, enforcement, and crime victims are just a few of the critical priorities addressed by the bill. I am pleased to say that the bill includes an increase in funding for the administrative review and appeals account. This increase will support much-needed additional immigration judge teams. I commend the committee for their efforts to allocate this funding, which is crucial to reducing the backlog of unadjudicated removal and asylum cases.

I also want to express my appreciation for language included to ensure that the Executive Office for Immigration Review will not use taxpayer funds to pay for attorneys for aliens in removal proceedings, except to the extent required by Federal court order.

This bill also increases funding available for crime victims by raising the cap on the crime victims fund, a mandatory account supported by criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, and special assessments, as opposed to appropriated funding.

Furthermore, I applaud Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for the extraordinary efforts shown throughout title II of this bill to prioritize the elimination of human trafficking, using all of the law enforcement components and tools of the Department of Justice.

This bill also maintains many important restrictions on the use of funds, such as a prohibition on the transfer or release of Guantanamo detainees into the U.S., the continuation of various provisions related to firearms, and limitations on the use of funds by the Legal Services Corporation.

The bill also provides $3.46 billion for the Patent and Trademark Office, an amount equal to the fees that are expected to be collected by the PTO in the coming fiscal year.

While I am disappointed that the bill includes no funds for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program, a program that was zeroed out as of fiscal year 2014, the House Judiciary Committee intends to examine this program further, including to potentially reauthorize this program.

In conclusion, I appreciate the efforts of Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH to work with the Judiciary Committee on this very important bill. I urge its support.

I also want to take a moment to personally thank Chairman WOLF for his service to this body and to the Commonwealth of Virginia. He has been a leading advocate for justice, human rights, and religious freedom, and his efforts have left an indelible mark on the Nation as well the world.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2300

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. SINEMA

Ms. SINEMA. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 38, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 40, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SINEMA. Madam Chair, the amendment today is a commonsense, budget-neutral amendment that provides colleges and universities with additional resources to prevent and respond to sexual violence on campus.

This amendment increases funding for the Department of Justice's grants to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on campus program by $1 million and offsets this increase by reducing DOJ general administration funding by the same amount.

Madam Chair, I offer this amendment because nearly one in five female undergraduate students report being sexually assaulted in college. According to the Department of Education, 60 higher education institutions across the country—including Arizona State University, which I represent—are under investigation for their handling of sexual violence and harassment complaints. We must do more to protect students and equip universities to respond appropriately to sexual assault on campus.

This amendment will allow more institutions of higher education to implement comprehensive, coordinated responses to sexual violence through the campus grant program.

The campus grant program was created by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 and reauthorized by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, a bill which I worked hard to pass.

Increasing funding to this vital program represents an important step in empowering victims of sexual assault and protecting both men and women on college campuses in Arizona and across the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Before I close, I want to thank the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. ROGERS, and the chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee, Mr. WOLF, and the ranking member, Mr. FATTAH, for working with me on this issue. Finally, I would like to thank Mr. WOLF for the years he has devoted to public service over the course of his very distinguished career.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chairman, I accept the amendment. I think it is a very good amendment. I congratulate the gentlelady from Arizona, and I urge a ''yes'' vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I rise again in support of this amendment. I join with the chairman.

I do note that this review has taken place at a number of universities, but none of these investigations have concluded and we don't know the exact facts. But we do know that young people on college campuses and in other circumstances are victimized. It is important that this program receive additional support.

I thank the gentlewoman for bringing this amendment to our attention, and I thank the chairman for accepting it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000) (increased by $5,000,000)''.

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Chair, first, I would like to reiterate the statement made by the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. GOODLATTE, and my appreciation for the service of Mr. WOLF from Virginia and the job that he has done for my years that I have been here for my years and beyond. As a member of the Judiciary Committee and this Congress, I very much appreciate FRANK WOLF's contribution to the well-being of this

country and the well-being of justice and compassion around the world that he has demonstrated.

The amendment that I offer this evening, Madam Chair, is an amendment that calls upon the Department of Justice to use $5 million from the general administration fund to investigate the discretionary enforcement decisions of the Department of Homeland Security concerning their release of—and I will go through a series of these numbers that catch my attention and should alarm Americans:

For 2013, potentially deportable aliens, ICE encountered 722,000, according to a report. They only charged 195,000. That means they released 527,000 potentially deportable aliens.

Of the criminal aliens they encountered, they released 68,000 criminal aliens. That was 35 percent of the criminal aliens that they encountered. Roughly another 195,000 encountered; 68,000 released. That is with no charges, Madam Chair. Some will say that is under the DACA provisions. I will say that the President has no constitutional authority to create groups of people that are exempt from the law—DACA standing for Deferred Action for Criminal Aliens, in this case, Madam Chair. It is not prosecutorial discretion.

Deportable aliens released on the streets now—they are on the ICE docket for removal, but they are on the streets—870,000; 36,007 criminal aliens released pending deportation—36,007. Of those are 88,000 convictions all together in a variety of crimes from murder to kidnapping, arson, sexual assault, extortion, robbery, burglary, assault, and many others. We know this: that for a long period of time, about 15 years on average, 76 percent of these criminals released do not show up for their final removal hearing. That means 27,000 of the 36,000 will abscond. The administration will say: Well, we had to release these criminals, these murderers and sexual assaulters and kidnappers, we had to release them because of a Supreme Court decision in about 2001 called the Zadvydas v. Davis decision.

In that the Supreme Court held that we couldn't retain an individual who was being deported when the home country wouldn't accept that individual. But that is only 3,000 of the 36,000 that would be under the Zadvydas decision. That is 8 percent. The other 92 percent could have, and should have, been removed from this country—193 homicide convictions of the 36,000. So when the gentlelady from Wisconsin laments 1,000 deported today, there is about every other day—more often than every other day—there is a murderer released on the streets under this policy that we are getting out of the Department of Homeland Security and ICE.

So my request is that $5 million out of this administrative budget be directed to investigating the actions of the Department of Homeland Security and coming back with an analysis of what is going on and why that we have so many criminals released onto the streets of America: 193,000 murderers in 1 year alone; 426,000 who have committed sexual assault; 303 kidnapping convictions; 1,075 aggravated assaults, on down the line; 16,070 drunk or drug drivers released. And here is the kicker, Madam Chair: 303 were released to have been convicted of flight escape. They had broken out of jail, convicted for breaking out of jail, put them back in jail, and released them again to save them the trouble of having to break out of jail again.

These are the kind of things that I would ask the Department of Justice to take a look into because their mission statement says that they are to enforce the law, ensure public safety, control crime, and seek punishment for those who violate the laws. It is de facto amnesty that is going on in the Department of Homeland Security. It is very consistent with the Department of Justice's mission statement that they look into these actions.

Let's protect the American people from criminals being poured loose on the street by the tens of thousands. I don't lament so much 1,000 deportations a day as I do 193 murderers turned loose in a year. I would point out to the gentlelady that if the deportations in this country exceeded the illegal entries, we wouldn't have this issue of illegal immigration in America.

I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I thank my colleague from Iowa for offering his amendment. I oppose it.

I would hope that we would usher in the day in which the House would take up comprehensive immigration reform. The President has acted, the Senate has acted. The people's House should vote on this matter so that we can come to some conclusion on these issues. We are not going to handle it in a piecemeal fashion, but I think that it is clear that there is enough concern in our country. The Chamber of Commerce says we need to do immigration reform. Every responsible organization has spoken out on this, all of our religious leaders have spoken out.

The United States Congress has the responsibility not to run from this issue but to stand up and vote and be counted. I hope one day the gentleman from Iowa will have an opportunity to vote on comprehensive immigration reform, and I hope that the people in my district will have a chance to see me vote on this. The House should not delay any longer.

This is an appropriations bill. We are not in the business of immigration reform on this bill. We are just trying to run the bare bones of the United States Government. I hope one day we will come back to this issue appropriately.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 48, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Madam Chair, I rise tonight to offer an amendment to H.R. 4660, which would increase funding for Veterans Treatment Courts.

Our Nation's heroes are returning home from over a decade of war with the invisible wounds that come with multiple deployments and military service to our Nation. I am concerned that the effects of posttraumatic stress and TBI have led to a rise in substance abuse among our veterans, which in turn too often leads to criminal activity.

This has led to an increase in veterans being incarcerated by our justice system without addressing the mental health counseling they need after their service to our country.

My simple amendment would increase funds for Veterans Treatment Courts by $1 million. Treatment courts are designed to address fundamental problems with our troubled veterans who have succumbed to substance abuse and have gotten in trouble with the law. These courts are designed to provide mental health counseling that focuses on rehabilitation and sobriety, and works with veterans to address the reasons for their criminal behavior. Veterans Treatment Courts provide our veterans with long-term solutions versus short-term punishment.

In January, I visited a Veterans Treatment Court in Ventura County. They are doing an amazing job with a team of professionals really truly saving one life at a time and providing a last chance for our veterans. Rather than arresting and jailing veterans for a few days or weeks, only to return them to the same type of life, the Ventura County collaborative court connects veterans to needed treatment and

services, which may include mental health care, drug and alcohol treatment, vocational rehabilitation, or other life skills services and programs.

The process begins with a guilty plea and in-court meeting involving the veteran, his or her attorney, and a VA representative. I was very impressed with the care that the court officers and volunteers extended to veterans who found themselves before the court.

In Ventura County, Judge Toy White has been a real champion of the veterans court and has put together a very successful and effective program.

However, the Ventura County court is just one example of many of a Veterans Treatment Court. I believe we need to increase Federal resources to these critical programs nationwide, which is what my amendment seeks to accomplish.

It is our obligation to ensure our veterans receive the appropriate attention to their needs and that we do whatever we can to help them transition to an independent civilian life.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support my amendment to rehabilitate veterans who have gotten in trouble with the law and help them secure a strong future.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chairman, this is a good amendment. We accepted Mr. NUGENT's amendment earlier this evening, I think for $2 million. For this we accept the amendment.

I urge a ''yes'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 2315

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,500,000)''.

Page 74, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,500,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from West Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Before I get to my remarks, let me join in the thanks for Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH and for their staffs for all of the hours that they put in here tonight. I have sat here and listened to all of these amendments. I have appreciated the patience you all have exhibited through this.

Madam Chairman, many small businesses around the country are struggling to compete against unfair, low-priced foreign imports. They are intimidated by the cost of the legal challenge to push back. The intent and purpose of this amendment is simple. It transfers $1.5 million to the International Trade Commission to provide legal and technical assistance to small businesses seeking a remedy.

Time and time again, small businesses are losing business against unfair, low-cost imports that flood this country. Something needs to be done. Small businesses need help.

They don't have access to the same legal resources as larger companies, and they can't afford the cost to file a claim against large state-supported industries like we find in China.

In West Virginia, we have one particular company that manufactures glass lead-free marbles. The company has fewer than 50 employees, and it has asked our office a very simple question: When the average cost to file an antidumping claim is between $1 million and $2 million, how can a small manufacturer afford access to justice?

The Federal Government provides pro bono attorneys in criminal cases for those who can't afford representation. Why not offer something similar to our small businesses facing unfair dumping competition?

On two occasions last year, this particular company had the opportunity to bid on significant contracts that would have allowed it to hire back laid-off workers, plus add an additional 20 people. Both times, the company was knocked out by questionable Chinese competition.

A recent contract was offered for 300 million marbles per year. That contract would have guaranteed 300 days of production for hardworking Americans. Again, a Chinese company undercut them unfairly.

Unfortunately, we have seen this story before with Chinese currency manipulation and State subsidies that have crushed our tin, rebar, and hot rolled steel industries, among others. The ITC must have the tools to protect our small businesses, and this amendment is a step in the right direction.

Let's be clear, Madam Chairman. Do we want to keep talking about jobs? Or do we want to do something about it? Supporting this amendment will be an immense help for small employers in fighting back against unfair trade.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of this amendment. The gentleman from West Virginia is exactly right.

One of the frustrating things to keep in mind is that, in China, there are 24 Catholic bishops under house arrest, and nobody seems to care. There are big law firms in Washington that represent the Chinese Government, and nobody seems to care.

They have plundered Tibet, and yet American companies have to go up against American law firms that are paid for by Chinese filthy money, so I think it is a very good amendment. I would have made it double the amount, but we will try to add that when we get to conference. I accept the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this amendment and its goals, and I agree with the spirit of the chairman on this matter.

I do want to note that we went through a series of amendments in which we cut the general administrative accounts at the Department of Justice, and there will be a day of reckoning as there was with the Census Bureau. It has nothing to do with your amendment, but we do have to fund those accounts.

This is what happens when you have an allocation that is squeezed: the offsets all start to sound pretty familiar. The last three or four amendments have all been related to cutting money from these general accounts. They are good amendments, and this is a good amendment, so I stand in support of it.

I just want the House to take note that, at some point, we will have to reconcile these figures and conference with the Senate in that we will have to be funding for these general accounts at DOJ.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM OF NEW MEXICO

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

Page 45, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

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

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Thank you, Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH, for your leadership and tireless work on this bill.

Madam Chairman, my amendment would add $2 million to the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act programs. This will partially restore these programs to presequestration levels and provide desperately needed funding for increasing the collaboration between our Nation's criminal justice and mental health systems.

My amendment is offset by the Department of Justice's general administration account. While I recognize the importance of funding the DOJ, this amendment amounts to less than two-tenths of 1 percent of DOJ's total administrative budget.

Even though this $2 million investment is modest, it will have a tremendous impact on existing State and local law enforcement agencies all across the country to provide a broad range of mental health services, including mental health courts, mental health and substance abuse treatment, rehabilitation and community reentry services, and training for State and local law enforcement to help them identify and improve responses to people with mental illnesses.

I want to particularly express my support for crisis intervention training for State and local police officers, which receives funding through the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act.

Officer encounters with mentally ill individuals during crises too often end in tragedy. Crisis intervention training can help prevent injuries to officers, alleviate harm to the person in crisis, promote the decriminalization of individuals with mental illness, and reduce the stigma associated with mental disorders.

We can all agree that the mental health and criminal justice systems in this country are failing the American people. Focused more on prosecution than on prevention and rehabilitation, jail is often used as a de facto holding area for the mentally ill.

The Department of Justice estimates that 64 percent of local jail inmates and 56 percent of State inmates have symptoms of severe mental illness.

Without treatment, rehabilitation, and community reentry services, these individuals are much more likely to spend their lives in and out of the prison system. In fact, 81 percent of mentally ill inmates in State prison and 79 percent of mentally ill inmates in local jails have had prior convictions.

Considering that it takes more money to keep a person in jail for a year than to send him or her to college, we cannot afford to do nothing.

I believe my amendment is in the spirit of this bill's goal of investing in prevention and rehabilitation in order to reduce recidivism and long-term incarceration costs.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and ensure that our criminal justice and mental health systems have the funds that they need to serve this country's most vulnerable people.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, we have already increased this, but I think it is meritorious, so I have no objection to the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. COFFMAN

Mr. COFFMAN. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,044,445)''.

Page 26, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Madam Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to the Justice appropriation that would plus-up the account for salaries and expenses by $1 million for the United States Attorneys' Office and make an offsetting decrease in the amount appropriated for general administration.

The first reason I offer this amendment is to acknowledge that, over the past couple of years, the United States Attorneys' Office has devoted substantial resources in the successful prosecution of numerous individuals for the fraudulent use of the service-disabled, veteran-owned small business preference program.

My subcommittee worked diligently to bring attention to this type of fraud to the VA Office of the Inspector General and to get its commitment to pursue these cases.

A recent case involved a joint VA OIG-FBI investigation of a sham company set up as a passthrough to secure almost $13.5 million in set-aside contracts that rightfully should have gone to a business owned by a qualified service-disabled veteran.

Victimizing veterans must not be tolerated. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I want to see these investigations and prosecutions continue.

Second, I anticipate a serious need for investigative and prosecutorial resources, going forward, nationwide, as a result of the burgeoning scandal involving the manipulation of appointment scheduling records at VA medical facilities.

My subcommittee has been investigating problems with appointment scheduling, consult delays, and timely health care for over 3 years. Lists with true wait times are being kept off the official books. According to these sources, as many as 40 veterans may have died while waiting for an appointment at the Phoenix medical center.

Upon this discovery, the full committee chairman, JEFF MILLER, immediately called for an in-depth criminal investigation by the VA OIG at all medical centers where such schedule manipulation, appointment delays, and preventable deaths may be occurring.

The VA has had knowledge of the intentional manipulation of appointment schedules and the falsification of official records since at least 2010, when an internal memorandum warned of the use of as many as 17 different scheduling schemes. Such manipulation occurs because scheduling delays negatively affect a performance metric used for bonuses at the VA.

In an interim report issued today, the VA OIG confirmed that the manipulation of appointment schedules persist, and they substantiated that significant delays in access to care have negatively impacted the quality of care at the Phoenix medical center.

Further, they indicated that they opened investigations at 42 other VA medical facilities across the Nation. We do not yet know the full extent of the scandal, including how many veterans have died while waiting for an appointment with the VA.

As with every scandal, I am very concerned that additional crimes may be committed during the coverup. I have instructed my investigators to continue to pursue leads in furtherance of the committee's congressional oversight duties.

□ 2330

In this role, we have received credible allegations from numerous employees that multiple VA supervisors are instructing them to destroy evidence and are dictating what to say to OIG investigators. These allegations are being referred to the OIG for criminal investigations.

Given the scope of the problems and the seriousness of the allegations, I strongly urge passage of this amendment to provide additional money to the U.S. Attorneys' Offices who will be tasked with the difficult job of pursuing investigations and prosecuting the crimes related to this national scandal unfolding at the VA.

When our servicemembers are deprived of the quality health care that they have earned, we must demand justice from those who are found responsible.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. I support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognize for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. The gentleman moved back and forth from the original allegations to today's report from the inspector general, but left out some very important points, and I want to make sure the House is operating from full information.

The allegation that veterans died for a lack of care was not proven by today's report. In fact, the inspector general said today they have no ability to determine this issue.

The actual whistleblower who made this allegation in the first place was on FOX News on Sunday and said that he had no ability to tie the death to the delay.

I think we don't want to create a situation where we don't have veterans seeking care based on misinformation.

So what I want to do is just take a minute and make sure the House is aware that under every analysis, the care at the VA is good or excellent. This is from the actual veterans' care organizations and their testimony before the Congress, House, and Senate.

In fact, today, I had a young woman who was a paralyzed Vietnam war veteran. She walked into my office. She is involved in a spinal cord program at the Bronx VA that has got her up and walking. It is part of the ReWalk system.

She was first denied some benefits because her autoimmune deficiency was caused by agent orange, and that had been denied for many years. But under General Shinseki, they have allowed this. And now, because she had more than a 50 percent disability, a quality wheel chair and other access.

I want to make this point clear. One is that no one anywhere has found that some veteran died because of a lack of service. It has not been proven. It is an allegation. There is an investigation. And we should see the investigation to its conclusion. But the one thing we don't want to do is create a situation where veterans who need care don't pursue it. And especially in spinal cord and in terms of artificial limbs and traumatic brain injury, there is no better care that our veterans can get than at the VA.

So I just want to make this point that we are not dealing with the substance of the amendment, but that on the facts of this investigation the House would be well served to let us have an investigation and then let us react to what the facts are.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of the gentleman's amendment, because as the Congress has learned today in the VA inspector general's report, quoting directly from that report:

> The inspector general's review at a growing number of VA medical facilities has confirmed that inappropriate scheduling practices are systemic throughout veterans health administration.
>
> To date, our work has substantiated serious conditions at the Phoenix health care system.

And as my colleague said, they have initiated reviews at 42 others. They have already identified an additional 1,700 veterans waiting for primary care appointments but who were not on the electronic waiting list. Until that happens, the inspector general states, the wait time is not even started.

This report is deeply, deeply disturbing, and as it comes to those individuals, my good friend from Pennsylvania is correct, there are no conclusions yet drawn about whether or not anyone died as a result of being denied access to the VA because the inspector general doesn't have enough evidence yet.

As he says in the report:

> We are not reporting the results of our clinical reviews as to whether or not someone may have as a result of a delay died or been adversely affected while on a waiting list.

To quote the inspector general:

> These assessments need to draw conclusions based on analysis of medical records, death certificates, and autopsy results. We have made requests to appropriate State agencies and issued subpoenas to obtain those records. They are gathering the information.

The gentleman's amendment is an attempt to add additional funding to the Department of Justice to pursue criminal investigations and pursue criminal charges. I sincerely hope that that does not come to pass, but we have a report right in front of us today that tells us it is headed in that direction.

The inspector general has said in this, again, preliminary report, they find that inappropriate scheduling practices are a systemic problem nationwide in the Veterans Affairs Department.

It is just appalling and unacceptable.

The VA staff at two VA medical facilities deleted consults without full consideration of the impact to patients. Multiple schedulers described to us a process they use that essentially overrides appointments to reduce the reported waiting times.

The inspector general found out that at the Phoenix health care center certain audit controls were not even enabled. This limited the ability of the Veterans Affairs Department and the inspector general to determine whether any malicious manipulation of the electronic medical records occurred.

Somebody turned off—or didn't even turn on—the audit controls that would allow a criminal investigation to determine whether or not there was a malicious intent.

This is outrageous. It is unacceptable. As chairman of the Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee I assure you that our subcommittee—I know Chairman MILLER and your subcommittee and the United States Congress—is going to devote every resource, every tool, every asset at our disposal to assure veterans are given immediate access to health care. They have earned it. They deserve it. They are going to get right in immediately, whether it is a VA hospital or another hospital.

We are going to fix this problem and make sure that those that are on the waiting list are taken care of immediately. And those who have been denied care—God forbid somebody died as a result of being denied care—that is going to result in criminal charges, which is what the gentleman's amendment is intended to do—to make sure the Attorney General has the resources to follow the facts where they may lead.

We need to be careful to follow the facts. But I am quoting directly from the report. This is absolutely unacceptable. It is outrageous. This is the opportunity during this debate on this bill to add additional resources to the Attorney General's office so they can hire the investigators and attorneys that are necessary—when this inspector general's report is final—to pursue criminal charges, if they are merited.

So I strongly support the gentleman's amendment. This is another arrow in our quiver to do everything in our power to protect the health and well-being of the men and women of this country who have served us so well in defending our freedom and our prosperity.

I urge all of us to support the chairman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses for information sharing technology, including planning, development, deployment and departmental direction, $25,842,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Attorney General may transfer up to $35,400,000 to this account, from funds available to the Department of Justice for information technology, for enterprise-wide information technology initiatives: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority in the preceding proviso is in addition to any other transfer authority contained in this Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

On page 22, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert: ''(reduced by $2,500,000)''.

On page 34, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert: ''(reduced by $500,000)''.

On page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert: ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

On page 48, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert: ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, let me thank our ranking member, Mr. FATTAH, for his tremendous leadership on the subcommittee. Also, I want to thank Chairman WOLF, first of all, for your years of service and for so much of your hard work on this bill and so many other issues. We have worked together for so many years. Your legacy

in this body will continue for many, many years. You have made such a positive impact on the lives of so many people, not only in our own country, but throughout the world. So thank you again for your service.

Let me thank also our staff on both sides of the aisle for their assistance, for their support, their very astute understanding of this bill, and for helping us put together this amendment, which is really very simple, and hopefully Members on both sides of the aisle can support.

It would increase funding for Second Chance Act programs by $3 million, offset from the justice information sharing technology and the Bureau of Prison salaries account.

I have to once again thank the chair and Ranking Member FATTAH for funding the Second Chance Act to the President's request in this bill.

Now, more than ever, we need strong investments in bipartisan and proven effective programs like the Second Chance Act. Congressman DANNY DAVIS from Illinois has been such a leader on this issue and has fought for many, many years to make sure that Second Chance Act not only is authorized, but it is funded.

At a time when our Nation incarcerates its citizens at the highest rate in the world, the fact of the matter is this program needs very strong support.

In 2009, there were over 1.6 million inmates incarcerated in the United States. That is one in every 199 United States residents. If you include those housed in local jails, that number increases to 2.2 million.

We also need to acknowledge the disparate impact that mass incarceration has on communities of color. In 2011, 1 in 13 Black males ages 30 to 34 were in prison, along with 1 in 36 Hispanic males. That number is 1 in 90 for White males.

This is an issue that tears at our communities and our families each and every day.

Unfortunately, we know that more than half of the inmates who are released from prison who have served their time are re-incarcerated within 3 years.

So we need to lower these unacceptable recidivism rates by addressing the overwhelming obstacles faced by the reentry population. That is exactly what the Second Chance Act does, by providing grants to State and local governments as well as nonprofit organizations who are working to improve outcomes for people returning to communities from incarceration.

This also increases public safety and actually reduces the burden on taxpayers.

The Second Chance Act grants funds for comprehensive and coordinated services in employment, housing, education, substance abuse, mental health, and family counseling.

Since becoming the law, the Second Chance Act has authorized nearly 600 grants that have been awarded to local governments and nonprofit organizations in 49 States. For example, in my own district in the city of Oakland, a program known as Comprehensive Community Cross System Reentry Support brings together government and nonprofit partners to reengage youth in school after leaving a juvenile detention center.

Also, in my home district, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office has implemented Operation My Home Town, which provides pre- and post-release services to inmates at the Santa Rita Jail, the fifth-largest county jail in the Nation.

These are just a couple of examples of the hundreds of successful programs that have helped previously incarcerated individuals get back on their feet during a very difficult time. These programs work in our district.

This is a bipartisan bill, a bipartisan program. I know that there is support for this program and reforming our prison system on both sides of the aisle.

This is also a fiscal issue. It is one that has economic implications. It is also a humanitarian issue.

So I urge ''yes'' on this amendment.

Once again, I want to thank the chair, ranking member, and our staffs for your assistance and leadership.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2345

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. I think it is a good amendment, and I accept the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. FATTAH. That being granted, I also think it is a great amendment and from a great Member. I thank the chairman for agreeing to it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPEALS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the administration of pardon and clemency petitions and immigration-related activities, $335,000,000, of which $4,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the Executive Office for Immigration Review fees deposited in the ''Immigration Examinations Fee'' account: *Provided*, That, of the amount provided, not to exceed $10,000,000 is for the Executive Office for Immigration Review for courthouse operations, language services and automated system requirements and shall remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

Mr. COHEN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 25, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

Page 34, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Chair, this is a very logical amendment that I hope will be accepted. What this does is it takes a program that the Department of Justice announced last week, that I have been encouraging the President and the Attorney General to engage in, and that is to expand the clemency department in the Department of Justice, so that individuals who are unjustly incarcerated can appropriately be recommended to the President for commutations and/or pardons.

This Congress passed the fairness in sentencing law a few years ago. The President signed it in 2010, and it corrected what we found were errors in the judgment of this Congress in the way it incarcerated people and the distinctions of cocaine and crack and found that it had a disparate impact and an illogical impact on African Americans, that cocaine and crack are basically the same drug.

For years, it was a 100 to 1 ratio in the quantity, working against what was considered a drug more likely to be used by African Americans than Caucasians. The fact is that each drug is equal in its pernicious effects on society, and that 100 to 1 ratio was wrong. We changed it to 18 to 1. It should be equal, but we changed it to 18 to 1.

Accordingly, for the first time probably in the history of this body and maybe any legislative body, sentences were reduced, which means that the public policy of the United States of America is now that those people are being unjustly incarcerated.

It was only passed in a prospective and not a retroactive fashion, which it should have been, because public policy shows they are being unjustly incarcerated.

The President has seen the need to have more commutations and pardons. It costs us $30,000 a year to incarcerate an individual, and if people are in there on sentences that are void against public policy, they should be released. They should have a commutation when they have served their time according to the law that has existed in this country from 2010 to the present.

It would reunite them with their families, get them back into society, and save the public the cost of incarcerating them.

So what this particular amendment would do is take just $2 million from the Bureau of Prisons, which has a budget in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Their budget is $7 billion, with a $121 million increase.

It would take $2 million from the Bureau of Prisons which is one three-hundred-fiftieth of what the Bureau of

Prisons gets, to put that money, not into the Bureau that would have these people where they are incarcerated unjustly, but to give the money to the Department of Justice, where they can ascertain which individuals should appropriately be recommended for commutations and save money for society and reunite people with their loved ones and give them freedom—freedom, which is so important—and liberty.

Now, I know some of the amendments have been talked about and they said: well, we don't want to put any of the people in the Bureau of Prisons at risk.

I would submit to you that by taking $2 million from the Bureau of Prisons and allowing more people to be recommended for commutations, there would be less people in prison, less need for those personnel, and less likely of having any problems.

Beyond that, the Bureau of Prisons would see to it that $2 million didn't come from areas where prison guards would be endangered. They could take that from personnel. They could take it from management. They could take it from administration. They could take it even from the areas where the prisoners get their clothing or their food or whatever they get.

I assure you that $2 million will not jeopardize a single member of the Bureau of Prisons, but it will give people freedom and liberty, at $30,000 a year for the taxpayers.

So I would hope that we could approve this, give this newly invigorated Department of Justice office for commutations $23 million to hire more attorneys to make sure they make the right decisions and they make plentiful decisions to give people liberty and save the taxpayers money.

I would ask for a positive vote, and thank you for the opportunity to present this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I oppose the amendment.

Chairman GOODLATTE, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who was here and just left, strongly opposes the amendment.

There is no authorization. There is no appropriation. Congress never approved it. It is almost like an executive order out of nowhere.

Again, so the chairman of the full committee, we try to work closer together. We have had a better relationship than we have had for a long time.

The authorizers oppose it, and so I strongly oppose it and ask for a ''no'' vote on the amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I oppose the offset. I do not oppose the notion that we should have a more robust clemency approach in our country. I commend the administration for this, and I hope that we can find a way to provide more support.

I don't agree with the gentleman's math, that $2 million cut from any number of other places in the Bureau of Prisons would be just fine. I know these accounts pretty well, and I have some concerns about that.

I do think that in a $28 billion investment or spending in the Department of Justice in total, clearly, there are dollars that could be used so that innocent people in our country, or those who have deserved to have some relief, can appropriately apply for clemency.

I will be glad to work with the gentleman on this as we go forward.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, $88,000,000, including not to exceed $10,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Parole Commission as authorized, $13,308,000.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

For expenses necessary for the legal activities of the Department of Justice, not otherwise provided for, including not to exceed $20,000 for expenses of collecting evidence, to be expended under the direction of, and to be accounted for solely under the certificate of, the Attorney General; and rent of private or Government-owned space in the District of Columbia, $893,000,000, of which not to exceed $20,000,000 for litigation support contracts shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed $9,000 shall be available to INTERPOL Washington for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for litigation activities of the Civil Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to ''Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities'' from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, such sums as may be necessary shall be available to the Civil Rights Division for salaries and expenses associated with the election monitoring program under section 8 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973f) and to reimburse the Office of Personnel Management for such salaries and expenses: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading for the election monitoring program, $3,390,000 shall remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLEMING

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

On page 23, line 24 after ''893,000,000'' add ''(reduce by $866,000)''.

On page 100, line 17, after ''$0'', add ''(increase by $866,000)''.

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Chairman, I want to thank my good friend, Chairman WOLF, for all the many years of service he has provided and the great work he is doing on this appropriation.

My amendment simply reduces the Department of Justice's general legal account by $866,000, specifically targeting the Deputy Attorney General's office until the Attorney General enforces the Controlled Substances Act, as well as the Bank Secrecy Act.

My amendment does not reduce the enforcement funding available to DOJ, but rather decreases available funding for the salaries of individuals who are delineating ways to evade Federal law.

Madam Chairman, it is with growing alarm that we see this administration selectively executing and enforcing Federal law.

The CSA sets forth five classifications or schedules for controlled substances. Marijuana, along with heroin and LSD, are schedule I drugs without accepted medical purpose and which have a high potential for abuse. Smoking marijuana remains a Federal offense, and growers and distributors could and should be prosecuted.

Despite DOJ's responsibility to uphold the CSA as the law of the land, over the last few months, the Department of Justice has issued several memos suggesting ways for States like Colorado and Washington to evade Federal law and Federal law enforcement and encouraging other States to follow suit with decriminalization and potentially legalization.

Any Google search will tell you that the first of eight Federal priorities outlined in Deputy Attorney General James Cole's August 2013 is being run roughshod in Colorado.

Kids are quickly gaining access to marijuana. News accounts from Colorado describe elementary children selling pot at school.

In February of this year, both the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury outlined ways for banks and other financial institutions to circumvent Federal law, in effect, giving tacit approval for financially facilitating the marijuana industry.

Madam Chairman, I don't have time to delve into all of the negative issues regarding health care and marijuana, but it is vitally important for my colleagues to remember that the scientific facts and recent studies all point to the fact that marijuana is highly addictive, is closely linked to altered brain development; schizophrenia; mental illness; heart complications; lower IQ; and impairs attention, judgment, and memory functions.

I would like to close by reading the following statement from the Drug Enforcement Agency's DEA May 2014 booklet on the ugly truth about marijuana:

> Legalization of marijuana, no matter how it begins, will come at the expense of our children and public safety. It will create dependency and treatment issues and opens the door to use of other drugs, impaired health, delinquent behavior, and drugged drivers.

I think the DEA got it right. It is time for the rest of the Justice Department to do their job and enforce current U.S. law that recognizes marijuana's devastating impact on our children and society.

I am hopeful that my amendment will encourage DOJ to take steps necessary to correct any misunderstanding regarding the Federal enforcement of the CSA and the BSA. I now urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I support the gentleman's amendment.

I was just reading the dangers and consequences of marijuana abuse. What is happening to our country? I saw a report today in The Hill newspaper, ''Buyers' remorse on marijuana?'' The growers in Mexico are not growing marijuana now. They are going into the poppy business because they are now doing it in Colorado.

I cast the deciding vote against smoking on airplanes, and now we are encouraging or allowing people to use marijuana?

I think the gentleman is right. And I have been disappointed in the Justice Department because, you know, we should follow the law. The law is the law, and I think the gentleman is right. You are seeing the skirting of the law. There is much more. We are going to have a big debate tomorrow, I guess, on this whole issue a little bit differently than this.

But I think the gentleman is right. The law is the law, and the Justice Department should be seeking justice and enforce the law. If they don't like the law, they should come up here to Congress and change the law. Reasonable people can debate it and have differences. But I think the gentleman makes a very powerful point, and I strongly support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Chair, as we near the midnight hour, as Wilson Pickett would say: In the midnight hour, we drift off to ''Reefer Madness'' type of logic.

We saw ''Reefer Madness'' in the thirties, and it has come back to Congress here 80-some-odd years later.

The fact is we are not talking about marijuana for children. Children shouldn't be doing marijuana, nor should they be smoking tobacco, nor should they be drinking beer or alcohol. We are talking about adults, and we are talking about: Should adults who are behaving according to the laws in the States in which they live—and the States passed certain laws in Colorado and Washington concerning legalization, and in 20-some-odd States and the District of Columbia passed medical marijuana laws. Should those people who abide by the laws of the State, the laws that are closest to them, that some on the other side of the aisle would regularly say we should defer to the States and we should let the States set the policies for everybody—we do that on a lot of things, but we sometimes don't do it on these particular issues.

The fact that people are being incarcerated in great numbers and losing their liberty and having a scarlet ''M'' put on their chest that denies them public housing on occasions, denies them scholarships, and denies them opportunities to work is wrong. Even if you take the arguments that the gentleman on the other side of the aisle makes, if you accept them, it still doesn't fit the punishment, the lifetime scarlet letter that you put on an individual.

Mr. FLEMING. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COHEN. The Department of Justice is correct to respect the laws of the States and to put an understanding that heroin and crack and cocaine and meth and prescription drugs are drugs that really cause the evils we have and the problems we have in society, that make people commit crimes to feed their habits. Marijuana does not make people commit crime. It makes them overeat. It doesn't make them commit crimes. And that is why we need to prioritize the resources we have in this country toward those drugs that really cause problems to others.

I commend the Department of Justice for their discretion. They haven't gone as far as they should. And the laboratories of democracy, the States, as Louis Brandeis called them, are doing a great service to this country, in Colorado and Washington, to see how it works. They are bringing in millions and millions of dollars. Violent crime has gone down in Colorado. There have not been the problems alleged to have occurred in other areas. And we can wait and see how those States' experiments go. And the Department of Justice is allowing the experiment to go on for other States' benefits.

And I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. FLEMING. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And I would say to you that science tells us that the more drugs—whether it is marijuana or heroin or whatever—are out there in society, on the shelves in homes, the more likely children will get involved in them. And as they do, in their young, developing brains, they are five times more likely at risk of having an addiction, and that is what gets them in prison. And trust me, my friend, I will tell the gentleman that whether it is marijuana or heroin or methamphetamines, as a drug addict once told me: All addicting substances are gateways to other addicting substances.

Mr. COHEN. So should we make alcohol illegal again, that exercise in prohibition that was brought by this Congress, that was proved to be such a failure, that it was repealed later on? Should we make alcohol illegal because kids might get it? I submit to you, if you want to do that, you be the leader.

Mr. FLEMING. If the gentleman will again yield, alcohol has been a part of our society and culture for thousands of years as part of our religious practices. It was impractical to have a prohibition.

Mr. COHEN. Bourbon is part of our religious practices?

Mr. FLEMING. Alcohol is part of our religious practices.

Mr. COHEN. Wine. So make wine legal. How about bourbon and scotch and vodka and gin?

Mr. FLEMING. So it has been culturally accepted for many generations; whereas, marijuana hasn't.

So if alcohol is a problem, why do we want to add another problem in the form of marijuana?

Mr. COHEN. It has been culturally accepted not in your area, but in some cultures it has.

And in the African American community, you are eight times more likely to be arrested and sent to jail because of the color of your skin. It has a disparate impact on minorities. It always has.

If you go back to the genesis of the laws in the thirties, it was made illegal because of discrimination against Hispanics. And in the seventies, Nixon spoke out, as did Haldeman and Ehrlichman, and they said this is something we can't talk about, African Americans in the inner city, but we can take their drug of choice and make it illegal.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word and hopefully to offer the last word.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I resemble some of the remarks that have been made as of late on the floor. I want to say a couple of things.

One is that a lot of us like to hold onto things, but, you know, life moves on and the country moves on. There is a point in time in which the country made a decision around alcohol and put it in a different category than other things, and, seemingly, the public is making a decision about marijuana.

Now, it may have something to do with the last few Presidents we have had, who all agreed that they smoked marijuana, or it may have something to do with medical marijuana and the notion that it can help in terms of dealing with the pain that people feel when they have chronic pain and diseases. Whatever is going on, the truth of the matter is that the Congress, we are probably the last to hear of it. But the Nation has kind of moved on, and you see this in the State actions.

You see it in my hometown, where the district attorney got elected 4 years ago and decided he was not prosecuting any more marijuana cases, where the people had just possession for use. And now, 4 years later, the city council has finally decided, well, maybe the police shouldn't lock people up since the DA is not going to prosecute them.

So sometimes those of us who are in political office, we get dragged along a little slower. But it doesn't matter what we decide on this issue. There are decisions being made, and the country is moving in a different direction, very similar to the decision that was made on the prohibition in terms of alcohol.

So the point here is that we will vote however we may vote. It will not be the deciding issue in this regard, because local communities are deciding. Just like in Kentucky now, you have MITCH MCCONNELL and others talking about what we are going to do about hemp. There is going to be some movement here on some of these issues, and those of us who have got a few gray hairs, we might just have to hold on and know that the country has made changes on some of these social issues.

But there is still the reality that when we made the change on alcohol, we went from shooting up and down the street during prohibition over it, with Eliot Ness and crew, to a point where we have accepted it as part of, as you said, our culture. Now, it is still not healthy; it is still addictive; it is still a drug; but it is not criminalized in our Nation. And that might be where America is headed on the question of marijuana. And some of us, at times, have to accept change for what it is. It is a change because people have grown to a different point of view or, as the President has said, you evolve on some of these issues.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) having assumed the chair, Ms. FOXX, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. CAPITO (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of weather complications that inhibited her travel.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of family medical reasons.

Ms. ESTY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through May 30.

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. SLAUGHTER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through May 30 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of district business.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

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

H.R. 724. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles.

H.R. 1036. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the ''National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office''.

H.R. 1228. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the ''Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building''.

H.R. 1451. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the ''Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2391. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri as the ''Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office''.

H.R. 2939. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

H.R. 3060. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the ''Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4032. An act to exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4488. An act to make technical corrections to two bills enabling the presentation of congressional gold medals, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on May 23, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 862. To authorize the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest containing private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 11 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until today, Thursday, May 29, 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:

5790. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contracting Officer's Representative (DFARS Case 2013-D023) (RIN: 0750-AI21) received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5791. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Restrictions on Sales of Assets of a Covered Financial Company by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (RIN: 3064-AE05) received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5792. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Technical Amendments (RIN: 3133-AE33) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5793. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Certification of Commercial Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC), Water Heating (WH), and Refrigeration (CRE) Equipment [Docket No.: EERE-2013-BT-NOC-0023] (RIN: 1904-AD12) received May 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5794. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Devices Ophthalmic Devices; Classification of the Eyelid Weight [Docket No.: FDA-2013-N-0069] received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5795. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that an Executive Order termnating the prohibitions in section 1 of Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, as amended has been issued, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 113–117); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

5796. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Additon of Certain Persons to the Entity List [Docket No.: 140324264-4264-01] (RIN: 0694-AG12) received May 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5797. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List [Docket No.: 120504049-1049-01] (RIN: 0694-AF69) received May 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5798. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Ukraine-Related Sanctions Regulations received May 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5799. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Political Activity State or Local Officers or Employees; Federal Employees Residing in Designated Localities; Federal Employees (RIN: 3206-AM87) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5800. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; Special Wage Schedules for Nonappropriated Fund Automotive Mechanics (RIN: 3206-AM63) May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5801. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Fishing Restrictions in the Eastern Pacific Ocean [Docket No.: 130717632-4285-02] (RIN: 0648-BD52) received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5802. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Final 2014 and 2015 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish; Correction [Docket No.: 130925836-4320-03] (RIN: 0648-XC895) received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5803. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, New Orleans, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2009-0139) (RIN: 1625-AA11) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5804. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Change in Submission Requirements for State Mitigation Plans [Docket ID: FEMA-2012-0001] (RIN: 1660-AA77) received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5805. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway (NJICW), Barnegat Bay, Seaside Heights, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0926] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5806. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Piscataqua River Channel Obstruction near Memorial Bridge, Piscataqua River, Portsmouth, NH [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0159] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5807. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Low Country Splash, Wando River, Cooper River, and Charleston Harbor; Charleston, SC [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0110] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received May 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5808. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Areas; Bars along the Coasts of Oregon and Washington [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0216] (RIN: 1625-AC01) received May 5, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5809. A letter from the Chairman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Demurrage Liability [Docket No.: EP 707] received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5810. A letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Loan Guaranty: Ability-to-Repay Standards and Qulaified Mortgage Definition under the Truth in Lending Act (RIN: 2900-AO65) received May 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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 Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. FARR, and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 4746. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program of research regarding the risks posed by the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, chemical fragrances, and other components of feminine hygiene products; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 4747. A bill to prohibit the use of global health activities to collect foreign intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mrs. BLACK (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. BOUSTANY):

H.R. 4748. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to eliminate tariffs on technological goods providing educational value for children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. BROUN of Georgia):

H.R. 4749. A bill to modify the definition of ''antique firearm''; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 4750. A bill to clarify the treatment of health care provider standards of care under Federal health care provisions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 4751. A bill to make technical corrections to Public Law 110-229 to reflect the renaming of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 4752. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to limit the authority of the Federal Communications Commission over providers of broadband Internet access service; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 4753. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for clean energy and to repeal fossil fuel subsidies for big oil companies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT:

H.R. 4754. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by requiring a Federal emission permit for the sale or use of covered substances and to return funds to the American people; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAYSON (for himself, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H. Res. 600. A resolution urging the Government of Afghanistan, following a successful first round of the presidential election on April 5, 2014, to pursue a transparent, credible, and inclusive run-off presidential election on June 14, 2014, while ensuring the safety of voters, candidates, poll workers, and

election observers; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. BENTIVOLIO):

H. Res. 601. A resolution condemning the death sentence against Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, a Sudanese Christian woman accused of apostasy; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H. Res. 602. A resolution recognizing the 96th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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 Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, which reads: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian Tribes.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 4747.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the power ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers.''

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 4748.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . .''

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 4749.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia:

H.R. 4750.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has power ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Exectuion the foregoing Powers'' when the need exists to clarify existing law

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 4751.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 4752.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Congress shall have the Power... ''to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.''

By Mr. MCDERMOTT:

H.R. 4753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MCDERMOTT:

H.R. 4754.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 139: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 270: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 274: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 292: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 318: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 411: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 460: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 508: Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 517: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 594: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 855: Mr. POLIS, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 920: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 997: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 1078: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 1179: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 1249: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 1250: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 1317: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 1339: Mr. WELCH and Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 1354: Mr. BISHOP of Utah and Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 1416: Mr. HANNA, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. FORBES, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1449: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 1507: Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 1523: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 1527: Mr. ENYART, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 1563: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 1579: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 1652: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. HOYER.
H.R. 1701: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 1733: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1750: Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.R. 1761: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
H.R. 1771: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1801: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 1812: Mr. COOPER and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 1827: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1830: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 1833: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 1851: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 1852: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 1915: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1918: Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 1920: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2001: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2028: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2283: Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mrs. FORTENBERRY, and Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 2313: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. GARCIA.
H.R. 2315: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 2330: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2415: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 2453: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 2476: Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 2499: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 2591: Mr. MAFFEI.
H.R. 2662: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2673: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 2692: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 2807: Mr. NUNES, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 2827: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 2856: Mr. HIMES, Mr. POLIS, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 2897: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 2918: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2957: Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 2959: Mr. ROTHFUS and Mr. HURT.
H.R. 2994: Mrs. BLACK and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3116: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 3153: Ms. BASS and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 3335: Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 3367: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. ROTHFUS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. BARR.
H.R. 3374: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 3382: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 3390: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3413: Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 3462: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 3471: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 3489: Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 3494: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 3544: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 3560: Mr. SABLAN and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 3707: Mr. RUNYAN.
H.R. 3717: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 3722: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 3723: Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. FOSTER, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 3742: Ms. SPEIER and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 3836: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 3854: Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 3858: Mr. ROONEY and Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 3877: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 3930: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 3954: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 3969: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 3991: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 3992: Mr. ISSA, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. MCKEON.
H.R. 4012: Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 4028: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 4056: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 4060: Mr. FORBES, Mrs. ROBY, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 4079: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 4083: Mr. HALL.
H.R. 4106: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 4135: Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 4136: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 4166: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. COLE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DENT, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 4190: Ms. BASS and Mr. WHITFIELD.
H.R. 4219: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4252: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4265: Mr. MCKEON and Mr. ROHRABACHER.
H.R. 4286: Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 4299: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 4321: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 4351: Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 4363: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 4399: Mr. O'ROURKE and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 4407: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 4427: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 4437: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 4446: Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 4449: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 4450: Mr. DAINES, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 4509: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4521: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 4525: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SPEIER, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4531: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 4546: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 4553: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 4567: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 4574: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. ESTY, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. MOORE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. MENG, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 4577: Mr. COTTON, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 4578: Mr. BERA of California.
H.R. 4580: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 4587: Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 4612: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 4618: Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 4619: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 4625: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 4630: Mr. HIMES, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 4631: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 4636: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.
H.R. 4653: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 4663: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4664: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 4683: Ms. NORTON and Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 4691: Mr. REED.
H.R. 4699: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 4701: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 4707: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 4716: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 4717: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MESSER, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 4718: Mr. PRICE of Georgia and Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 4719: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NUNES, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 4743: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.J. Res. 105: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. VELA.
H. Con. Res. 98: Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. LONG, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. BYRNE.
H. Res. 109: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mr. POCAN.
H. Res. 190: Mr. HULTGREN and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H. Res. 231: Ms. ESTY and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 417: Mr. HARRIS.
H. Res. 522: Mr. DOYLE.
H. Res. 525: Mr. KEATING, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H. Res. 538: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H. Res. 570: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H. Res. 587: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 588: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUNTER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H. Res. 593: Mr. MORAN, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H. Res. 599: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. WALZ.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. WESTMORELAND

AMENDMENT NO. 4: Page 74, line 13 after the each dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $150,000,000)''.

Page 100, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $150,000,000)''.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 5: Page 35, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $15,000,000)''.

Page 35, line 22, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $15,000,000)''

Page 74, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $15,000,000)''.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 6: Page 12, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $400,000)''.

Page 72, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $400,000)''.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 7: Page 12, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

Page 72, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 8: Page 34, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $500,000)''.

Page 38, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $500,000)''.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 9: Page 34, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 65, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 10: At the end of bill, before the short title, add the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act for the ''DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE—ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPEALS'' may be used in contravention of sections 509 and 510 of title 28, United States Code.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. HOLT

AMENDMENT NO. 11: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the purchase or operation of an unmanned aircraft system (as such term is defined in section 331(9) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012) by any State or local law enforcement agency.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. HOLT

AMENDMENT NO. 12: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Justice to purchase or operate an unmanned aircraft system (as such term is defined in section 331(9) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012).

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. MORAN

AMENDMENT NO. 13: Strike sections 528 and 529.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MRS. BLACKBURN

AMENDMENT NO. 14: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) Each amount made available by this Act, except those amounts made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

(b) The reduction in subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to the following accounts of the Department of Justice:

(1) ''Fees and Expenses of Witnesses''.
(2) ''Public Safety Officer Benefits''.
(3) ''United States Trustee System Fund''.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MRS. BLACKBURN

AMENDMENT NO. 15: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for operation, renovation, or construction at Thomson Correctional Facility in Illinois.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. COLLINS OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT NO. 16: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide assistance to a State, or political subdivision of a State, that has in effect any law, policy, or procedure in contravention of immigration laws (as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))).

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. JOLLY

AMENDMENT NO. 17: Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $8,000,000)''.

Page 13, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $8,000,000)''.

Page 14, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $8,000,000)''.

Page 14, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $8,000,000)''.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 18: Page 44, line 24, strike ''$3,000,000'' and insert ''$6,000,000''.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 19: Page 54, line 8, after the word ''rape'' add ''or incest''.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 20: SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Federal Bureau of Prisons to solicit, offer, or award a contract in which the federal government is required to provide a minimum number of inmates to a private correctional institution or a private detention center.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 21: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. ____. No of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals:

(A) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or

(C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds $3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MRS. DAVIS OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 22: Page 3, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

Page 34, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,000,000)''.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. CONNOLLY

AMENDMENT NO. 23: Page 35, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,120,000)''.

Page 35, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,120,000)''.

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 48, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. SOUTHERLAND

AMENDMENT NO. 24: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to develop, approve, or implement a new limited access privilege program (as that term is used in section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1853a)) that are not already developed, approved, or implemented for any fishery under the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England, or Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. ROHRABACHER

AMENDMENT NO. 25: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin, to prevent such States from implementing their own State laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GALLEGO

AMENDMENT NO. 26: Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $4,500,000)''.

Page 62, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,500,000)''.