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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 10, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable REID J. RIBBLE 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 11:50 a.m.

REBUILDING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I am moved to rise today because this House, starting yesterday and continuing into today, is considering a complicated bill called the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Mr. Speaker, that is a complicated set of words. This is the bill, of course, in which we fund the Nation's transportation infrastructure.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, because this bill is not just bad policy, but it is a danger to the safety and economic health of my constituents and to all Americans.

What is it that we are talking about here? We are talking about the money that the Congress appropriates to build and improve our highways, our bridges, and our railways. I wonder who in this House doesn't have bridges or highways or railways in their district? This is the bone, it is the arteries on which we build our economic growth and on which the jobs that we spend so much time talking about are created. Without good highways, without the ability to move people, goods, and services around this country, we are nothing. We will not be serious about creating jobs.

Now, let's take a little tour on how we are doing on our highways, our bridges, and our railways. Just last Friday, I got caught on a Metro-North train in my district because a 100-year-old bridge in Norwalk got stuck in the open position. Thousands of my constituents sitting on trains and in train stations at Grand Central, at Norwalk, and at Stanford were unable to get home.

There have been derailments on this rail line, including some that have been fatal. I live about a mile upstream of a bridge on Interstate 95, the single biggest artery in the Northeast of the United States, that just shy of 20 years ago fell down, killing a bunch of people and creating huge economic havoc.

This is true nationally. The stats are out there. The amount of investment that we need to make in this country to be competitive with the Chinese, with the Europeans, who are spending far more on the bones and sinew of their economies, is huge numbers.

So, what are we doing about it? What are we doing about it right now in this House? Well, the bill I mentioned proposes to spend $70 billion on transportation. That sounds like a big number—a lot of zeros. But let's put that into context. A couple of weeks ago, this House decided to spend about $600 billion on our military, which is fine. It is an incredible military that we have. Add in security and intelligence, and you get a number of about $700 billion that this House chose to spend on our national security. That is 10 times what we are now choosing to spend on transportation. We are spending 10 times protecting this Nation than we are on actually building this Nation and providing the economic infrastructure that will create the economic growth and jobs that we all say we need—$70 billion. By the way, that is 1 percent less than we spent last year, and $20 billion less than the President's request.

Amtrak—now I understand that many of my colleagues don't rely on Amtrak. I rely on it every single week, and, by the way, an awful lot of my colleagues do. I see them on my way down here. Amtrak is proposed to be reduced in funding by 15 percent—half of what the President thinks is necessary in his budget. Who thinks that this is a good idea, Mr. Speaker? Who thinks that it is a good idea in a country where we are supposedly serious about creating jobs to underinvest in the artery, the bone, and the sinew that allows us to grow jobs in this country? That is not a good idea. And, yet, we are fending off amendments to cut investment even more in our transportation infrastructure.

Are there people in this country who don't sit in traffic wasting time that they could be spending with their family, taking away their focus on their businesses that they would like to grow? There aren't many of them, and yet this House chooses to reduce the investment in the country that we supposedly hold dear.

I am tired of it, Mr. Speaker. I am tired of my constituents having their

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lives damaged, having their safety put at risk, and having their businesses jeopardized because we have not invested enough in our infrastructure. Is there a State out there, by the way, that has an extra billion or two dollars lying around? Because some of my colleagues think that maybe the States should be investing. But I am curious. Is there a State out there that has an extra $5 billion in their budget to step in where the Federal Government should be active? I don't think so. I don't hear that. And yet this House is about to reduce the spending on transportation.

Mr. Speaker, this cannot stand.

GE EXPANSION IN WEST JEFFERSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week, it was my great pleasure to participate in a groundbreaking at a plant expansion at the GE manufacturing facility in West Jefferson, North Carolina. The expansion will allow GE to produce more of the company's incredibly popular LEAP engine, which will power next-generation aircraft from around the globe. The 80,000-square-foot factory expansion will provide for additional machining capacity and represents a $65 million investment by GE in West Jefferson.

The LEAP jet engine has proven to be incredibly popular, with commitments or orders for more than 6,000 LEAP engines to date. This is especially remarkable because the LEAP does not enter service until 2016. Once it does enter service, it will power planes such as the Boeing 737 MAX and the Airbus A320neo.

GE is familiar with the fact that high quality workers can be found in North Carolina, since the company already has more than 1,300 employees at locations in West Jefferson, Durham, Wilmington, and Asheville. The current expansion is expected to add 105 new jobs over the next 2½ years.

I am exceptionally pleased that GE is partnering with Wilkes Community College to give local workers the skills needed to compete for the new jobs this expansion will bring to West Jefferson. This innovative worker education program will allow current and prospective employees to learn in a hands-on environment with state-of-the-art machinery.

Mr. Speaker, this is just the type of program that we need to close the skills gap and give hardworking Americans the opportunity to compete for the 4 million jobs that are available now.

This expansion will demonstrate, yet again, that American manufacturing and American workers can compete in the global economy. There is no more fulfilling aspect of our jobs here than to be invited to be present for the announcement of more jobs in our districts. Everyone in the area is excited for the community of West Jefferson, and I look forward to a very successful future for the innovative education partnership between GE and Wilkes Community College. Thanks to GE for making this investment, and thanks to the employees at GE West Jefferson for your great effort and commitment to excellence.

DR. PEPPER BOTTLING COMPANY

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week, I was energized and inspired by the opportunity to tour the Dr. Pepper Bottling Company in West Jefferson, North Carolina. This plant has been recognized for the high quality of its products and was a recipient of the 2013 Caleb Bradham President's Award.

This award is named after North Carolina native and Pepsi founder, Caleb Bradham. This year, only 19 plants across the country received the award out of hundreds of bottlers across this country. According to The Jefferson Post:

> The company received the award for the production of its 12-ounce glass bottle sodas, which are bottled in downtown West Jefferson. West Jefferson Dr. Pepper glass bottle products are wildly popular among soda enthusiasts.

The Dr. Pepper Bottling Company has been making drinks in West Jefferson since 1940, when it was founded by H.R. Vannoy. Among the employees are three generations of the Vannoy family, whose patriarch began the company. I wish the company and all of its employees many more years of success.

SERGEANT LUKE PORTER—OLD GUARD COMMISSIONING

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Sergeant Luke Porter of State College, Pennsylvania, serving within the United States Army's 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment—better known as The Old Guard.

On June 9, Sergeant Porter was formally inducted into the ultra-selective unit which stands guard as a Sentinel for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Since 1958, only 622 other individuals have been selected to share in Sergeant Porter's distinct honor and responsibility. He now will become number 623.

The Sentinels at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier stand guard over their fallen brothers-in-arms 365 days a year in squelching heat, rain, hurricanes, and blizzards.

Sergeant Porter could not have made it this far in his military services without the life lessons and guidance of his parents and family, who were present during the ceremony, and during his first changing of the guard.

Congratulations, Sergeant Porter, on this outstanding distinction. You have joined a highly motivated regiment that proudly honors all American servicemembers who are ''known but to God.'' May you remain resolute in your convictions and serve as an example for the countless others selflessly serving in our Armed Forces.

70TH COMMEMORATION OF D-DAY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I had the privilege of joining the President of the United States in the official delegation to the 70th commemoration of D-Day.

It was not a normal experience of an international codel, the opportunity to interact with our colleagues and allies in Europe, but it was a testament and a testimony to the continuing strength, determination, and value of the United States of America. It was a moving experience. It was an experience based in reality.

We listened to the recounting of the deliberations of General Montgomery, General Eisenhower, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and many others. We listened to the stories of young men, many of whom signed up at the age of 15 or 16, 17, wanting to serve their country, not knowing where they would go, now in their late 80s and early 90s, and some would say the sweetest men that you had ever seen, showing pictures, telling stories, and shedding a tear about the comrades that were left on Omaha Beach or Sword Beach, soldiers that didn't speak the same language but understood the words of liberation and freedom.

I would only say that I hope this challenges this body called the House of Representatives, that they didn't wear the armor of Republicans or Green Party or Tea Party or Independent Party or Democratic Party; they wore the armor of an American.

What wonderful words of General Eisenhower, who said that he needed the unity, the strength of all, or the sadness of those who ploughed their way onto the beach, seasick and nauseous as they were, losing tons of equipment, and, unfortunately, at times coming and falling over bodies of bleeding soldiers, losing some 10,000 in the first day.

Where is the America of that time, prepared to take up comprehensive immigration reform or prepared to take up serious gun regulations to stop this unending violence in America, even the shooting of two law enforcement officers? What has America come to?

□ 1015

Where is its greatness? Where is the reality that we are the generations that have inherited those young men's lives—and young women's, the Rosie Riveters—who left their homes, sacrificing? Where is the placement of the Voting Rights Act reauthorization, which is a bipartisan bill? Why haven't we passed that to show that liberty is real in the United States of America?

I had moments where tears fell—of joy—and the privilege of talking to and meeting these men, watching them receive the honor from the French people, and as we walked through the streets even today, the people of France were saying thank you with a degree of emotion that knew that they would not be free, they would not be liberated, they would not be France if it had not been for those boys who left the soil of this United States; or those who came from Guadeloupe and Martinique, men of color who came and were trained from Fort Dix and then fought on the shores; or my uncle, who fought in Tunis and Ethiopia; and others who left my widowed grandmother, her three sons, leaving one behind—all of us have been touched.

So it is important that, even as we look to the status of Sergeant Bergdahl, that we look at it in a spirit of fairness, not grandstanding, not partisan politics, but finding out the facts and realizing that America is greater than divisive politics when you look to the Greatest Generation of which we have now been given the gift of their life, their sacrifice.

No one will be the same after they have walked amongst the white crosses that represent the blood shed by America, not to conquer Europe, but to free Europe. That is our mantra, and that is what we should do for the American people, not to conquer them, but to free them from violence, from inconsistent policies, and certainly from the inability to vote.

I pay tribute to the 70th commemoration of the brilliance of America and the spirit of her youth, and I tell everyone that that brilliance and that spirit is not lost upon us today.

I am happy because I know that embedded in all of those who walk the streets of this Nation and call themselves an American have that same spirit, and we can make a difference in this country for all of those who need us.

AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, along with other Members of Congress, I attended a classified briefing on the swap of our soldier for the five Taliban leaders. I won't go into that, but I did have an opportunity to make a comment to the presenters.

I made a comment regarding my concern about the bilateral strategic agreement, known as BSA, and the fact that we continue to spend money in Afghanistan that we borrow from foreign nations.

Mr. Speaker, beside me today, I have a cartoon that was created by Mr. Milt Priggee, and it makes a point very well. It has Uncle Sam pointing out saying:

> I want you.

Then the language beside it says:

> To understand that if you can't afford to take care of your veterans, you can't afford to go to war.

Well, that makes my point very well because we seem to find all the money we need for Afghanistan to waste, and we know that waste, fraud, and abuse is worse today than it has ever been in the 12 years we have been in Afghanistan.

I would like to quote from the Daily Journal Online. The title is, ''No end for Afghanistan's war on the U.S. taxpayer.'' I want to read two paragraphs from this online article:

> John Sopko, the inspector general for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), may have taken Uncle Sam and shaken him by the lapels last month, but the media missed it. In short, Afghanistan is on life support, and Joe Citizen is its permanent IV. From your pockets, Uncle Sam has taken $103 billion to build Afghanistan so far.
>
> By the way, that figure doesn't include the cost of war-making. That is more money than we have spent on reconstruction for any one country in the history of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I just heard the Congressman from Connecticut talking about the infrastructure of his State, as well as America, and the poor shape it is in, but yet we find all the money we need for Afghanistan, so we can build their roads, so that the Taliban can blow up the roads. It makes no sense.

Mr. Speaker, SIGAR, on the job since 2008, has produced 118 audits and inspection reports and made 23 quarterly reports to Congress. I have read a few of these, certainly not all, but all you have to do is hear Mr. Sopko speak or read some of the reports from his organization, and you will be disgusted, as I am disgusted, with the stupidity of continuing to find money for Afghanistan while we cut programs right here in America.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, I went to Walter Reed Hospital. I knew there were two marines who had been injured in Afghanistan from my district, Camp Lejeune, which is in the Third District of North Carolina.

I happened, while being there, to meet four soldiers, one a colonel from Fort Bragg, which is not in my district, but in North Carolina. All four had lost at least one leg. Then when I met this young man from Louisiana, who is a marine from Camp Lejeune, his father was standing beside him.

He had lost both legs and an arm, and he is 23 years of age. I looked in the eyes of the father, who could not have been more than 50. I saw pain. I saw hurt. I saw worry about the future of his son's life, missing two legs and an arm.

Why are we still sending troops to Afghanistan? Yes, we are going to cut the troops, but we are going to keep 9,000 to 10,000 there. The Taliban will still go after them and try to blow off their legs and kill them.

Mr. Speaker, I want to quote Pat Buchanan, who I have great respect for, particularly on foreign policy, because he and I agree:

> Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world so we can defend the world?

Let me repeat that:

> Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world so we can defend the world?

Mr. Speaker, I would put one word in there. I would change ''senility'' to ''stupidity,'' and I will read it now: Is it not a symptom of stupidity to be borrowing from the world, so we defend the world?

Mr. Speaker, again, Uncle Sam is saying, Don't spend money overseas when you have got problems right here in America and our veterans are not being adequately cared for.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end the spending in Afghanistan. It is time to stop sending our troops over there to be killed and have their legs and arms blown off.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask God to continue to bless America and bless our men and women in uniform.

INDIA'S SANITATION CRISIS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the recent news account of a horrific murder and rape of two young girls in India shocked our consciousness, but one of the items that was interesting is that few of the news accounts actually detailed what put those young women at risk.

Julie McCarthy of NPR had a story which highlighted one of the greatest human global health challenges that created this situation. They were indeed attacked, raped, and hung from a tree after they were caught in a field.

These two young women didn't have access to a toilet, and like so many women around the world, but particularly in India, they went out in the fields at night to relieve themselves, and they went in a pair to minimize the likelihood that they would be isolated.

This is offensive on so many levels. It is emblematic of violence against women, the vicious attitudes by people towards lower castes, and the complicated dynamic of castes in rural India.

It is also testimony to the need to be able to have these young women—and others around the globe—have access to adequate sanitation facilities, so they don't have to sneak out at night or early in the morning, cloaked in darkness to disguise their embarrassment, to use a nearby field as their restroom.

One-half of India's population uses open fields for defecation. Fewer than half of Indian households have a toilet. The women and girls perform a ritual to deal with this most basic bodily function, often in fear and trepidation.

This is one more piece of evidence as to why the American effort to increase our help for access to basic sanitation and safe drinking water is a moral imperative, as well as being critical for global health, security, education, and stable economic development.

Globally, 2.5 billion men, women, and children do not have access to adequate sanitation. This means that there are more people on Earth with a cell phone than with a toilet. Countries where open defecation is more prevalent also have the highest numbers of deaths for children under five, high levels of undernutrition and poverty, and huge disparities between rich and poor.

The lack of adequate sanitation is a huge drag on economies at a national level. The total global economic losses associated with inadequate water supply and sanitation are estimated to be $260 billion annually.

According to the World Bank for India alone, inadequate sanitation costs the country the equivalent of 6.4 percent of their gross domestic product, over $50 billion a year.

Not only do women have to plan their day around performing this most basic bodily function, they are also most likely to be the family members tasked with collecting drinking water—often dirty and polluted—for their families.

In fact, in just one day, it is estimated that more than 152 million hours of women and girls' time is consumed for another most basic of human need—collecting water, often from distant, polluted sources. This is time not spent working on income-generating jobs, caring for family members, or securing an education. The average distance for many of these women and girls is 10 miles a day.

Like a woman's search for a safe place to relieve herself, the search for drinking water, particularly when they must walk alone before or after daylight hours, leaves her vulnerable to rape and other violent attacks.

The most acutely impacted, however, are children. Over 1,400 children die every day from diarrhea caused from dirty water and poor sanitation. The lack of access to safe drinking water means a child dies needlessly every minute.

These are heartbreaking stories and jarring facts, but there are solutions. That is why I am hopeful we will be able to work with our friends on the House Foreign Affairs Committee to move the bipartisan bill that I am working with Judge POE, Water for the World Act, H.R. 2901, to make American efforts more effective to deal with preventing the needless loss of a child's life every minute and the threat to young women and girls.

If we needed more evidence, consider the lynching of these two teenage rape victims in India. How could we not do all we can?

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, SHANNON

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in 19 years, I was unable to wake up and wish my wife, Shannon, a happy anniversary in person; so, Mr. Speaker, I stand here on the floor of the House today to do just that.

Shannon, you are not only my best friend, my rock, and my biggest supporter, you are the reason why I have this privilege of standing here in this great institution to serve the 13th District of Illinois. It is what you have shown us as not only a nurse, a mother, and as my best friend, it is a strength that only comes from being you.

Fifteen years ago, you stared at a battlefield of colon cancer in front of you. You stared down that battlefield, and you beat it.

What you may not know is that strength that you showed at that time is a strength that is an inspiration to not only me, but to our three children and to so many of us that know you.

Shannon, today, on our 19th anniversary, I stand here today to wish you the happiest of happy anniversaries, and I hope to be home soon this weekend to celebrate in person with you.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't say, ''I love you, Shannon,'' before I yielded back.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

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

We thank You once again that we, Your creatures, can come before You and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House.

Send Your spirit of wisdom as they face this day with difficult decisions to be made, determining among competing interests to appropriate funds for the programs required to serve the needs of our Nation. Might they work together with charity, and join their efforts to accomplish what our Nation needs to live into a prosperous and secure future.

Please keep all the Members of this Congress, and all who work for the people's House, in good health, that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them by the people of this great Nation.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. CHU led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

OPERATION CHOKE POINT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, one of the most abusive government overreaches in our Nation's history is happening right now under our watch. Operation Choke Point began quietly last year as a way for President Obama and the Justice Department to intimidate and strangle businesses they no longer support.

By forcing banks to cut ties with law-abiding businesses like sporting goods stores, licensed gun dealers, and thousands of others, these business owners have no recourse.

Once again, President Obama is circumventing the legal and legislative process that was set in place to protect the free market, personal choice, and individual freedom. When did it become okay for the Federal Government of the United States of America to tell business owners that their business is no longer wanted in America? That is socialism in its purest form.

Owning the banks and owning the market is the goal of this administration, and I urge my colleagues in Congress, as well as anyone who has ever owned or dreamed about owning their own business, to end the abuse. Operation Choke Point is an affront to the freedoms and liberty that millions of Americans have died to protect.

In God we trust.

RECOGNIZING BRAD KEARNS ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brad Kearns, chief of inspectors with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, who is retiring at the end of June after 38 years of law enforcement experience.

Before serving as chief of inspectors, Brad worked for 24 years at the Oakland Police Department and also served as chief of police to the town of Moraga.

For 7 years as a deputy district attorney, I had the opportunity to work with Brad at the District Attorney's Office and appreciated his commitment to ensuring crime victims received the justice they deserved and also his openness to embracing new technologies to better prosecute cases.

It is fitting that I am honoring Brad in Washington, D.C., as just 2 years ago, he and I were here with District Attorney Nancy O'Malley for Federal advocacy to bring more Federal grant money back to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

Brad plans to take a well-earned retirement and spend it with his wife of 39 years, Diane, and his children and grandchildren, all of whom live nearby in the Bay Area.

On behalf of the residents of the East Bay, I want to thank Brad for his years of hard work and dedication to keeping our community safe. And I want to wish him well as he begins this new, exciting chapter in his life.

REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICES OF SERGEANT RACHEL CAREY AND ILLINOIS VETERANS

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sergeant Rachel Carey, a courageous veteran, mother, and leader. Originally from Aurora, Sergeant Carey proudly served in the U.S. Army from 2003 until her passing on May 24, 2009, including tours in Afghanistan and Germany.

Rachel was only 24 years old when she lost her battle to cancer and left behind a loving daughter, Madison. I was privileged to honor Rachel as her name was added to the Kane County Veterans Memorial this past Memorial Day. Those present who were touched by her life spoke volumes about Rachel's impeccable character and honorable service.

This past week, I had the privilege to visit Normandy during the 70th anniversary of D-day during World War II. 553 Illinois soldiers were laid to rest in the Normandy American Cemetery, including Irvin Hinman, whose grave site I visited.

These servicemembers exemplify bravery on those French beaches, and we will remain ever indebted to their sacrifice.

WARREN WEINSTEIN, CAPTIVE OF AL QAEDA

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

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of my constituent, Warren Weinstein, who has been held captive by al Qaeda for over 1,000 days. This past week, the headlines have been dominated by the release of Bowe Bergdahl. But these headlines should also remind us that there are other Americans held as prisoners overseas.

Warren is a loving husband, a father, and a grandfather. He is 72 years old. Recent videos released by al Qaeda show him in bad and deteriorating health. This is a man of peace and of love. He has dedicated his life to public service, starting with the Peace Corps up until his service with USAID, which is what he was doing in Pakistan when he was captured 4 days before his scheduled return.

I have written the administration and encouraged them to use all means available to bring Warren home. This week, I will be introducing a resolution in the House encouraging them to do the same for Warren and for every American held overseas. We must not forget these Americans. We must bring them home.

Warren, today you are not forgotten by this Congress or this country.

RURAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, in Montana, transportation services like Amtrak and Essential Air Service are critical for the strength of our economy. Montanans rely on rural air service every day, and thousands of tourists ride Amtrak every year to visit Glacier National Park, an important economic driver in northwestern Montana. But proposed changes to the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill place these programs in danger.

We need to get our fiscal house in order, but we must do it responsibly, ensuring our rural communities aren't forced to bear the brunt of cuts that will harm their local economies.

I will remain a strong advocate for these programs and encourage my colleagues to support and protect the critical services on which rural Americans rely.

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, the San Gabriel Mountains are a defining feature of my district, and their peaks form a beautiful crown for the Los Angeles region. But they are deteriorating as forest rangers grapple with more than 3 million visitors annually.

Trails are marked by graffiti instead of signs, trash litters the ground as receptacles overflow, and blatant safety hazards leave the public at risk and threaten our water supply.

That is why I am introducing legislation to designate this area as a National Recreation Area. It would allow the National Park Service to work with the Forest Service and local partners on community-based, community-driven protection and restoration projects. It could mean more small parks in underserved communities, better access and connectivity to trails and bike paths from within our urban cities, new signs in the mountains, more bathrooms, more picnic areas, educational programs for a sustainable future, and more visitor services.

Our community deserves to see these mountains protected permanently. I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS SEASON

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the 2014 Atlantic hurricane season began on June 1, and as the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I urge citizens in hurricane-prone areas to prepare themselves and their families. Preparation saves lives.

Heavy winds, storm surge, and flooding are some of the hazards that must be considered when preparing for hurricanes, and I urge families and individuals to develop emergency plans. I also urge families and individuals to build an emergency kit that includes important supplies such as basic medicines. Previous disasters have shown that survivors can be on their own for many days before assistance arrives.

Information on how to prepare for emergencies, including how to build these kits, can be found at the Department of Homeland Security's ready.gov Web site or at fema.gov. I urge citizens to find their local emergency management agencies and Red Cross chapters on Facebook and Twitter to receive updates before and during storms. Please take these simple steps to prepare yourselves and your family should disaster strike, because preparation saves lives.

HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I watched as President Obama signed the long overdue Water Resources Reform and Development Act into law.

This new law is good news, particularly for the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which stand to gain tens of millions of dollars that they have collected in their harbor maintenance tax. It will help create good-paying jobs and keep our ports globally competitive.

As a representative of the Nation's busiest port complex, I believe it is about time that our Nation's ports finally get the critical investments that they need to remain strong. It has been a long haul, but after months of meetings and hearings, the ideas to fully spend this harbor maintenance tax and to increase the flexibility of the funds for these ports were included in the final water bill that was signed by the President.

President Obama and Congress recognize the critical importance of our ports to our Nation's economic growth and sustainability. Today's action is a victory not only for those ports in my community, but for all of our Nation's ports.

POLL FINDS MEDIA BIAS MAJOR PROBLEM

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans know that liberal media bias is a major problem in our country. They realize that our democracy rests on fair and balanced news coverage. Instead of reporting the facts, though, the national liberal media pushes the agenda of the administration.

A recent Rasmussen poll found that Americans now believe media bias is a bigger problem than large campaign contributions. It also found that a majority of Americans believe the news media has too much power and influence over government decisions. This is largely because many Americans believe that the media goes easy on this administration.

Americans will continue to view the media as a problem until it provides fair and balanced coverage. The media should give the American people the facts, not tell them what to think.

□ 1215

YOUNG WOMEN UNDER ATTACK

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Boko Haram kidnapped hundreds of girls in Nigeria, and I am outraged. These girls were determined to get an education, to build a better life for themselves, for their families and for their nation. For this, they were abducted.

As a school principal, I know the benefits of an education. Tragedies such as these are not limited to Nigeria. The pursuit of education for our girls is under attack globally. Young girls have had acid thrown in their faces in Afghanistan and Pakistan, been murdered in Somalia, have been abducted in Libya and Nigeria; and these are just a few examples.

We all know the story of Malala, the brave young girl from Pakistan who spoke about her passion for education. In return, Taliban gunmen boarded her school bus and shot her in the head.

Now, we have the Nigerian girls, and I am concerned. Are they hungry? Are they sheltered? Can they shower? Can they take care of their womanly needs? Have they been raped? Have they been beaten? Have they been sold? Are they still even alive?

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe we must continue to do everything we can to bring back these young girls.

JUSTICE FOR DR. MEHDI ALI QAMAR

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

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar was gunned down and killed in front of his two-year-old son and his wife in Pakistan.

He was from Pickerington, Ohio, and was a cardiologist and humanitarian who was volunteering his time to care for folks at the Tahir Heart Institute in Pakistan.

He was also an Ahmadi Muslim, a peaceful reformist movement within Islam, which opposes jihad and radical Islam. I offer my condolences to his family and his loved ones. Sadly, he may have been targeted because he was an Ahmadi Muslim.

Today, I am calling on the Government of Pakistan to officially condemn this act and to seek an investigation to bring his murderers to justice. I am also calling on the State Department to institute a formal investigation looking into the killing of Dr. Qamar, as well as look into the increasing violence against Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan.

I urge my colleagues to sign a letter to the U.S. State Department regarding these issues. It is important to bring Dr. Qamar's murderers to justice and ensure the Government of Pakistan protects its religious minorities.

MAKING STUDENT LOANS MORE AFFORDABLE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last August, in a rare flash of bipartisan togetherness, we passed a measure that protected new student loans from doubling to 6.8 percent, but there is still much work left to be done. The $1.2 trillion of student loan overhang still haunts many who have graduated from university in prior years.

Yesterday, President Obama, with the stroke of a pen, extended the income-based repayment protections, capping at 10 percent of income the debt requirements for students who took out Stafford loans in the past, but there is still more work to be done.

Again, for many who have private student loan debts at 8 percent, 10 percent, 12 percent interest, they are still not getting any relief.

A few days ago, we introduced in the House the Bank on Students Emergency Refinancing Act, which will allow students with those loans to refinance down those high rates to 3.8 percent, something which middle class families do with home mortgages and credit cards.

We need to provide that assistance, particularly for young Americans who are starting out in their professional employment careers.

Let's come together as we did last August. Let's support the Bank on Students Emergency Refinancing Act. Let's pass this measure, which is a critical problem for middle class Americans.

JUSTICE FOR JOHN GRANVILLE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on January 1, 2008, Buffalo native John Granville was tragically murdered by Islamic extremists in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum.

John Granville was a kid from my own south Buffalo neighborhood, who was committed to helping those in the developing world. He was a former Peace Corps volunteer turned career diplomat. At the time of his death, Granville was working in South Sudan to assist in their efforts to hold free and fair elections after 20 years of brutal civil war.

While John's killers were captured and convicted, they later escaped from prison under suspicious circumstances exactly 4 years ago. Two still remain at large. Meanwhile, the man who helped these killers escape was pardoned by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.

The State Department has issued a $5 million reward for information leading to the capture of these criminals through the Rewards for Justice program. It has classified the killers as global terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues, if you share my outrage, to please seek justice for John Granville by cosponsoring my resolution, H. Res. 171, calling on the State Department to maintain Sudan on the state sponsors of terrorism list.

CRISIS PLAGUING NEXT GENERATION

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis plaguing our country's next generation. Today, the unemployment rate for 18- to 29-year-olds is nearly 16 percent, more than double the general rate.

Furthermore, the increasing cost and skyrocketing tuition rates for those wanting to get a higher education is placing a crushing burden on young Americans. Student debt has nearly doubled since 2007, topping $1 trillion, and a recent study from the University of Michigan says tuition for all universities, public and private, increased at an annual rate of 7.5 percent from 1978 to 2011.

On average, when a student graduates college, they owe nearly $30,000, and if they attend a private or out-of-State school, that number is even higher.

As someone who is still paying off my student loans, I sympathize for our college graduates who are weighed down with debt in an economy that is proving to be very difficult for young, educated jobseekers.

Mr. Speaker, our obligation is to help build an economy rich with job opportunities, to contain the costs of higher education, and to support the young, bright minds in our Nation yearning to realize their dreams.

PROVIDING VETERAN HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, if your son or daughter, your brother or sister was sick and needed care, but couldn't see a doctor for 3 months or 6 months or maybe over a year, wouldn't you take immediate action, do whatever it took to make sure that they were cared for?

As we stand here today, over 100,000 veterans—our sons and daughters, our brothers and sisters in Hawaii and across the country—have been waiting months just to see a doctor.

In Honolulu, veterans wait an average of 145 days, sometimes longer, just to see a primary care physician for the very first time. This is infuriating to me, and it is unconscionable that our veterans are treated this way when they come home.

Last week, I heard from veterans from across the State of Hawaii, from every generation, about their struggles and frustrations in trying to receive care from the VA, some coming to me with tears streaming down their face as they begged for help.

These are my brothers and sisters. They are our family, and they need help. Immediate action must be taken.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY INVASION

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, last week, on June 6, I had the honor of attending the 70th anniversary of the D-day invasion in France. What a humbling experience it was to be there. Countless graves marked the landscape where over 6,000 U.S. soldiers fought and died at the site of one of the most significant military operations in modern history.

Looking back, it is incredible—incredible that an operation as vast and as complex as the Allied invasion of Normandy could ever succeed. Just about everything that could go wrong did. We faced setbacks at every turn, yet against all odds, our brave young men persevered.

Speaking with D-day veterans from San Diego like Jack Port, Joe Reilly, Victor Kramer, and James Federhart, I was reminded that they were just kids in 1944, many of them still teenagers.

I wish I could have shared it with my dad who served as a medic throughout the war, but like so many of his brothers in arms, he did not speak about his experience, and it is not hard to imagine why.

Many of their comrades never made it home. Thousands of U.S. soldiers fought and died, so that the world might live in freedom and inherit peace.

51ST ANNIVERSARY OF EQUAL PAY ACT

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, over the last 50 years, women have broken barriers in business, science, education, and government; yet in Nevada, the average woman still makes only 85 cents for every dollar a man earns, so that leads to a pay gap of more than $6,300 every year.

This not only harms individual women, it hurts their families, our communities, and the national economy. In a country where we strive for equal opportunity for all, this inequity is simply unacceptable.

That is why I am calling on my Republican colleagues to bring the Paycheck Fairness Act to the floor for a vote. How can they say to their wives, ''You deserve less pay than I do?'' How can they say to their daughters, ''You are worth less than my sons?'' How can they tell their staff that the women aren't as valuable as the men? It is just unconscionable.

So I say pass this bill now because when women succeed, Nevada succeeds, and America succeeds.

HONORING KAREN DECROW

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

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Karen DeCrow, a constituent of mine who passed away last Friday at the age of 76. Karen DeCrow was a trailblazer who fought tirelessly for women's equality and justice for all.

Among her many accomplishments, Karen was a civil rights lawyer, a columnist for the Syracuse Post Standard, and a founder and president of the National Organization for Women, also known as NOW. She was the first woman to run for mayor in a major city in New York and was the only woman in her graduating class at Syracuse University College of Law.

Karen championed the Equal Rights Amendment, which would have made discrimination against women unconstitutional; and she led the fight against gender discrimination in workplaces, educational institutions, and sports.

I had the privilege of working with Karen as she remained active in NOW, serving as the vice president of the Greater Syracuse chapter up until her passing.

Mr. Speaker, Eleanor Roosevelt was remembered as having lived by the phrase:

> It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

For those of us who strive for women's equality, Karen DeCrow lit a bonfire.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last month, this body passed H.R. 863, a bill I authored along with the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN). This bill would create a national commission to develop a plan for a national women's history museum on or near the Mall in Washington, D.C.

This would be the first national women's history museum in our country and, I believe, in the world. It passed this body with a huge bipartisan support and vote.

My friends and colleagues in the other body, Senators SUSAN COLLINS and BARBARA MIKULSKI, are working hard to pass this bill, and I hope their colleagues in the Senate will move quickly and allow an up-or-down vote.

Passing this bill won't cost taxpayers a single dime, but it will be a valuable first step in honoring our Nation's foremothers and inspiring future generations of women.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY). 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.

VETERAN ACCESS TO CARE ACT OF 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4810) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts for the provision of hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for Department of Veterans Affairs patients with extended waiting times for appointments at Department facilities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4810

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 ''Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. PROVISION OF HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES AT NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PATIENTS WITH EXTENDED WAITING TIMES FOR APPOINTMENTS AT DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As authorized by section 1710 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (in this Act referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall enter into contracts with such non-Department facilities as may be necessary in order to furnish hospital care and medical services to covered veterans who are eligible for such care and services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code. To the greatest extent possible, the Secretary shall carry out this section using contracts entered into before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) COVERED VETERANS.—For purposes of this section, the term ''covered veteran'' means a veteran—

(1) who is enrolled in the patient enrollment system under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code;

(2) who—

(A) has waited longer than the wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration (as of June 1, 2014) for an appointment for hospital care or medical services in a facility of the Department;

(B) has been notified by a facility of the Department that an appointment for hospital care or medical services is not available within such wait-time goals; or

(C) resides more than 40 miles from the medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including a community-based outpatient clinic, that is closest to the residence of the veteran; and

(3) who makes an election to receive such care or services in a non-Department facility.

(c) FOLLOW-UP CARE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that, at the election of a covered veteran who receives hospital care or medical services at a non-Department facility in an episode of care under this section, the veteran receives such hospital care and medical services at such non-Department facility through the completion of the episode of care (but for a period not exceeding 60 days), including all specialty and ancillary services deemed necessary as part of the treatment recommended in the course of such hospital care or medical services.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress a quarterly report on hospital care and medical services furnished pursuant to this section. Such report shall include information, for the quarter covered by the report, regarding—

(1) the number of veterans who received care or services at non-Department facilities pursuant to this section;

(2) the number of veterans who were eligible to receive care or services pursuant to this section but who elected to continue waiting for an appointment at a Department facility;

(3) the purchase methods used to provide the care and services at non-Department facilities, including the rate of payment for individual authorizations for such care and services; and

(4) any other matters the Secretary determines appropriate.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the terms ''facilities of the Department'', ''non-Department facilities'', ''hospital care'', and ''medical services'' have the meanings given such terms in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

(f) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall begin implementing this section on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize payment for care or services not otherwise covered under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code.

(g) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Secretary under this section shall terminate with respect to any hospital care or medical services furnished after the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, except that in the case of an episode of care for which hospital care or medical services is furnished in a non-Department facility pursuant to this section before the end of such period, such termination shall not apply to such care and services furnished during the remainder of such episode of care but not to exceed a period of 60 days.

SEC. 3. EXPANDED ACCESS TO HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that appropriations are available for the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs for medical services, to the extent that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is unable to provide access, within the wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration (as of June 1, 2014), to hospital care or medical services to a covered veteran who is eligible for such care or services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, under contracts described in section 2, the Secretary shall reimburse any non-Department facility with which the Secretary has not entered into a contract to furnish hospital care or medical services for furnishing such hospital care or medical services to such veteran, if the veteran elects to receive such care or services from the non-Department facility. The Secretary shall reimburse the facility for the care or services furnished to the veteran at the greatest of the following rates:

(1) VA PAYMENT RATE.—The rate of reimbursement for such care or services established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(2) MEDICARE PAYMENT RATE.—The payment rate for such care or services or comparable care or services under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

(3) TRICARE PAYMENT RATE.—The reimbursement rate for such care or services furnished to a member of the Armed Forces under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) COVERED VETERANS.—For purposes of this section, the term ''covered veteran'' means a veteran—

(1) who is enrolled in the patient enrollment system under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code; and

(2) who—

(A) has waited longer than the wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration (as of June 1, 2014) for an appointment for hospital care or medical services in a facility of the Department;

(B) has been notified by a facility of the Department that an appointment for hospital care or medical services is not available within such wait-time goals after the date for which the veteran requests the appointment; or

(C) who resides more than 40 miles from the medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including a community-based outpatient clinic, that is closest to the residence of the veteran.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the terms ''facilities of the Department'', ''non-Department facilities'', ''hospital care'', and ''medical services'' have the meanings given such terms in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall begin implementing this section on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize payment for care or services not otherwise covered under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code.

(f) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Secretary under this section shall terminate with respect to care or services furnished after the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION PERFORMANCE.

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract or contracts with a private sector entity or entities with experience in the delivery systems of the Veterans Health Administration and the private sector and in health care management to conduct an independent assessment of hospital care and medical services furnished in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such assessment shall address each of the following:

(1) The current and projected demographics and unique care needs of the patient population served by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) The current and projected health care capabilities and resources of the Department, including hospital care and medical services furnished by non-Department facilities under contract with the Department, to provide timely and accessible care to eligible veterans.

(3) The authorities and mechanisms under which the Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services at non-Department facilities, including an assessment of whether the Secretary should have the authority to furnish such care and services at such facilities through the completion of episodes of care.

(4) The appropriate system-wide access standard applicable to hospital care and medical services furnished by and through the Department of Veterans Affairs and recommendations relating to access standards specific to individual specialties and standards for post-care rehabilitation.

(5) The current organization, processes, and tools used to support clinical staffing and documentation.

(6) The staffing levels and productivity standards, including a comparison with industry performance percentiles.

(7) Information technology strategies of the Veterans Health Administration, including an identification of technology weaknesses and opportunities, especially as they apply to clinical documentation of hospital care and medical services provided in non-Department facilities.

(8) Business processes of the Veterans Health Administration, including non-Department care, insurance identification, third-party revenue collection, and vendor reimbursement.

(b) ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES.—The assessment conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of improvement areas outlined both qualitatively and quantitatively, taking into consideration Department of Veterans Affairs directives and industry benchmarks from outside the Federal Government.

(2) Recommendations for how to address the improvement areas identified under paragraph (1) relating to structure, accountability, process changes, technology, and other relevant drivers of performance.

(3) The business case associated with making the improvements and recommendations identified in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(4) Findings and supporting analysis on how credible conclusions were established.

(c) PROGRAM INTEGRATOR.—If the Secretary enters into contracts with more than one private sector entity under subsection (a), the Secretary shall designate one such entity as the program integrator. The program integrator shall be responsible for coordinating the outcomes of the assessments conducted by the private entities pursuant to such contracts.

(d) SUBMITTAL OF REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) REPORT ON INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 10 months after entering into the contract under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives the findings and recommendations of the independent assessment required by such subsection.

(2) REPORT ON VA ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS IN ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of submission of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to such Committees on the Secretary's response to the findings of the assessment and shall include an action plan, including a timeline, for fully implementing the recommendations of the assessment.

SEC. 5. LIMITATION ON AWARDS AND BONUSES TO EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

For each of fiscal years 2014 through 2016, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not pay awards or bonuses under chapter 45 or 53 of title 5, United States Code, or any other awards or bonuses authorized under such title.

SEC. 6. OMB ESTIMATE OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS AND NEEDED TRANSFER AUTHORITY.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall transmit to the Committees on Appropriations, the Budget, and Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and of the Senate—

(1) an estimate of the budgetary effects of sections 2 and 3;

(2) any transfer authority needed to utilize the savings from section 5 to satisfy such budgetary effects; and

(3) if necessary, a request for any additional budgetary resources, or transfers or reprogramming of existing budgetary resources, necessary to provide funding for sections 2 and 3.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) 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 in which to revise and extend their remarks H.R. 4810.

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.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, I rise today amidst a growing crisis amongst America's veterans. Just over 2 months ago, at a committee oversight hearing, we disclosed that the committee investigation had in fact uncovered evidence suggesting that at least 40 veterans had died while waiting for care at the Phoenix Department of Veterans Affairs health care system. We now know, and VA has in fact confirmed, that almost 60 veterans have died while facing delays in care at Phoenix and other locations, and that the data manipulation efforts that the committee has uncovered are in fact systemic throughout the entire Department.

I cannot state it strongly enough, Mr. Speaker, this is a national disgrace. For our veterans, it is something more. It is a national emergency.

An internal audit that was released just yesterday found that more than 57,000 veterans had been waiting for care, for their first medical appointment, and an additional 64,000 veterans who have enrolled in the health care system over the last 10 years never received the appointment that they requested.

Now, correcting the many failures of the VA health care system is going to take diligent and focused work for a long time to come. This committee, both Republicans and Democrats, is committed to seeing this through. However, our first priority must be making sure that those 121,000 veterans—and the thousands more I fear that are out there that have yet to be identified—receive the long overdue care that they need without any further delay.

This is why we have introduced H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act. This bill would require VA to provide non-VA care authorization to any enrolled veteran who resides more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility and has waited longer than VA's stated wait time goals for a medical appointment, or has been notified by the Department of Veterans Affairs that an appointment is not available within the stated wait time goals.

Now, to ensure continuity of care, the bill would require VA to utilize existing contracts to the greatest extent possible. It would also ensure that the non-VA care authorization encompasses the entire episode of care needed by the veteran during a 60-day period.

To ensure providers are willing to accept veteran patients, the bill requires the Department to reimburse non-VA providers at the greater of the following rates: the rate of reimbursement under VA, the rate of reimbursement under Medicare, or the rate of reimbursement under TRICARE. These authorities would remain in place for 2 years.

To ensure that we are addressing both the short-term access challenges facing our veterans as well as the long-term need for a proactive solution, H.R. 4810 would further require the VA to enter into a contract with an independent entity or entities to conduct an assessment of the health care provided by the VA medical facilities and to submit its findings and recommendations of the assessment as well as an action plan and a timeline for full implementation to the Congress.

Importantly, the bill would also eliminate bonuses and performance awards for all VA employees for fiscal years 2014 through 2016 and require the Office of Management and Budget to transmit to Congress an estimate of the authority's budgetary effects, to include any transfer authority needed to utilize savings and, if necessary, a request for additional budgetary resources. Our latest estimate suggests that a temporary elimination of bonuses and other incentives will free up roughly $400 million per year that can be immediately utilized for the expanded patient choice options under this bill.

VA has a well-established authority to send veterans outside of the VA health care system to receive care through non-VA providers. However, right now, the decision of if and when a veteran is sent to non-VA care lies with a VA bureaucrat.

H.R. 4810 would require that the VA use the authority the Department has been given to assure that veterans waiting for an appointment or residing far from VA medical facilities are left in the control of their own care and able to choose for themselves where, when, and how they receive the care that the veteran themselves need. This authority would ensure that no veteran waiting for an appointment today would receive what one veteran, during a recent committee hearing, determined ''a death sentence.''

Mr. Barry Coates is a gulf war era veteran who waited almost a year in increasing pain to receive a colonoscopy from the Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, South Carolina.

That colonoscopy revealed that Mr. Coates had stage IV colon cancer that had metastasized to his lungs and his liver. Members, he is terminally ill today. Mr. Coates called his experience attempting to access care through the Department long, painful, emotional, and unnecessary. He testified:

> I am here to speak for those to come so that they might be spared the pain I have already endured and know that I have yet to face.

Mr. Speaker, the problems the Department of Veterans Affairs is now facing represents failure on at least two fronts: failure of accountability and failure of access. Over the last several weeks, the House has addressed VA's lack of accountability through the passage of two pieces of legislation: H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act, and H.R. 2072, the Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act.

Today, with the passage of H.R. 4810, we will address the Department's access failures for Barry Coates and, as he so eloquently said, for all those veterans still yet to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014. I want to thank the chairman for bringing this bill forward. I also want to thank the chairman and the staff on both the majority and minority side for all the work that they have been doing to get to the bottom of this crisis within the Department.

Access to timely, quality health care for veterans is a top priority for the Veterans' Affairs Committee. We often hear that the care that veterans receive at the VA facilities is second to none—that is, if you can get in. As we have recently learned, tens of thousands of veterans are not getting in, having to wait weeks and even months to access VA medical centers throughout the country.

The gravity of the delay in care that veterans from all areas are experiencing cannot be overstated and is totally unacceptable. This legislation would help to alleviate the backlog of veteran patients waiting to be seen at VA medical facilities both for specialty care and primary care appointments.

Specifically, it requires the VA to provide access to non-VA care to any enrolled veteran who lives more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility, has waited longer than the wait time goals for a medical appointment, or has been notified by the VA that an appointment is not available within the wait time goals. More importantly, it gives the veteran the option to elect to receive care at a non-VA facility or, if the veteran chooses, to wait to be seen at the VA medical center.

When our young men and women sign up to serve their country, we promise them quality, accessible health care. Thanks to many caring frontline clinicians, we have achieved the first, high-quality medical care. Now we must work on the second timely, and that is access issues. I encourage my colleagues to support this very important piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), who has been at the forefront of the investigation on this scandal.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the chairman's H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act.

Recent reports from within the VA have confirmed that the manipulation of scheduling data and unacceptable wait times first highlighted in Phoenix are systemic throughout the VA system. Unfortunately, we have seen some of this in Colorado—at Colorado Springs, in particular. I am really upset about that.

These findings prompted me to author a letter last week that was signed by 35 of my colleagues urging Acting Secretary of the VA Gibson to expand the use of fee-based care in order to clear the current backlog and address any capacity shortfalls.

H.R. 4810 takes the next steps in addressing these shortfalls by mandating that the VA expand access to fee-based care and defines the parameters under which this care will be administered.

''Fee-based'' means that the veteran can get private health care providers to step in and take care of his health care needs when the VA doesn't have the capacity at that time to take care of him or her.

In order to ensure this timely delivery of quality care, H.R. 4810 also requires the VA to have an independent assessment conducted on the Veterans Health Administration to evaluate the Department's performance and to provide recommendations for improvement. Also, I would like to mention, bonuses will not be available to VA bureaucrats until 2016 under this bill, until this problem gets solved.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support H.R. 4810. I appreciate the chairman's leadership on this issue, and I ask my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation as well.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY).

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding, and I thank the chairman for introducing this bill.

I chose to join the House Veterans' Affairs Committee even knowing the many challenges that have plagued the VA for decades because I want to do all I can to make sure our veterans receive the care they have earned and deserve for the sacrifices they have made for our great Nation.

If the VA cannot see a veteran in a timely manner, then that veteran should be able to seek care outside of the VA. That is why I have cosponsored this bill and I intend to vote for it today.

This bill will not fix everything, but it will absolutely help and it is an important step forward. However, for those of us who represent urban areas like southern California, we all know that 40 miles can take the better part of a day to traverse back and forth. That is why I believe that we must take into account not only the distance traveled, but also the amount of time that it takes for veterans to travel to the VA so that the intention of this bill reaches all of our veterans. As a consequence, I ask the chairman and the ranking member to work with me to improve this bill and include time traveled as a factor as the bill continues to move forward.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill. I ask them to continue our work until we live up to the promise this country has made to our veterans and their families.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I understand Ms. BROWNLEY's concern, and I have heard that from Members on our side of the aisle as well.

At this point, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the vice chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, a stalwart supporter of our veterans.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership on behalf of our true American heroes, and thank you for filing this bill. I also want to thank the ranking member. He does an outstanding job, as well, on behalf of our heroes.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud original cosponsor, I rise in strong support for H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act. In upholding our promise to our Nation's heroes, this legislation will provide necessary relief for thousands of veterans who have waited far too long within the VA health system. Many of these veterans are forced to wait months, even years.

□ 1245

This is beyond unacceptable and represents a disservice for their sacrifice and service.

H.R. 4810 empowers the veterans with choice. It will address an immediate problem, allowing veterans to access non-VA care or stay within the VA system if they desire.

Our colleagues in the Senate have introduced similar legislation, which includes, again, a very similar provision. Mr. Speaker, I hope that this needed solution to care for our veterans will move quickly and be presented before the President without delay.

Long term, the VA's systemic failures that promote a culture of mediocrity and discourage transparency and accountability must be addressed.

However, our first priority is to ensure veterans are receiving timely quality care, but we must also continue our oversight to root out this culture of corruption.

I want to thank again the chairman for filing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding to me.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 4810. This important legislation will allow our Nation's heroes to access health care outside the VA for the next 2 years.

If even one veteran who has been waiting a long time for an appointment through the VA is able to receive care more quickly in the private sector, then we should give him or her that opportunity.

But this alone won't solve the problem. More must be done. We have known for a while that the VA facilities across the United States do not have enough doctors and nurses on staff to meet the growing demand for care. This is not a problem that is just isolated to the VA.

As I discussed in our hearing last night, allowing veterans to access care in the private sector will help in some areas of the United States, but in many cities and rural areas across the country there is also a shortage of care in the private sector.

In Nevada, for example, we have for a long time had a chronic shortage of doctors, both in primary care and among specialists. When comparing the number of health care workers relative to State population, Nevada ranks 46th in the Nation for general and family practitioners, 50th for psychiatrists, and 51st for general surgeons. So, as a result, veterans aren't the only ones who are waiting for health care. Everyone is affected.

Adding more patients to an already burdened system will not be a panacea.

That is why I am working with members of the committee on legislation that will shore up our VA health care system by increasing the number of medical residency programs at VA hospitals in areas that are facing a physician shortage. By increasing our investment in physician training, we will not only help our veterans in the short run, but we will be taking a step toward addressing the long-term nationwide physician shortage.

I hope that I will find support for that as we move forward, and I thank the chairman for his work on this important issue.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the First District of Tennessee, Dr. ROE, a veteran himself.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker I thank the chairman.

I rise in support of H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act.

As a physician, veteran, and member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, words cannot express my outrage over the VA's blatant disregard for the lives of those who served their country honorably and earned timely access to quality care.

I have helped run a hospital and am fully aware of how wait times and performance goals work. When the VA set a 14-day goal for scheduling appointments, it should have become immediately apparent that this was unattainable and could only be realized by cooking the books. Even in the private sector, a 14-day wait time is quite ambitious.

This bipartisan legislation offers a simple solution to a deadly problem. The needs of the vast majority of VA patients across the country can and will continue to be met through the existing VA system. But it is outrageous that veterans could die awaiting for care that is readily available in the private sector, so this is a commonsense solution and, frankly, the least we should do to help our veterans.

As I said last night in the committee hearing, there is something the VA could do today to change the culture of the VA. If you asked someone who works on a VA campus where do they work, Mr. Speaker, they will say I work for the VA. They should say, the answer to that question should be, I work and serve veterans.

I applaud the work that Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, and the committee staff have undertaken to hold the VA accountable.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW), a former member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for his leadership on this issue.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill because it offers a way out for so many veterans who are stuck in the VA bureaucracy.

Over a year ago, I joined Chairman MILLER at the VA in Atlanta when this problem first arose. Just this year, he was gracious enough to come to my district in Georgia, where we are encountering similar problems. The audit released yesterday underscores the necessity of this legislation.

In my district alone, 130 veterans who requested appointments have never been seen. Sadly, they are only a small portion of the 57,000 who have waited more than 90 days to see a physician. We can do better.

This bill addresses the immediate critical needs of our veterans, but for too long veterans have been denied access to the care we promised them, too often because of simple inefficiency and incompetence at the VA.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I look forward to continuing to work together toward comprehensive reform of the VA services that our veterans have earned.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, many Members have been very involved in this issue. Certainly the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health has been at the forefront. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan, Dr. BENISHEK.

Mr. BENISHEK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act.

This bill simply says to our veterans, you will receive the care you earned in a timely manner, whether it is at a VA facility or at your local hospital. I am proud to be an original cosponsor.

By passing this legislation, we give a helping hand to those veterans stuck in a broken bureaucracy. We will not allow them to sit and wait for an appointment that they should have gotten immediately. They fought to defend our right to freedom. Today we defend their right to the care they were promised.

The 2-year authorization for private care in this bill will give Congress time to work with the VA to overhaul the system. As a former VA doctor, I pledge to you that the VA that emerges from this process will be leaner, smarter, and far more responsive to the needs of our veterans.

We know 35 veterans have died while awaiting care in the Phoenix area alone. We know the recent deaths of at least 23 veterans have been linked to delayed VA medical care. The time for excuses is over. The time for action is now.

I support, and I urge all my colleagues to support, H.R. 4810.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, Dr. CUELLAR.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank my good friend, the chairman, for the great work that he and his staff have been doing, and certainly the ranking member and his staff, who have worked so hard, along with the Members, to get this piece of legislation.

I have always said, as my fellow colleagues have said, that when one of our men and women go out and fight on a foreign battlefield, they should not come back and fight the bureaucracy of the VA. This is why this legislation is very, very important, that we address some of the issues.

As one of the original cosponsors, I think providing an alternative with this emergency bill, H.R. 4810, which is at the top of an emergency, will provide an alternative to those veterans.

I represent part of San Antonio, go through a lot of rural areas, go down to Laredo, then go through a lot of rural areas, and then go into the McAllen area, the Valley area. In that area, I think this legislation will be very, very useful in the sense that if somebody has to wait or somebody lives more than 40 miles away from the VA facility, then they should be able to go to one of the local providers in their home area to get that assistance. I think this will save the veterans a lot of trouble, time, and provide them care in their home area.

I believe also when they are provided services at a non-VA facility where

they can be reimbursed at the rate of the VA, TRICARE, Medicare, whatever is greater, that is, again, another good alternative. The only thing I would caution my friends on is, let's be careful, because I have been pushing the alternative to work with the local providers, and there has been a problem with the VA where they don't provide the reimbursement to those providers on a timely basis, and we have got to make sure that we provide the oversight that if a provider comes in, a private provider, that they are reimbursed and paid promptly. Otherwise we are going to lose those providers.

Again, I certainly want to thank the chairman for the great work that he has been doing, the ranking member, the staff, and the other Members. This is a good piece of legislation, a good step forward, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4810.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. HUELSKAMP).

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014.

I want to thank the chairman for his leadership not only on this bill, but investigating the current situation at the VA. This is a long overdue, proactive, multipronged solution I have been advocating for since coming to Congress.

On the committee in the last 3 years, we have been investigating lavish conference spending at the VA, millions of dollars of outrageous bonuses, billions of dollars of cost overruns. These are all significant scandals in and of themselves.

But what we are discussing here today is much bigger. It is about life and death. It is about dozens of veterans who lost their lives because of what happened at the VA; a systemic, nationwide problem, along with coverups, corruption, and, yes, criminality. It is shameful.

Instead of fighting to preserve the status quo, it is time to ensure that veterans receive quality health care closer to home. H.R. 4810 is a proactive solution. It involves veterans choice, independent review of VA performance, eliminating those outrageous bonuses, and holding the administration and holding the VA accountable.

Whether it is the veteran I met in Syracuse, Kansas, who was told he had to drive 10 hours round-trip three times in 10 days for care he could have gotten down the street at his local hospital, and he was told to drive to a facility that had a secret waiting list in Wichita, or the veteran Jack in Liberal, Kansas, who has waited 2 years for a doctor that was promised by the VA, or Larry in Oberlin, who I just learned a few weeks ago was told again to drive 10 hours to get a shingles vaccination that was just down the road, these are veterans who have been denied access to quality care.

H.R. 4810 deserves to be passed. These veterans deserve quality care close to home. The answer is pretty simple, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe there will be a rush to the exits of VA, but it will meet the needs of Larry, it will need the needs of Jack, it will meet the needs of Joe, and hopefully millions of other veterans that deserve quality access to care.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers at this time so we are prepared to close.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of speakers, but they are not here so I will close.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014.

I want to thank the chairman once again for bringing this bill before the Chamber so we can vote on it.

Good quality health care is important for our veterans, but it doesn't do any good unless they can have access to that quality care. This legislation will definitely provide that access through non-VA care that our veterans need in certain areas.

I encourage my colleagues to support it. I once again want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for working in a bipartisan manner to bring this bill before us today for a vote.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, without a doubt there are thousands of veterans across this country that are waiting for care that VA should be providing for them today. That is a national disgrace.

It is a national crisis when veterans die, as VA has already admitted: 23 preventable deaths due to delayed care, and maybe more on the way.

Let me assure the Members of this body, this will not end here. There are problems, systemic problems, throughout the entire Department of Veterans Affairs. We will work day and night, as we did last night, going until 11:30 p.m., making sure that VA tells this Congress, a coequal branch of this Federal Government, the truth.

With that, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 4810, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014 is critical to ensuring that our nation's veterans have timely access to quality health care. Recent reports from the VA's internal audits have revealed that thousands of veterans are still waiting for their first medical appointments at VA medical centers after waiting for at least 90 days. This is much longer than the agency's wait-time policy of 14 days or less. And it is simply unacceptable.

Further, the VA inspector general has confirmed that VA medical centers were deliberately hiding treatment delays and waiting times to make it seem that they were meeting the agency's wait-time goals. The Veteran Access to Care Act would address the wait-time issue by allowing veterans to receive private-sector health care if they have waited longer than the Veterans Health Administration's wait-time targets or if they reside more than 40 miles from the nearest VA medical facility or community-based outpatient clinic. The Access to Care Act gives the secretary authority to enter into contracts with non-Department medical facilities to provide health care to veterans and, if the secretary is unable to provide timely health-care access using contracted care, the act provides authority for the secretary to reimburse any non-Department medical facility for health care provided to a veteran.

Funding for implementing this act will come from funds that have already been appropriated, or will in the future be appropriated, to the Veterans Health Administration for medical services in the normal course of the discretionary appropriations process. This bill provides no new budget authority to the Department of Veterans Affairs and does not violate the budget enforcement regime.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4810, the Veterans Access to Care Act. This common-sense bill will help the veterans in my district get access to the care they deserve.

As many of you may know, my district is mostly rural. Many of the veterans in Arizona's district one wait too long to receive care, and they drive over 200 miles one way for an appointment.

This is difficult not only for the veterans, but for their families—and it's unrealistic for veterans requiring frequent treatment for things like mental health services or post-traumatic stress.

This bill helps our rural veterans by giving them a choice. Veterans will now be able to see a healthcare provider outside of the VA system if they live at least 40 miles from the closest VA medical facility and cannot get an appointment with a VA provider within a reasonable period of time.

This choice works for the veterans in my district. On the Navajo Nation, we realized that it was too difficult for our veterans to travel great distances to VA providers—and we pushed for a partnership with the Indian Health Service.

Now veterans on the Navajo Nation have the option of seeing a provider at the Indian Health Service without having to wait an unreasonable amount of time or travel great distances.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4810 so that veterans in rural communities in Arizona and across the country can go to a local doctor, clinic or hospital when the VA wait time is just too long.

Our veterans deserve timely care, and this will address one part of the VA access problem.

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. 4810.

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. MILLER of Florida. 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.

□ 1300

CONDEMNING THE MASS SHOOTING IN ISLA VISTA, CALIFORNIA

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 608) condemning the senseless rampage and mass shooting that took place in Isla Vista, California, on Friday, May 23, 2014, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 608

Whereas on May 23, 2014, a rampage and mass shooting took place in Isla Vista, California, a community adjacent to the University of California at Santa Barbara;

Whereas the people of the United States mourn the 6 innocent lives lost in this senseless tragedy, George Chen, 19, Katherine Breann Cooper, 22, Cheng ''James'' Yuan Hong, 20, Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez, 20, Weihan ''David'' Wang, 20, Veronika Weiss, 19, all of whom were students at the University of California, Santa Barbara;

Whereas the people of the United States offer support to all the victims and their families, and wish the 13 injured full and speedy recoveries;

Whereas the brave response of law enforcement officials and other first responders prevented additional losses of life and further injury; and

Whereas the people of the United States call for a reduction of violence, deplore mass shootings, and stand with the survivors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the senseless rampage and mass shooting that took place in Isla Vista, California, on May 23, 2014;

(2) offers condolences to the entire Isla Vista community and the University of California, Santa Barbara community, as well as their families;

(3) recognizes that the healing process will be long and difficult for the Isla Vista and Santa Barbara communities;

(4) encourages a productive and thoughtful dialogue on all aspects of this senseless tragedy;

(5) honors the selfless, dedicated service of the law enforcement officials and emergency response personnel who responded to the attack, preventing further loss of life and injury, and who continue to investigate the attack; and

(6) remains committed to working to help prevent tragedies like this from happening again.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

As many of us know, on May 23, 2014, a mass shooting took place in Isla Vista, California, a community adjacent to the University of California, Santa Barbara campus.

The people of the United States will continue to mourn the loss of six innocent victims and students of the University of California, Santa Barbara. Each of these students excelled in school and were looking forward to bright futures.

We will continue to remember the victims: George Chen, 19; Katherine Breann Cooper, 22; Cheng ''James'' Yuan Hong, 20; Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez, 20; Weihan ''David'' Wang, 20; and Veronika Weiss, 19.

Americans everywhere continue to extend their support and sympathy to the victims, their families, and loved ones, and we wish each of the 13 people injured in the shooting a full and speedy recovery.

I would also like to commend the law enforcement officers and other first responders for their courage, bravery, and dedication to service. Their efforts helped to prevent further fatalities and injuries, and we remain extremely grateful to each of them.

I urge support of this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 608, introduced by Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS, which is a bipartisan resolution to offer condolences to the Isla Vista and University of California, Santa Barbara communities, to mourn the victims and offer support to their families.

It condemns the senseless rampage and urges a dialogue on ''the Nation's mental health care system, anger, firearms laws, harmful attitudes towards women.''

The resolution honors law enforcement and emergency personnel for their response to the attack and continues the commitment of ''working to help prevent tragedies like this from happening again.''

The rampage and mass shooting that left six UC Santa Barbara students dead and 13 others injured in Isla Vista on May 23 was perpetrated by a deeply troubled man, with violent tendencies, who planned for months to kill as many as he could before the tragic day unfolded.

Despite warnings from his parents to police and a subsequent law enforcement check a few weeks before the murders, Elliot Rodger was able to cleverly ward off police by passing off the warnings as a ''misunderstanding.''

Police said, later, that Rodger did not meet the criteria for an involuntary hold. He legally purchased more than 400 rounds of ammunition and three semiautomatic pistols over the course of months before his rampage.

In the months leading up to the shooting, Elliot Rodger posted numerous videos and comments on social media sites detailing his frustrations with women and his hatred of them.

He made such comments as:

> My orchestration of the day of retribution is my attempt to do everything in my power to destroy everything I cannot have. All of those beautiful girls I've desired so much in my life, but can never have because they despise and loathe me, I will destroy.

He said he would also eliminate the men who had better luck with women than he did.

Rodger, distressingly, joins a long list of mass killers that have haunted this country in recent years at grim scenes, including Sandy Hook, Virginia Tech, Aurora, Tucson, a Walmart in Las Vegas, and now in Oregon, just minutes ago.

Rodger shares three common denominators with these other mass murderers: easy access to guns, a history of mental illness, and clear warning signs that he wanted to carry out violent acts. Together, the five lone killers left a staggering 82 people dead and 114 others injured and scarred.

The Sandy Hook killer had serious mental health issues. The man who shot Representative Gabby Giffords had dropped out of school after his college required a mental health evaluation.

The Virginia Tech killer had been investigated by the university for stalking and had been declared mentally ill by a Virginia special justice. The Isla Vista shooter also had a long history of mental illness.

What it is going to take, colleagues?

Like many other mass shooters, he showed clear signs that he was extremely dangerous and planned to kill, but these five massacres are only a fraction of the mass shootings Americans have endured in a short span.

Between January 2009 and September 2013, there were 93 mass shootings—almost two per month—that occurred in 35 States, in a nearly 5-year period.

Is the problem too many guns? Is it mental health? Is it guns in the wrong hands?

The answer to all these questions is yes. We know what needs to be done. We may not agree on every solution to reduce gun violence, but Americans, outraged by our inability to get anything done on this issue, are waiting for us to come to our senses and to act.

The threshold for taking someone against their will for psychiatric evaluation needs to be reviewed. Police need better mental health training. It must become easier to intervene when there are risks.

The prevailing majority of individuals with a mental health problem aren't violent, but we should have the tools to respond to the smaller number who show clear violent tendencies and evidence that they are preparing to act on it.

Richard Martinez, the father of slain 20-year-old Christopher Michaels-Martinez, tearfully pleaded for people to

stop feeling sorry for him after the massacre. His words ring in my ear all the time:

> I don't care about your sympathy. I'm going to ask every person I can find to send a postcard to every politician they think of with 3 words on it: not one more.
>
> People are looking for something to do. I'm asking people to stand up for something. Enough is enough.

One more mass killing is too many, and Congress is culpable for not taking action. We say never again, but it sounds like an empty promise because we do nothing.

I thank Congresswoman CAPPS for offering this thoughtful and important resolution. We need to do so much more, and her bringing this resolution to our attention gives us the opportunity to draw together and, hopefully, to come up with something to do.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Mrs. CAPPS), my colleague and the author of the bill.

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution to remember those who lost their lives and to recognize those who were injured on May 23 in my district in California. The rampage and mass shooting in Isla Vista rocked this small beachside community.

Again, we mourn those lost—George Chen, ''James'' Yuan Hong, Weihan ''David'' Wang, Katherine Breann Cooper, Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez, and Veronika Weiss—and we support the injured as they heal.

Our community grieves, but Isla Vista is a special place and one that has come together since the tragedy to emerge stronger. We can learn from their strength.

Unfortunately, Isla Vista joins a long list of those who have grieved because of mass shootings. Even in the 18 days since this incident, more communities have joined the list of those who mourn: Seattle, Chicago, Norfolk, and Las Vegas.

As the father of one of the victims implored:

> Enough is enough. Not one more.

That is on my wristband. We must not let the attention fade. We must not let the drumbeat fall silent. Congress has the power to act, and we must.

The rampage and shooting that rocked my hometown was, sadly, just one of many incidents that occur across the Nation.

It is wrong to think we can do nothing to stop this carnage. It is factually wrong, and it is morally wrong. It is simply not a reflection of who we are—who Americans are—as a people.

Americans do not simply give up on hard problems. We work together to find consensus, even though these are thorny, difficult issues.

Greater gun safety and the Second Amendment are not mutually exclusive. Law-abiding, responsible Americans have the right to own guns; but each of us should also feel safe in our homes, in our parks, and in our communities.

The Isla Vista tragedy has shown us that, when warning signs of violence are seen, we must act, but our communities need the tools to do so. While we may never be able to prevent each and every single violent act, it doesn't mean we should do nothing. Our communities demand that we try.

I share with you my constituent's heartbreaking questions:

> They talk about gun rights. What about Chris' right to live?

So I join the chorus of those who are so rightly frustrated with the status quo and with this Congress. They have said to our Congress: not one more.

Today's resolution is an important step in that direction. We must condemn the violence. We must remember the victims. We must support the living.

On behalf of my community, thank you, my colleagues and the communities that you represent, for your prayers. Thank you for your support during this difficult time. It means a great deal to all of us on the central coast of California, but let this not be the end of the conversation.

I am looking forward to working with each of you to do all we can so that there is not one more. We can act, and we must.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend, Mrs. CAPPS, for her strong message.

I yield 5 minutes to my good friend and colleague from California (Mr. HONDA).

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the words that have been expressed this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness. My heart goes out to the families and friends of all the victims killed in the tragic events of May 23 in Isla Vista, California.

Three of the victims were from my California Congressional District 17. I want to express my deepest condolences to the families of Cheng ''James'' Yuan Hong, George Chen, and Weihan ''David'' Wang. The lives of these young men were cut short in the senseless tragedy that happened this past Memorial Day weekend.

''James'' Hong and George Chen—from San Jose—and ''David'' Wang—from Fremont—were all from immigrant Chinese families. They were all studying engineering at UC Santa Barbara. I ask everyone to please keep in your thoughts and prayers these young men and their families.

As we struggle to make sense of what happened, we must seriously examine our gun laws and ask why people who are mentally disturbed can continue to possess and obtain firearms.

These acts of violence cannot be allowed to continue. How many more tragedies must our Nation suffer before Congress acts?

We in Congress promised our Nation we would do better after the shootings at Sandy Hook, but we have not made good on that promise.

□ 1315

Instead, the shootings have continued. Just since the Isla Vista killings on May 23, there have been two more mass shootings.

I am outraged that we have not done more to protect the public from gun violence. Congress has failed to act. Congress has failed the American people. It is up to us to pass comprehensive, commonsense gun laws to prevent these tragic deaths from occurring.

The brutal violence exacted on the victims in Isla Vista, California, was horrific. What was particularly horrific was the nature in which those three young men were killed. They were stabbed to death before the perpetrator went on a shooting spree that claimed the lives of more victims.

We will always remember those who are no longer with us, but we must also honor them. We must enact real change to our gun laws to protect not only the young people but all of our citizens. It is our moral obligation.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and subject to close, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

I would hate to think that we will have one of these resolutions on the House floor week after week because we choose to do nothing. There are 32 people who will die today due to gunshot wounds, and there are 32 who will die tomorrow and 32 the next day. We seem to somehow be inured to what is going on around us. Let us respect those who have died and those who have been injured, and let us take steps to do something this year.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The mentally ill have for too long been able to get guns. Individuals who have been seen and exposed as being violent or incarcerated for their mental illnesses have too often become their own victims because we haven't paid enough attention to their possession of deadly weapons. This case is different than some because this violent individual also used knives.

No matter what, I join on a bipartisan basis, urging that, as we look at a national mental health policy, we include the recognition that it is in other people's best interests. Of course, there are victims of these crimes, but too often, the mentally ill kill themselves with a gun. The mentally ill take their lives. As we look at a terrible tragedy of murder, let's bear in mind that the real reform that we have to get to the root of is that of dealing with the mentally ill better in this country, dealing with the need to take weapons out of their hands and also the need to provide them real opportunity for care.

A number of Members of Congress have pieces of legislation that deal with mental health, and although there has been much discussion about gun control, this was really a mental health control question before it was a gun control question.

I urge the passage by all of our Members of this balanced bill that was authored by my friend, the gentlelady from Santa Barbara (Mrs. CAPPS), because it does speak to both problems: the gun problem, of course—the murder of innocent people—but also the mental health question.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my colleague from Santa Barbara and of this resolution.

My heart goes out to the community of Isla Vista, the victims and their families.

As a father and grandfather, my heart breaks for the families of the young lives that ended too soon: Christopher Michaels-Martinez, Veronika Weiss, Katie Cooper, Cheng-Yuan Hong, George Chen, Weihan Wang.

And I am angry that we're in this situation yet again.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution states that the House of Representatives remains committed to working to help prevent tragedies like this from happening ever again.

Some may say that today is not the day to talk about guns, or violence.

Others may say that weapons are not the problem, and we should focus our efforts on mental health care.

I say we need to talk about both. The shooter was a mentally ill young man who had better access to firearms than he did sufficient mental health care.

We also need to talk about misogyny and its impact on domestic violence.

These are hard conversations, with no easy answers. But we owe it to the victims and their families of this and other tragedies to have these important conversations.

We must speak on behalf of those who can no longer speak. We must not be afraid to take action.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sorrow over the tragedy that occurred on May 23rd in Isla Vista, a community adjoining the University of California at Santa Barbara, and to add my voice to the chorus of Americans demanding, "Not one more."

My heart goes out to the families of the victims of this senseless tragedy. The lives of UCSB students George Chen and Cheng 'James' Yuan Hong of San Jose, Weihan 'David' Wang, Katherine Breann Cooper, Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez, and Veronika Elizabeth Weiss were cut far too short. This terrible event has touched not only my community of San Jose, but my office in DC, which is home to several Gauchos.

We owe it to these families to act immediately to address gun violence in our country. Incidents like the one that occurred in Isla Vista are becoming far too common. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 608 and to commit to action on preventing gun violence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 608, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERAN ACCESS TO CARE ACT OF 2014

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

The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4810), 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 Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and a result was announced. The vote was subsequently vacated by order of the House, and the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill was disposed of by rollcall No. 275.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 275, I was detained at a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 275, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

□ 1345

THE CONGRESSIONAL CUP

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

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I think most of the Members all know that, for the past 13 years, a competition takes place between the House Republicans and the House Democrats in a golf match known as the Congressional Cup.

This year, the competition took place about 2 weeks ago, and I just wanted to announce to the Members of the House that the Republican team, by a score of 14–6, defeated the Democratic team, and the Congressional Cup will now stay in the possession of the Republicans for the third straight year.

I also want to say, Mr. Speaker, that this event is used to raise money for an organization called The First Tee, which uses the game of golf to teach kids—a lot of kids from the inner city—about self-esteem, about building character, about honesty, integrity, hard work, and dedication.

This event, over the years, has raised over $2 million for The First Tee. The organization is operating in all 50 States. They have reached 9 million kids over the last 10 years, and they have 17,000 volunteers that are involved.

I just wanted to thank The First Tee, thank the sponsors, and thank the participants, and in particular, I want to thank my fellow teammates for their hard work and dedication for this stunning victory.

Now, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH), the captain of the Democratic team.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and fellow captain for yielding.

I want to congratulate the Republican team on their victory. It was well earned. It was a thumping. As Rahm Emanuel once said of the 2006 election: we got thumped. Elections have consequences, and I hope that we can use this public embarrassment to shame some of my colleagues, who do play golf, into participating next year because we have some talent on the sidelines that we would like to get in the fray.

The victory was well earned, and as my colleague said, the true winners are the children of America who benefit from this great program. There are more than 200 chapters of The First Tee around the country, so virtually every Member has a First Tee chapter in their district.

I hope that they will continue to support The First Tee program for the values it instills in our young people.

With that, once again, congratulations to the Republican team.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 604 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4745.

Will the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) kindly take the chair.

□ 1355

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. BISHOP of Utah (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Monday, June 9, 2014, an amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 156, line 16.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

An amendment by Mr. GOHMERT of Texas.

An amendment by Mr. NADLER of New York.

An amendment by Mrs. CAPITO of West Virginia.

An amendment by Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

An amendment by Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

An amendment by Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

An amendment by Mrs. HARTZLER of Missouri.

An amendment by Mr. DAINES of Montana.

An amendment by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

An amendment by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

An amendment by Mr. FLEMING of Louisiana.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOHMERT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 160, noes 266, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 276]

AYES—160

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Barletta
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Byrne
Camp
Campbell
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Culberson
Daines
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
Long
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tipton
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho

NOES—266

Aderholt
Bachus
Barber
Barr
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Nunes
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reichert
Renacci
Richmond
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—5

Hall
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1401

Mr. BUCSHON changed his vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 205, noes 221, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 277]

AYES—205

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister

McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Richmond
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth
Young (IN)

NOES—221

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Beatty
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hinojosa
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Rangel
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—5

Hall
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1405

Mr. YARMUTH changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I submit a clarification of my vote during consideration of H.R. 4745, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015. I fully intended to continue my strong support of the Housing for Persons with AIDS program and mistakenly voted "no" on rollcall vote 277, the Nadler Amendment. I intended to vote "aye."

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. CAPITO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 114, noes 311, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 278]

AYES—114

Amash
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boustany
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Burgess
Capito
Capuano
Carter
Cassidy
Coble
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flores
Fortenberry
Gabbard
Gallego
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Hudson
Hultgren
Hurt
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
Kind
Kinzinger (IL)
Kuster
Lipinski
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Massie
McAllister
McCaul
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nugent
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Petri
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Rahall
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothfus
Royce
Salmon
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Stivers
Stutzman
Thornberry
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Woodall
Yoho

NOES—311

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Black
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gingrey (GA)
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McKeon
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Nolan
Nunes
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Ribble
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)

Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—6

Hall
McDermott
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1409

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 134, noes 288, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 279]

AYES—134

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Byrne
Campbell
Cantor
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Cotton
Cramer
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Guthrie
Harris
Hensarling
Holding
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
Long
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Petri
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ross
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—288

Aderholt
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Richmond
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—9

Camp
Frelinghuysen
Hall
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Schock
Valadao
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1413

Mr. BARR changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 143, noes 283, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 280]

AYES—143

Amash
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Byrne
Campbell
Capps
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Daines
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
Long
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ross
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert

Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho

NOES—283

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McKeon
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Richmond
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—5

Hall
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1417

Mr. PITTENGER changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 130, noes 295, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 281]

AYES—130

Amash
Bachmann
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Byrne
Cantor
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Coble
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Franks (AZ)
Gardner
Garrett
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Guthrie
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Noem
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Petri
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reichert
Rice (SC)
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tipton
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Weber (TX)
Westmoreland
Williams
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho

NOES—295

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Mica
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walorski
Walz

Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—6

Diaz-Balart
Hall
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1421

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. HARTZLER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 188, noes 237, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 282]

AYES—188

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crenshaw
Daines
Denham
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lankford
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Miller (FL)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—237

Aderholt
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crawford
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Roybal-Allard
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuster
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—6

Brady (TX)
Hall
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1425

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DAINES

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 214, noes 212, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 283]

AYES—214

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)

Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Turner
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—212

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Rogers (KY)
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—5

Hall
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1-minute remaining.

□ 1429

Mr. CICILLINE changed his vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 177, noes 249, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 284]

AYES—177

Amodei
Bachmann
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Byrne
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Franks (AZ)
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hanna
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Noem
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho

NOES—249

Aderholt
Amash
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cantor
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Nugent
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Richmond
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—5

Hall
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1433

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 219, noes 207, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 285]

AYES—219

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Daines
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—207

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—5

Hall
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

□ 1439

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. CANTOR was allowed to speak out of order.)

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Chairman, I would advise Members that following this vote on Representative FLEMING's amendment, the House will revote H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014.

The vote will be the same as the first vote earlier in this series on the same piece of legislation.

Again, the House will revote H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014, following this last amendment vote.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLEMING

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, 2-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 255, noes 171, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 286]

AYES—255

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Chabot
Clark (MA)
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Doyle
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Farenthold
Fattah
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Gallego
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn

Lance
Lankford
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lewis
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCaul
McClintock
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Turner
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—171

Barletta
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Crawford
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Edwards
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Goodlatte
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Higgins
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kirkpatrick
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Latham
Levin
Lipinski
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McIntyre
McKeon
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reichert
Richmond
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott, David
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stewart
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walorski
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—5

Hall
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

□ 1446

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) having assumed the chair, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, 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. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

VETERAN ACCESS TO CARE ACT OF 2014

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings on rollcall vote No. 275, the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4810) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts for the provision of hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for Department of Veterans Affairs patients with extended waiting times for appointments at Department facilities, and for other purposes, be vacated, to the end that the Chair put the question de novo.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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. 4810.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 426, noes 0, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 287]

AYES—426

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
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, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey

Price (GA)	Schiff	Tierney
Price (NC)	Schneider	Tipton
Quigley	Schock	Titus
Rahall	Schrader	Tonko
Rangel	Schwartz	Tsongas
Reed	Schweikert	Turner
Reichert	Scott (VA)	Upton
Renacci	Scott, Austin	Valadao
Ribble	Scott, David	Van Hollen
Rice (SC)	Sensenbrenner	Vargas
Richmond	Serrano	Veasey
Rigell	Sessions	Vela
Roby	Sewell (AL)	Velázquez
Roe (TN)	Shea-Porter	Visclosky
Rogers (AL)	Sherman	Wagner
Rogers (KY)	Shimkus	Walberg
Rogers (MI)	Shuster	Walden
Rohrabacher	Simpson	Walorski
Rokita	Sinema	Walz
Rooney	Sires	Wasserman Schultz
Ros-Lehtinen	Slaughter	Waters
Roskam	Smith (MO)	Waxman
Ross	Smith (NE)	Weber (TX)
Rothfus	Smith (NJ)	Webster (FL)
Roybal-Allard	Smith (TX)	Welch
Royce	Smith (WA)	Wenstrup
Ruiz	Southerland	Westmoreland
Runyan	Speier	Whitfield
Ruppersberger	Stewart	Williams
Rush	Stivers	Wilson (FL)
Ryan (OH)	Stockman	Wittman
Ryan (WI)	Stutzman	Wolf
Salmon	Swalwell (CA)	Womack
Sánchez, Linda T.	Takano	Woodall
Sanchez, Loretta	Terry	Yarmuth
Sanford	Thompson (CA)	Yoder
Sarbanes	Thompson (MS)	Yoho
Scalise	Thompson (PA)	Young (AK)
Schakowsky	Thornberry	Young (IN)
	Tiberi	

NOT VOTING—5

Hall	Negrete McLeod	Wilson (SC)
Miller, Gary	Nunnelee	

□ 1504

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to House Resolution 604 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4745.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) kindly take the chair.

□ 1506

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. MARCHANT (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, an amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 156, line 16.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

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 Housing Trust Fund established under section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568).

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise, yet again, to raise the alarm over taxpayer-funded housing policy.

This straightforward amendment that you have before you would prohibit Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac from using funds to pay housing advocacy groups or others through the housing trust fund at a time when they continue to owe money to the American people.

Beginning in 2008, the U.S. taxpayers bailed out the GSEs to the tune of $189 billion. That number is expected to grow to over $200 billion by 2015; but as the housing market has begun to recover, so, too, have Fannie's and Freddie's profits.

At the first sign of money rolling in, some housing advocates are pressuring the Federal Housing Finance Agency to get a piece of the taxpayer-funded pie. They have gone to extraordinary lengths, even filing a lawsuit last summer to try to force contributions to the trust fund.

Originally slated to receive funds siphoned off from the GSEs, the trust fund was never capitalized due, of course, to the fact that the GSEs went into conservatorship. Without passage of this amendment, the director of the FHFA could turn on that spigot at any moment.

Contrary to what Fannie and Freddie apologists may claim, the GSEs have yet to repay any of the taxpayer-funded bailout. The cash injection into the GSEs was made in the form of a draw from the U.S. Treasury, not a loan to be repaid. No so-called repayment can be made as long as American taxpayers are on the hook for future losses.

Let us also not overlook the fact that the failure of this public-private housing scheme was at the center of the financial crisis, a collapse that destroyed trillions of dollars in household wealth and left millions unemployed. How much money would it take to repay those losses?

It is clear to any observer that the money that is now coming in from the GSEs is a small pittance for what they have cost the American economy. Any profits remain directly attributable to extensive and continued taxpayer support. That is the point, hence the need for this amendment.

I would urge an ''aye'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The underlying bill contains no funds for the housing trust fund, yet the gentleman's amendment would create a prohibition on using funds that don't exist in the bill. This is simply a messaging amendment that has no practical purpose.

I oppose 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 California (Mr. ROYCE).

The amendment was agreed to.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, as cochair of the Native American Caucus, I am standing with my colleagues here today to support investing in Native American housing.

The United States cannot fulfill its Federal trust obligation to Indian Country without increasing investments in Native American housing.

Here are two facts about Indian country: almost 9 percent of the homes in Indian country still lack complete plumbing facilities and 30 percent of the homes in Indian Country rely on wood for heating.

Another fact is that Native Hawaiian grants have been completely zeroed out of this bill. The Native American Housing Block Grant is a primary Federal source to address housing backlogs and provide sufficient maintenance throughout Indian Country, but this bill flat-funds this account from 2014 at $650 dollars.

While level funding is better than a cut, my colleagues should know that this is the same level of funding provided in fiscal year 2004. We can and we must do better.

Again, to meet its treaty obligations, the United States must increase this investment for Indian housing.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I agree with the gentlelady. Housing is important for the American Indian community. It should be funded. This bill is a decent bill, but flatlining

this funding back to the 2004 level is not acceptable.

We need this housing in rural areas, as the gentlelady mentioned. I represent approximately 400 small villages. Most do not have running water and the facilities that you are used to every day when you get up. They have the problem of many diseases because of the lack of good facilities. We need new housing. We need the money to be spent.

My argument is, if we are putting money in Afghanistan like we have done in the last few years, we ought to be able to put the money into our own Nation and States to have the housing for the native communities.

This is an important piece of legislation, but we ought to fund it to the full extent. It is time that we recognize that we have to help those who do not have, especially our first citizens of the United States.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, in order to keep a new, healthy housing market, we must be committed to affordable housing. All citizens should have access to it.

For 16 years, NAHASDA has provided funding for tribes to implement their own strategies to address housing needs that are, quite frankly, unique to their own communities.

Under the program, they can use funds to address their housing needs through a variety of activities, including construction, rehabilitation, modernization, rental assistance, lending programs, crime prevention, and a host of other strategies.

The Puyallup Tribe in my own home State and district recently used NAHASDA funds to construct housing that reflects their culture with a traditional longhouse design and structure.

It is a 10-unit building that is environmentally friendly and features energy-efficient systems that keep costs out. It is beautiful. It is cost effective. It is economical. Most importantly, it meets a basic need.

□ 1515

In fiscal year 2012 alone, the 369 tribal recipients of grants used that funding to build or acquire more than 1,450 affordable homes and rehabilitate another 4,700. Since the inception of the program, recipients have built, acquired, or rehabilitated more than 110,000 homes; but as has been suggested, the funding has failed to keep up with inflation, and it has not met the demonstrated need for the program. In fact, a lot of the funds end up being used for maintenance and operation because it has been flatlined. Meanwhile, the need for the program grows as the money, in relative terms, shrinks. In the 10 years between 2002 to 2012, the number of overcrowded households increased by 14 percent, and 10 percent of all homes in Indian Country are overcrowded. It is notably higher than the national average.

The Federal Government has a trust obligation to promote the wellbeing of Native Americans. It is a trust obligation. It is a legal obligation. Frankly, it is a sacred obligation. Ensuring the proper funding of NAHASDA is a critical component towards meeting those obligations.

As you consider the 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill, I ask all of you to please support the robust funding for NAHASDA.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to join my colleagues in support of this important NAHASDA program within this appropriations bill.

As has been stated, our country—this Nation, this government—has an important trust responsibility that it is obligated to live up to, and the full funding of NAHASDA is an important way to manifest that obligation.

Just as in any community, housing is an essential component of a civil society. What NAHASDA provides is to not only deal with the backlog of housing needs, which are many—certainly, the dollars that are presently available are not keeping up with the need that is out there in these tribal communities, for sure—but to also allow for the maintenance of the housing that is currently in place.

The difficulty, of course, with a funding level which is the same as it was a decade ago and with a backlog of housing needs is that, as the housing that has been developed ages, more and more of the dollars are necessarily placed into maintaining and improving existing housing, which further increases the backlog of available housing.

I would just suggest to my colleagues—and I know many of my colleagues have done this—to visit the communities. Talk to them about their housing needs, and take a look at the conditions that many are left to live in. You will find that, while this program has been quite successful, as has been said, in providing 110,000 housing units since its inception, there is so much more that needs to be done. We have an obligation as Members of Congress to make sure that we live up to the commitments that we have made, to the trust obligation that we have. It is more than words. In this case, it actually means putting our money where our mouth is and putting the resources behind this program as it should be.

This is an important program. It is one that we are obligated to fund. Obviously, I would prefer that we meet the full obligation that we have committed to. This appropriation does not go as far as it should in doing that. We really need to make sure that, in the future, we do.

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Chairman, the speakers before me have all said the fundamental issue that we are looking at here, which is of the trust and treaty obligations that this great Nation has created with the native people—the indigenous people and the first people—of this Nation. Yet, for now and for many years, the Appropriations Committee has seen fit to remove any and all funding from a critical program that greatly benefits my home State of Hawaii, and that is the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant.

This program is an essential source of funding because it not only helps the native people on their own land, but it fulfills a trust obligation created by Congress in 1920 by way of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. The act recognized the importance of returning Native Hawaiians to the land to preserve their culture, their traditions, and their values, and the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant has helped to facilitate that.

Similar to what NAHASDA has done for American Indians and Alaska Natives, the Native Hawaiian title of NAHASDA has opened the door to increased partnerships with financial institutions and has enabled the Federal policy of self-determination to be extended to all native populations across this great Nation.

Through the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has been able to assist over 400 low-income families through infrastructure development, down payment assistance, and direct loans for first-time home buyers, construction programs, and the development of renewable energy projects. There are Native Hawaiian housing lots on each of the Hawaiian Islands. These funds have also been able to address the growing issue of homelessness by rehabilitating older units to make them safe and sanitary.

As we all know, the foundation for the success of millions of American families is a secure home. The Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant has given hundreds of Native Hawaiian families that same foundation to succeed by assisting them with affordable homeownership opportunities in Hawaii, which serve as the groundwork for self-sufficiency and future prosperity.

A disruption to the stream of funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant would have a dire impact on dozens of ongoing development projects, including alternative energy resources for homes, investments in infrastructure, and low interest rate loans that seek to benefit the thousands of families living on Hawaiian homelands.

I ask the committee to reconsider its decision to remove this vital program from the bill every year, and I pledge to work with the committee to see that it is restored.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my concern about the need for fully supporting Native American housing programs.

I recognize that my colleagues faced a number of difficult choices when crafting this bill, and I specifically want to thank the chairman and ranking member for their work in fully funding the President's request for Native American Housing Block Grants at $650 million. I am pleased to stand here today along with such strong advocates for Indian housing programs, and I am grateful for the leadership that each of the speakers today has shown.

I do share my colleagues' concerns over the adequate funding for our Native Hawaiian housing needs, and I am hopeful that, as this legislation moves forward, Congress can work to address this need as well as to resolve some serious issues with other parts of the bill.

Now, as the members of this committee well know, the challenges facing adequate housing for Indian Country are profound. The district that I represent is home to nine tribes. I have seen firsthand what a difference these housing programs make to individual families and to their communities, and the statistics bear out just how substantial the need is here.

In 2012, the Department of Housing and Urban Development found that more than 25 percent of Indian housing units lack basic facilities, are overcrowded, or cost more than 50 percent of residents' incomes. There is a need today for 200,000 more housing units in Indian Country. That is why I am hoping that this body will soon hold a hearing on the reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, or NAHASDA.

I know that there has been bipartisan work both in the House and in the Senate on identifying ways to increase the effectiveness of these programs and to reduce duplicative bureaucratic requirements; but there is another element of NAHASDA that I think is absolutely important not only to Indian Country but also to those who have worn the uniform in service to our country. That element is homelessness among our tribal veterans.

In December 2012, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness found that, while Native Americans make up 0.7 percent of the total population of veterans, they represent 2½ percent of veterans experiencing homelessness. In other words, homelessness disproportionately affects our tribal veterans.

Unfortunately, as I stand here today, we don't have the tools we need to help fight homelessness among our tribal veterans. The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program, which has made real and significant progress in tackling veterans' homelessness, does not have the authorities and flexibilities to provide support to the native veterans who are facing homelessness.

That is why I was pleased to join with Representative COLE—a true champion for Indian Country—in introducing H.R. 3418, the Housing Native Heroes Act. Our legislation doesn't cost any new money, but it would, instead, authorize existing funds to support a demonstration project that would allow tribes to manage this voucher program directly. In both the House and the Senate, the proposed reauthorization bills advance this proposal, making critical progress in the fight to reduce homelessness among tribal veterans.

We have an obligation—a trust obligation—to our tribes but also a sacred obligation to all of our veterans, which is to take care of them when they return home. We simply cannot turn a blind eye to the needs of our native veterans. If this Chamber can make progress in advancing the NAHASDA reauthorization, I am confident that we can end this anomaly that leaves our tribal veterans without the support they need.

I would like to conclude by noting that the underlying bill before us today provides $75 million for the HUD-VASH program, which is in line with the President's budget request.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their continued support for this program.

I ask, as this committee continues its work of combating homelessness among our veterans, that the challenges facing our tribal veterans not be forgotten.

I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DENHAM

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 high-speed rail in the State of California or for the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Chairman, this is a very simple amendment. Again, it reads: ''None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for high-speed rail in the State of California or for the California High-Speed Rail Authority.''

As chair of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, I am a big supporter of high-speed rail. I have seen some of the greatest high-speed rail in other countries, and here, even in the United States, we are going to see the first high-speed rail in Texas and then in Florida—two projects that are moving forward with private dollars.

Yet, in California, in 2008, we passed Proposition 1A, which was a guarantee to the voters that a $33 billion project would not only be built but would be built on time, with equal parts of funding from the State voters, from the Federal Government, hopefully, and then from the private investors. Today, 5 years later, after $3.8 billion in stimulus funds for shovel-ready projects were dedicated to this, still not one shovel is in the ground. It is a project that has been held up in court. The $9.95 billion cannot be used, and there are no private investors.

So the question is: Why should the Federal Government be putting more money into a project that is nonexistent today?

It is a project that, even by its own definition, is $32 billion short, not in the project, but in the initial operating segment, which is guaranteed to the voters to be completed. This is a project that has grown out of control. When they found out that they were in default in April, rather than fixing the problem, they committed to next year's budget, utilizing $250 million in cap-and-trade funding.

There is a reason the judges have struck this down to this point, and there is a reason that voters wanted to have this go back before them: it is a project that has no end in sight. Again, no shovels have been put into the ground even though the Federal Government has obligated $3.8 billion—money that could be used for other priorities. Today, we are in a situation. With a $32 billion shortfall, there is no proposal from the President to fill that gap, and there is no proposal from the Governor to fill that gap. Yet there is the hope that the Federal Government will continue to find new money to throw at something that is nonexistent.

This doesn't meet the Prop 1A guarantee. There is no State match, and the cost has more than doubled. Again, the jobs that have continued to be talked about for the last 5 years are nonexistent.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge an ''aye'' vote on this amendment. We have got to stop this train wreck.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the California Democratic congressional delegation, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

This misguided amendment would prohibit additional Federal investment in California's high-speed rail project. As we know, California is in the midst of constructing the Nation's first truly high-speed rail system.

The project was approved by a strong majority of California voters in 2008 because we Californians know that high-speed rail is the most effective and environmentally sustainable way to increase mobility across the State.

Now, the project is already creating jobs for Californians. In fact, more than 70 firms that have committed to performing work on this project have offices in the Central Valley, and many of these firms, happily, are veteran-owned.

In San Jose, the California high-speed rail project is already providing immediate benefits by investing $1.5 billion in the Caltrain Modernization Program. This program will create over 9,500 jobs, over 90 percent in the San Francisco Bay area.

Now, the government's independent watchdog, the GAO, conducted an extensive audit of the project. And you know what? They gave high marks to the authority's business plan for high-speed rail.

Members of Congress are right to conduct proper oversight of infrastructure projects across the country. However, regardless of your views on the merits of this project, I think most of us would agree that attempting to kill a single project through the appropriations process is bad public policy and sets a horrible precedent.

I would note that electrified trains are really part of the future. China already has 5,000 miles of high-speed rail, and they intend to double that. Spain has 1,600 miles of high-speed rail, and they are building more. More than a dozen other countries have their own successful high-speed rail systems. Even Morocco is building a high-speed rail system. But we don't have anything in the United States except for what California is doing.

I would note that California is almost always on the leading edge of progress for our country. We are leading in energy conservation. We are leading in alternative energy, and we have the best public university, the University of California, in the entire United States. We always lead.

Now, it is important that the State of California has identified an ongoing source of funds to support high-speed rail, and that is the cap-and-trade funds. Is that appropriate?

Yes, it is, because the cap-and-trade funds are generated through energy conservation, and the high-speed rail system is going to help move Californians in an environmentally suitable way.

It is important to be visionary here. You know, when we started building the interstate highway system, when the first mile of highway was built, we didn't know that 50 years later we would still be identifying interstates to build.

We need to begin with high-speed rail in California. California is behind this project. The California Democratic delegation is behind this project.

I urge my colleagues to reject the amendment, put our neighbors back to work, and allow California to continue building the Nation's first true high-speed rail project. We will all be proud of that project as it nears completion.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of Mr. DENHAM's amendment.

High-speed rail has been a boondoggle in California pretty much since day one. The voters, when they had it presented in front of them as Prop 1A in the 2008 election, they were shown a $33 billion project that would connect San Francisco to Los Angeles with a continuous high-speed rail project.

What we found out, within 3 years, was after the price went up initially $45 billion, that a true audit turned out it would be $98.5 billion. After that, the Governor real quick decided to change the project and use the connectivity of the Bay Area and Los Angeles, their local systems, to make up for it, which is illegal under Prop 1A. It has to be continuing from San Francisco to LA. You can't use local transit systems under Prop 1A.

So now what we see is that they were able to downsize the cost to only $68 billion over what the voters, by a 52 percent, not an overwhelming margin, merely 52 percent, approved.

They were sold a bill of goods. That is why we shouldn't spend another Federal dollar or State dollar which enables—the Federal dollars enable the State dollars to be spent. We need to stop that here until they come up with a real plan that shows the financing.

They haven't shown the financing yet. We can identify $3 billion worth of Federal money, $9.95 billion worth of State money, approximately $13 billion for a project in the downsized illegal form that is only $68 billion, they say.

Where does the other $55 billion come from?

They have no idea. There is no private sector money. There is no more Federal money that is going to happen, other than the $3 billion that has been captured from the stimulus package of a couple of years ago.

We need to take that money and channel that into something else that we need to do desperately, such as our transportation infrastructure which we are speaking about here this week. Or in California we have a desperate need for water supply during our drought, instead of a boondoggle which is going to pave through a bunch of our ag land in California, as well as important other infrastructure.

What do we hear about it?

Oh, it is going to save CO_2. It is going to be a panacea for global warming. You know, for 30 years it won't even help toward this project of global warming. Instead, part of their plan is they are going to have to plant trees to offset the construction of high-speed rail because it is going to have a higher CO_2 footprint than what we already have.

It is boondoggle after boondoggle. We talk about jobs. These aren't real jobs. The numbers have been inflated since day one. They tried to tell us 3 years ago that it was going to cause a million new jobs for California.

When we finally pinned them down in a State committee, they said, well, that means a million job years. It turns out to be it might be 5,000, 10,000 jobs under construction, not a million jobs. It is deceit after deceit.

We need to plow this money that we have federally back into something that would help our transportation infrastructure in California or in the Nation, help build water supply, anything but this project here, which is full of deceit and empty promise after empty promise.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, and I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

I just wanted to make a couple of quick points. First, it is easy to be a critic and it is hard to be a builder. The high-speed rail project is a big project, it is difficult to do, but we are going to get it done.

Sometimes I wonder, when people say don't do high-speed rail, how they plan to deal with the millions of additional Californians that are anticipated to clog our roads and need transportation infrastructure.

It has been suggested by dispassionate engineers that we would need at least two or three additional airports in California. We would need several, as many as five, additional lanes, north-south, in the middle of California to match the capacity of high-speed rail.

How are we going to do that?

Do we think that that is not going to be expensive?

The alternative to high-speed rail is not nothing. That is impossible for a State as vibrant as California, with an economy as booming as it is, and a future as bright as we have.

I would note also that the idea that it is inappropriate to use cap-and-trade funds, I just simply disagree with. California is among the first in the Nation, I would say, and it has got wide approval in the State, to do this cap-and-trade system, to bring down carbon emissions.

Funds will be generated through that project. Some of those funds will go to this very worthy project.

So I disagree very much with this amendment. I don't believe that we will be successful—my God, I hope we

are not—in stopping this visionary project that is going to allow the State of California to continue to prosper and for transportation north-south needs to be met into the future.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

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

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

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

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

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Wisconsin is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I rise today to highlight the tragic shortage of suitable housing on tribal lands, and to call for increasing funding for the highly successful Native American Housing and Self Determination Act.

Now, in 1996, Congress reorganized native housing programs into NAHASDA, a block grant system administered by tribes in cooperation with HUD. NAHASDA has proven to be an extremely effective tool for tribes to help tribal members increase the quality and quantity of housing.

NAHASDA not only works, but fosters tribal self-determination and affirms the trust relationship that exists between Congress and tribal nations.

Mr. Chairman, a bipartisan coalition of Members, Representatives COLE, HANABUSA, HECK, KILDEE, and Representative YOUNG and I, have introduced a bipartisan reauthorization NAHASDA, which is extremely similar to a draft that Representative PEARCE has introduced.

Now, both bills, Mr. Chairman, make prudent changes to increase the efficiency of the delivery of the program dollars, and I strongly believe that the changes will have a very positive impact.

But, Mr. Chairman, increased efficiency will not replace the need for more money. The top three poorest counties in the United States of America are primarily populated by Native Americans.

However, despite overwhelming need, we are not increasing funding for the program, and the current appropriation bill does not include funding for all Native peoples. The program funding has been flat for years and, at current level funding levels, we are falling way behind.

Mr. Chairman, opponents of NAHASDA reauthorization point to the slow spend-down rate of a single tribe, giving the false sense that there is a surplus. However, the overall spend-down rate in NAHASDA exceeds that of other HUD programs, indicative of the dire housing needs.

The first people of this Nation suffer in crushing poverty on remote reservations, outside of the view of most Americans. The National Congress of American Indians finds that 40 percent of on-reservation housing is substandard, compared to 6 percent outside of Indian Country.

The homes are overcrowded, and too many basic utilities like access to the sewer system or even indoor plumbing is missing.

I call on Congress to put these first Americans in their hearts and to consider helping these communities by supporting both NAHASDA reauthorization and increased funding for this extremely successful Native housing program.

By supporting funding for the Native American Housing and Self Determination Act, we are working towards increasing the quality of housing for Native Americans, and that is good for all of our districts.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. Each amount made available by this Act is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chairman of the committee for the diligent work that they have done to do their part to get this funding bill, this appropriations bill, to begin to bring the costs down. I think that it truly shows how dedicated many of us on this side of the aisle are to having government get its spending under control.

□ 1545

We all know Washington does not have a revenue problem. It has an acute spending and priority problem. We see it every single day. My constituents in Tennessee see it, and they talk about it a lot.

Last week, I heard a lot about the outside spending that takes place in this town, and the thing that really offends my constituents is that Congress spends, D.C. spends money that they don't have. All of it is taxpayer money, and it is so inappropriate that the spending continues to grow year by year, and the taxpayer has to pay more.

Quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, I think that there is something immoral about citizens and taxpayers struggling to live within their means, so they can pay taxes to a government that refuses to live within its means.

That is why, every year, I come to the floor and offer bills for 1, 2, and 5 percent across-the-board cuts, and then during appropriations season, I know I kind of wear a path in the carpet here, offering amendments that would cut a penny on the dollar, 1 percent across the board, and that is the nature of this amendment that I offer today.

I do it because my constituents know that Washington spends too much money, that we borrow too much money and, therefore, what we are doing is capping and trading our children's future to the people that own our debt because we couldn't be spending it if we weren't borrowing it.

Go talk to China, Japan, OPEC, the top holders of our debt, and they own a lot of it right now. They are the ones who will be making the decisions—probably decisions we won't like—and at some point, they may call that bill due.

Now, across-the-board spending cuts are not a partisan issue. In 2010, Peter Orszag, who was the President's pick for Director of the Office of Management and Budget, turned to the executive departments and agencies and said: I want you just to go in and cut 5 percent across the board.

Governor Christie of New Jersey is well known for turning around that State. It was a 9 percent across-the-board cut; Governor Cuomo of New York, a 10 percent across-the-board cut; Governor Perry of Texas, a 10 percent across-the-board cut.

States do it because it works. What it does is it engages the rank-and-file employees who know where you can make these cuts, so I think it is time for the Federal Government to begin to do this.

In our history, we have had six across-the-board cuts. They have ranged from 0.22 percent to 1 percent of covered appropriations. At those times, it saved us from $1.1 billion to $8.5 billion.

For this bill, we need to be doing the same thing; and yes, we are below the funding levels, to the credit of the appropriators who have worked on this. We are below the 2014 funding levels. That is a good thing, but we need to do a little bit more because we are borrowing way too much.

It is time to get our spending under control. I encourage my colleagues to support the 1 percent across-the-board spending reduction to this bill, and let's take one more step to bring this spending problem under control and move to a balanced budget.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. LATHAM. I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, we have already crafted this bill to our 302(b) allocation, which is in compliance with the Ryan-Murray budget agreement.

While I agree with the gentlewoman's desire to reduce spending, the proper time to consider reductions to overall spending is when the budget is being crafted, not on individual appropriations bills.

This bill continues the investment in our Nation's transportation infrastructure, as well as serving as a critical safety net for some of our most vulnerable populations by trying to make sure all Americans have a roof over their head.

This amendment would cut the FAA air traffic controllers, cut infrastructure, highway spending, transit grants, section 8 vouchers, VASH vouchers for our homeless veterans, safety inspectors for all modes of transportation, and also homeless grants.

We have done our cutting based on hearings, meetings with the departments and the stakeholders, and analyzing the budget justifications, rather than just an arbitrary across-the-board cut.

For those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I would urge a ''no'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, just to remind my colleagues, this bill is $1.8 billion below the 2014 bill in spending.

We had a number of our colleagues speak about the lack of funding for their particular programs, and throughout this evening, we are going to have other speakers talk about the lack of funding and programs.

This amendment would cut programs in transportation and housing, without any thought to the relative merit of the programs contained in the bill, so for that reason, I would oppose this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following new section:

SEC. 417.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of this section or the amendments made by this section.

(b) BUY-AMERICAN PREFERENCES.—Chapter 501 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking the chapter heading and inserting ''**BUY AMERICA**''.

(c) ENHANCEMENTS TO BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS.—Section 50101 of such title is amended to read as follows:

''§ 50101. Buy America

''(a) DOMESTIC SOURCE REQUIREMENT FOR STEEL, IRON, AND MANUFACTURED GOODS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided in paragraph (2), funds made available to carry out section 106(k), 44502(a)(2), or 44509, subchapter I of chapter 471 (except section 47127), or chapter 481 (except sections 48102(e), 48106, 48107, and 48110) of this title may not be obligated for a project unless the steel, iron, and manufactured goods used for the project are produced in the United States.

''(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.—With respect to a project for the procurement of a facility or equipment, funds made available to carry out the provisions specified in paragraph (1) may not be obligated for the project unless—

''(A) the cost of components and subcomponents produced in the United States—

''(i) for fiscal year 2015 is more than 60 percent of the cost of all components of the facility or equipment;

''(ii) for fiscal year 2016 is more than 70 percent of the cost of all components of the facility or equipment;

''(iii) for fiscal year 2017 is more than 80 percent of the cost of all components of the facility or equipment;

''(iv) for fiscal year 2018 is more than 90 percent of the cost of all components of the facility or equipment; and

''(v) for fiscal year 2019, and each fiscal year thereafter, is 100 percent of the cost of all components of the facility or equipment; and

''(B) final assembly of the facility or equipment occurs in the United States.

''(3) SCOPE.—The requirements of this section apply to all contracts for a project carried out within the scope of the applicable finding, determination, or decision under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), regardless of the funding source of such contracts, if at least one contract for the project is funded with amounts made available to carry out a provision specified in paragraph (1).

''(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(1) ISSUANCE OF WAIVERS.—The Secretary of Transportation may waive the requirements of subsection (a) only if the Secretary finds that—

''(A) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest, as determined in accordance with the regulations required under paragraph (2);

''(B) the steel, iron, or manufactured goods required for a project are not produced in the United States—

''(i) in sufficient and reasonably available quantities; or

''(ii) to a satisfactory quality; or

''(C) the use of steel, iron, and manufactured goods produced in the United States for a project will increase the total cost of the project by more than 25 percent.

''(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than October 1, 2015, the Secretary shall issue regulations establishing the criteria that the Secretary shall use to determine whether the application of subsection (a) is inconsistent with the public interest for purposes of paragraph (1)(A).

''(3) LABOR COSTS.—For purposes of this section, labor costs involved in final assembly are not included in calculating the cost of components.

''(4) REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS.—An entity seeking a waiver under paragraph (1) shall submit to the Secretary a request for the waiver in such form and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(5) PREFERENCE FOR AMERICAN-ASSEMBLED FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.—In the procurement of a facility or equipment subject to a waiver issued under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give preference to a facility or equipment for which final assembly occurred in the United States.

''(6) LIMITATION ON WAIVER AUTHORITY.—In the procurement of a facility or equipment, if the Secretary finds that a component of the facility or equipment is not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or to a satisfactory quality, the Secretary may issue a waiver under paragraph (1) with respect to such component.

''(c) WAIVER REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF AND OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT ON REQUEST FOR A WAIVER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary receives a request for a waiver under subsection (b), the Secretary shall provide notice of and an opportunity for public comment on the request at least 30 days before making a finding based on the request.

''(B) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—A notice provided under subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) include the information available to the Secretary concerning the request, including whether the request is being made under subsection (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B), or (b)(1)(C); and

''(ii) be provided by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Department of Transportation.

''(2) DETAILED JUSTIFICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—If the Secretary issues a waiver under subsection (b), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a detailed justification for the waiver that—

''(A) addresses the public comments received under paragraph (1)(A); and

''(B) is published before the waiver takes effect.

''(d) STATE REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may not impose a limitation or condition on assistance provided with funds made available to carry out a provision specified in subsection (a)(1) that restricts—

''(1) a State from imposing requirements that are more stringent than those imposed under this section with respect to limiting the use of articles, materials, or supplies mined, produced, or manufactured in foreign countries for projects carried out with such assistance; or

''(2) any recipient of such assistance from complying with such State requirements.

''(e) CONSISTENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—This section shall be applied in a manner that is consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

''(2) TREATMENT OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall prohibit the use of steel, iron, and manufactured goods produced in a foreign country in a project funded with funds made available to carry out a provision specified in subsection (a)(1), including any project for which the Secretary has issued a waiver under subsection (b), if the Secretary, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, determines that the foreign country is in violation of the terms of an agreement with the United States by discriminating against steel, iron, or manufactured goods that are produced in the United States and covered by the agreement.''.

(d) PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING UPON FALSIFICATION OF LABEL.—Section 50105 of such

title is amended by inserting ''steel, iron, or manufactured'' before ''goods''.

(e) REVIEW OF NATIONWIDE WAIVERS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and at least every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall review each standing nationwide waiver issued under section 50101 of title 49, United States Code, to determine whether continuing such waiver is necessary.

Mr. GARAMENDI (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, 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.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, the gentlelady from Tennessee spoke about the American taxpayer and the money that is being spent by Congress, and I would like to pick up on that subject because I am deeply concerned about where and how we spend our taxpayer money. It is not our money. It is the American public's money, and it ought to be spent wisely, and it ought to be spent on American-made goods and services.

This amendment would build off of the current law dating back to 1933, the Buy American laws. This amendment is necessary, and I will tell you why it is necessary.

This is a picture of the new San Francisco Bay Bridge, built by the Chinese Government—several billion dollars of American taxpayer money, California bridge tolls, and Federal taxpayer dollars spent to buy steel products to build this bridge from the Chinese Government. It was a steel company in Shanghai, owned by the Chinese Government—actually, by the Chinese military—that built this bridge.

This bridge should have been built by Americans—American steel companies, American workers. It should not have been built by the Chinese Government. Three thousand jobs in Shanghai, zero jobs in America—and a very shoddy job done on the bridge, thousands upon thousands of faulty welds, over budget, and it went over on time.

We need to strengthen the Buy American laws. We need to bring it home. We need to Make It In America, and this amendment would strengthen the Buy American laws in the transportation portion of this bill.

It would simply say that 60 percent is good. 70, 80, 90, and 100 percent is where we ought to be. We ought not any longer contract out to foreign companies and specifically not to the Chinese Government to build American bridges.

We are going to spend $50 billion in this bill. Is that money going to be spent here in America on American-made goods and services? Or is it going to be spent somewhere overseas, perhaps China?

No more, I say. Build it in America. Use American taxpayer dollars to buy American goods and services. This ought to be the mantra of this Congress: Buy America. Employ Americans. Give American companies here in the United States the opportunity to bid on these jobs.

It is not going to be more expensive, and this is the proof, way over budget, way beyond the timeframes, and way beyond what is reasonable.

Build it in America, American jobs, spend American taxpayer money on American-made equipment, goods, and services. That is what this amendment does.

It also eliminates one of the problems that led to the segmentation, but we will not go there. We will simply say it is going to be made in America. That is what this amendment is all about.

I know we are going to get a point of order, but really, we ought to waive that point of order and put on the floor the issue: Is this House willing to Make It In America, to bring the American jobs back home? Is this House willing to allow American taxpayer money to be spent on American-made goods and services? Or are we simply going to do a point of order and avoid the fundamental question that was raised by my colleague in her previous discussion, how are we to spend the American taxpayer money? I say spend it on American-made goods and services.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

''An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

The amendment directly amends existing law.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, we could use the rules of this House to promote policies that are beneficial to the American Government, beneficial to the American taxpayer, and, most importantly, beneficial to the American workers, whether they are employed in the steel industry or the construction industry, or we could use the rules of the House to deny American workers the opportunity for jobs.

We are spending $50 billion in this legislation, and we ought not use the rules of this House to deny American workers, to deny American companies the opportunity to use the American taxpayer dollars to build America. The rules of this House are flexible. They can be used to benefit America and American workers or they can be used to the detriment.

The question the Chair has before it is, How will we use those rules? Will we, in this House, strengthen the American economy by requiring that the American taxpayer dollars be used here in America? Or will we use the rule in the opposite way, to the harm of American workers?

I suggest, Mr. Chairman, you rule in favor of American workers and override the request.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment directly amends existing law.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I would ask the chairman of the T-HUD Subcommittee to rise and engage in a colloquy.

First of all, I have to commend Chairman LATHAM, Ranking Member PASTOR, and the Appropriations Committee staff for their great efforts in bringing this measure to the floor.

□ 1600

I would like to take just a moment at this opportunity to share with the committee and my colleagues a concern that I have regarding the recommendation in report language that is contained in this bill that provides funding for capital investment grants that have signed a full funding grant agreement, FFGA, by the start of the 2015 fiscal year on September 30, 2014.

Unfortunately, some delays and miscommunications with the Department of Transportation on several projects, including an important Florida project, has caused the signing of a FFGA, full funding grant agreement, to be delayed several months beyond the date in the report language. And, again, without congressional action, Florida's project and other national projects could be impacted.

I have received assurances that this issue can be resolved in the final legislation.

Mr. Chairman, would you join us in our effort to ensure that these critical national infrastructure projects continue to move forward?

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MICA. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. I thank the gentleman. As we move forward to conference, we will work with the gentleman to ensure that any project ready for full funding grant agreements will receive funds under our conference allocation.

Mr. MICA. I thank the chairman and look forward to working with him to maintain and expand our national infrastructure. I am pleased to yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR (Mrs. BLACK). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed in section 2313(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code, in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term ''Fair Labor Standards Act.''.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, no hardworking American should ever have to worry that her employer will refuse to pay her when she works overtime or take money out of her paycheck, especially if she works for a Federal contractor. The practice is known as wage theft.

Right now, Federal contractors who violate the Fair Labor Standards Act are still allowed to apply for Federal contracts. My amendment would deny Federal contracts to those who violate the Fair Labor Standards Act to deny workers the pay that they have earned.

The amendment ensures that those in violation of the law do not get taxpayer support. We should be in the business of rewarding good actors and not rewarding cheaters.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. We would accept the amendment.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SCHOCK

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 implement, administer, or enforce paragraph (c)(3) of section 982.503, Code of Federal Regulations.

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

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to the T-HUD appropriation bill really to address a problem that we have identified in our State of Illinois. Many of us are familiar with the Housing Choice Voucher program, often known as section 8. Throughout our communities, over 2 million households in America receive some form of benefit through section 8 vouchers. In many localities around the country, and particularly in my home State of Illinois, there are long wait lists of people who would qualify for and desperately need access to affordable housing and particularly the assistance they get under section 8 vouchers through the T-HUD appropriations bill.

Unfortunately, there have been some abuses and stretching of permission that Congress has given specifically to the Housing and Urban Development Secretary. I am speaking about a program commonly referred to as super vouchers, where the agency has basically used Congress' latitude it has given it to allow it to go up to 125 percent of what is deemed to be the cost of affordable housing in a particular community.

Obviously, from community to community, the cost of affordable housing differs, and the value of a voucher differs for a family member. But we have seen in the city of Chicago, for example, in my home State, of vouchers now going up to over 300 percent of the average cost of affordable housing and a voucher value approaching over $4,000 a month for a single voucher recipient.

Now, I know that each State's real estate values are different, each State's rental costs are different, and certainly Illinois may be more expensive than other States, but I would submit to my colleagues that for every one of these super vouchers that we give out, for every family that is given over 300 percent of what they should be given, there are tens of thousands of families waiting in line patiently and desperately needing some assistance, and there is only so much money in the pot that Congress appropriates.

So what my limited amendment really does is instruct the Secretary to go up to that 125 percent limit, but really to allow that those dollars of money that Congress appropriates in a bipartisan way for section 8 housing ensure that we help as many families as possible, and that we don't allow some families to, in essence, hit the lottery and get over $4,000 a month when others—for example, in the city of Chicago, we have over 40,000 people on a waiting list who meet the qualifications for section 8 housing.

It is time that they get the assistance that they need and their families need. It is time that they get into and have access to affordable housing, and it is time that we eliminate these super vouchers, which, really, reward a few at the expense of so many.

So, with that, I would urge a ''yes'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, reluctantly I must rise in opposition to the amendment. I share the gentleman's concern, and that is why we have included language in our committee report directing HUD to review instances of payments for housing that exceed 120 percent of fair market rates.

The big problem is I have concerns about the potential unintended consequences of this funding prohibition, in particular, the elderly and disabled populations which could be displaced with an amendment such as this.

I really appreciate the gentleman's attention to this issue and will continue to work with HUD to address any excessive, unwarranted overpayments for assistance to our most vulnerable citizens.

I reluctantly must urge a ''no'' vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chairman, we rise also in opposition to this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. SCHOCK. 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 Illinois will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HIGGINS

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 terminate the status of a unit of general local government as a metropolitan city (as defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302)) with respect to grants under section 106 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5306).

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Chair, since the creation of the Community Development Block Grant in 1974——

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HIGGINS. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. We will accept the amendment.

Mr. HIGGINS. 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. HIGGINS).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Chairman, I rise to engage the gentleman from Iowa, Chairman LATHAM, in a colloquy.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GERLACH. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. I would be happy to enter into a colloquy with the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. GERLACH. I thank the chairman. First of all, Mr. Chairman, thank you for your hard work on this legislation, but I do have a concern about funding for the Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety, or DADSS, program that supports research of advanced alcohol detection technology. MAP–21 authorized and Congress provided $5.44 million for this program in fiscal year 2014. For fiscal year 2015, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration requested $5.72 million. Unfortunately, the report attached to the T-HUD bill specifies only $2.72 million for this program.

The DADSS program supports a cooperative agreement between the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety and the National Traffic Highway Safety Administration to work together to create a passive, in-vehicle technology that can determine the driver's—and only the driver's—blood alcohol content. If the driver is at or above 0.08, the illegal limit in all 50 States, the car would be inoperable.

The current operating plan for the program runs through 2018, and the goal at this time would be to have ready a commercially viable technology by then. While great progress has been made, more research must take place. Full funding for this research should be a priority for this Congress because each year, over 10,000 Americans are killed due to drunk driving—nearly one-third of all traffic fatalities.

Madam Chairman, Mothers Against Drunk Driving has called the DADSS program its highest legislative priority. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has looked at the potential of this technology and said it could save over 7,000 lives per year. Every major traffic safety group in this country supports this, including the National Transportation Safety Board. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has identified this project as one of its highest priorities.

The authorized funding level is not a tremendous sum when you consider the fact that drunk driving costs Americans over $132 billion each year, and I believe that fully funding this project and including the administration's request of $5.72 million—which is already included in the Senate fiscal year 2015 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill—is a small price to pay for a project with this much potential.

I would respectfully ask the chairman that we work together to restore this critical funding.

Mr. LATHAM. I appreciate the gentleman's attention to this important safety issue and for highlighting the promise of this research initiative. I look forward to working with you as our bill moves through the legislative process to make certain DADSS research is adequately funded.

Mr. GERLACH. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 to make incentive payments pursuant to 48 CFR 16.4 to contractors for contracts that are behind schedule under the terms of the contract as prescribed by 48 CFR 52.211 or over the contract amount indicated in Standard Form 33, box 20.

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

□ 1615

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chair, this is simply a good government amendment that is reflected in a different form in the Senate Transportation-Housing bill. I am seeking to provide a similar provision in the House bill.

This was offered in a different form yesterday. There were objections to it that were sustained. We have worked with the Parliamentarian to overcome those objections.

This provision refers to none of the funds available in this act may be used for incentive payments pursuant to a particular regulatory provision to contractors for contracts that are behind schedule under the terms of another regulatory provision or over the contract amount as indicated in a standard form used in contracting.

That is standard form 33, box 20, subject to modification in standard form 30, box 14—sorry, box 12. This will rein in contractors who are late and working over budget and prevent them from getting extra payments.

We are simply speaking about extra payments here, payments they would not normally be receiving, except for the fact that they are asking for them and claim some entitlement to them. Too often, the government engages in waste, fraud, and abuse with contracting. This will help to rein that in.

I respectfully ask for the support of my colleagues on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. The amount otherwise made available by this Act for ''Department of Housing and Urban Development—Management and Administration—Executive Offices'' is hereby reduced by $2,000,000.

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

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to save taxpayers money and to hold a disorganized and wasteful department accountable for its actions and inactions.

My amendment is very simple. It reduces the funding to the executive offices at the Department of Housing and Urban Development by $2 million, which brings their funding levels back to fiscal year 2014 levels.

As always, I appreciate the work the committee does to put these bills and committee reports together. It is not an easy job, but I am also glad that Members are able to read their work and offer further input here on the House floor.

Since Republicans took the House majority in 2012, we have done our best to bring regular order and an open process to the House proceedings. I am happy to see a return to regular order, and I am further grateful that I and my colleagues are able to participate in the appropriations process.

For the second year in a row, I have read the committee's report on the administrative offices at HUD and was stunned to see that, yet again, HUD is running in an inefficient manner and has, again, likely violated the Antideficiency Act.

Further, HUD did not notify or request permission from Congress for certain budget reprogramming activities and hired more people than they could afford to pay.

I would like to quickly cite excerpts from the committee report on this issue:

HUD must have systems in place to track fundamental budgetary resource data, including budget authority and FTE levels.

A lack of essential information at HUD has, in the past, led to Antideficiency Act violations in which HUD hired more people than it had resources to pay.

While the committee recognizes deficiencies caused by antiquated enterprise systems and acknowledges HUD's effort to address these deficiencies, proper management of agency resources is a fundamental responsibility and antiquated systems are no excuse for the violation of Federal law.

The committee also directs HUD to clearly identify in its budget justifications the movement or transfer of budgetary resources from one account to another account, so that year-over-year comparisons are possible.

The fact that the committee must specifically spell out and direct an executive department or agency to conduct its affairs properly is, quite frankly, embarrassing and deplorable.

Then again, I suppose government inefficiency is the status quo these days. These same inefficiencies have been identified year after year now. HUD cannot get its affairs in order. As such, Congress should not be increasing funding for paper pushers and other bureaucrats.

I would also demand that HUD stop hiring more people than they can pay, stop reprogramming money within their accounts to fix self-imposed mistakes and then withhold that information from Congress, and finally, stop breaking Federal law. Congress must not reward bad behavior with increased funding levels.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office stated this amendment reduces both the budget authority in the bill and the 2015 outlays by $2 million. With a Federal debt surpassing $18 trillion, it is irresponsible to throw more money at a department that cannot manage its own affairs.

I ask my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment. I thank the chairman and ranking member for their continued work on the committee.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment. While I appreciate the gentleman's effort to further reduce spending, this account is already below the enacted funding level, and further cuts in this account are unwarranted.

This account primarily funds employee salaries and benefits, and an additional 14 percent reduction would result in the furlough or layoff of key HUD employees. Disruption of the leadership offices at HUD would jeopardize the welfare of millions of vulnerable families and billions of dollars in taxpayer investments. Therefore, I cannot support the gentleman's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I oppose the amendment.

The levels provided for salaries and expenses at HUD in the base bill are insufficient. Many offices will need to furlough or terminate employees to make these levels work, and this amendment would aggravate this problem further.

As it is, the funding level in this bill will require HUD to furlough its personnel in this office for 12 days. This amendment would increase the number of furlough days required. At these levels, HUD's ability to carry out their mission would be jeopardized. I oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. GOSAR. 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 Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. Each amount otherwise made available by this Act for ''Department of Housing and Urban Development—Management and Administration—Administrative Support Offices'' is hereby reduced by 4.2 percent.

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

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer one last amendment to save taxpayers money and hold a disorganized and wasteful department accountable for its actions and inactions.

Following to the heels of my previous amendment, this amendment reduces funding for ineffective bureaucrats at HUD by $21 million, bringing their funding levels to the level recommend by the House Appropriations Committee in fiscal year 2014.

The current bill funds these HUD bureaucrats through the administrative support offices at a staggering $500 million. My amendment reduces each subaccount by 4.2 percent, so that the sum of each reduction to each subaccount equals the $21 million reduction to the overall account. Again, this is the amount recommended by this committee for the overall account in fiscal year 2014.

As I mentioned, I appreciate the work that the committee does to put these bills and committee reports together, but the committee report associated with the appropriations bill, once again, for the second year in a row, highlighted major deficiencies in the Housing and Urban Development management Offices.

At minimum, this mismanaged agency should at least include those reprogramming efforts in their budget justifications. They failed to do so and are far from being considered a model of transparency.

HUD's bureaucracy is not only massive, it is extremely wasteful and inefficient. The associated committee report—which I cited in my comments on my previous amendment a moment ago—is quite harsh to HUD and rightfully so.

These same inefficiencies within the agency have been identified year after year after year. Again, Congress must not reward bad behavior with increased finding levels.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office stated this amendment reduced budget authority in the bill by $21 million and reduces the 2015 outlays by $16 million. With an $18 trillion debt that continues to grow, it is irresponsible to throw more money at a department that cannot manage its own affairs.

I ask my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their continued work on the committee.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I must rise in opposition to this amendment also. While I appreciate the gentleman's efforts to further reduce spending, this account is already $6 million below the enacted level from last year and over $30 million below the President's request.

Additional cuts would require HUD to furlough or lay off employees which undermines the Department's ability to adequately serve millions of low-income, elderly, and disabled households and puts billions of taxpayer dollars at risk.

Unfortunately, the way the amendment is written, it would not reduce the deficit at all. It doesn't go to the deficit reduction account. It would basically just stay in the bill, to be spent by someone else, somewhere else; so it doesn't really save the taxpayers any money in the end. I urge a ''no'' vote on the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I oppose this amendment. Again, the levels provided for salaries and expenses at HUD in the base bill are insufficient. As it is, the funding level in this bill will require HUD to furlough its personnel in these offices for up to 90 days. Nearly all will be under a hiring freeze.

This amendment would increase the number of furlough days required and would lead to reductions in force. At these levels, HUD's ability to carry out its mission would be jeopardized. I oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. GOSAR. 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 Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SCHIFF

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to enforce section

47524 of title 49, United States Code, or part 161 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, with regard to noise or access restrictions or to enforce section 47107 of title 49, United States Code, with regard to access restriction on the operation of aircraft by the operator of Bob Hope Airport in Burbank, California.

Mr. SCHIFF (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.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the amendment I am offering, along with my southern California colleagues, Mr. BRAD SHERMAN and Mr. HENRY WAXMAN. The amendment would allow the Burbank Bob Hope Airport to implement a nighttime curfew between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Thousands of residents of southern California's San Fernando Valley, who live under the flight paths or near the terminals at Bob Hope Airport, endure the house-shaking noise of air traffic during the day and suffer the jarring interruption of their sleep caused by roaring jets, sometimes late at night.

To address the concerns of those affected by airport noise across the Nation, the FAA established a process to consider an individual community's request for a curfew. However, the process was designed to be difficult, so difficult that, in the decades since it was established by the FAA, only one airport in the Nation has successfully completed an application—Bob Hope Airport—and then it was summarily turned down.

When Congress enacted the 1990 Airport Noise and Capacity Act, ANCA, it intended for ANCA to permit airports to obtain noise restrictions if they met certain requirements.

At that time, Congress exempted several airports from the law's requirements for FAA approval of new noise rules, if they had preexisting noise rules in effect to address local noise problems.

Bob Hope Airport, located in Burbank, California, was one of the first airports in the country to impose a curfew and has a long history of curfews, but was unfortunately not given the protection of the grandfather provision of ANCA that several other similar airports received.

My amendment would correct this inequity and put Bob Hope on the same footing as several other airports across the country that had curfews before ANCA's passage by correcting the omission of not allowing Bob Hope Airport to implement, on a permanent and mandatory basis, the curfew which it had in effect informally since the 1980s.

□ 1630

After spending $7 million and 9 years of effort, the FAA rejected Bob Hope's request for a curfew, erroneously contending that the small number of flights impacted by the curfew would impose too great a strain on the country's aviation system and impose too great a cost on users. In reality, the FAA approached the process in reverse, beginning with its conclusion, the one it wanted to reach, and working backwards to try to justify its intended and desired result.

It is important that my colleagues understand the impact of this amendment on aviation in southern California. There will be no impact on commercial flights. Almost all commercial airlines already voluntarily abide by the voluntary nighttime curfew of Bob Hope; and the impact on general aviation will be limited to 2 nighttime landings, 4 days a week by large jet aircraft, and a handful of nighttime turboprop takeoffs.

Because of the FAA's dismissive attitude toward legitimate local concerns, it is clear to us the only way to provide relief to our residents is through this legislative action. Madam Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment to correct an omission in ANCA. Local problems require local solutions, not solutions imposed by a Federal agency with a predetermined agenda.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I withdraw my reservation, and I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment. Unfortunately, I wish the gentleman would have brought it up maybe in full committee as a member of the committee to address it then. I don't believe that this bill is really the venue to address what is a local issue.

The affected airport serves the Greater Los Angeles area. I simply don't know the impact of this action that it would have on trans-Pacific flights, trade, or commerce throughout the area. So, for those reasons, I would urge a ''no'' vote on the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I rise in support of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. SCHIFF. 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 NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. CASSIDY

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Chair, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

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 promulgate or enforce rules, orders, or consent agreements or to fund approved projects under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program unless the Department of Transportation implements the recommendations provided in the preliminary report of the Government Accountability Office numbered GAO–14–628R TIGER Grants.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Chair, the point of this amendment is to bring transparency and accountability to the process of awarding TIGER grants. Now, TIGER grants were created in 2009 with money from the stimulus bill to provide competitive grants that were to fund infrastructure projects and supposedly on a merit-based criteria.

There has been about $3.6 billion in TIGER grants awarded since 2009 going to States, local governments, and other entities for highway, transit, rail, and port authorities. DOT is currently reviewing grant applications to award $600 million for a sixth round of TIGER grant funding, applications due April 28, 2014.

Last month, the GAO reported numerous problems with the awarding of TIGER grants. The findings found in the report that DOT continued to accept specific applications for 30 days after the notice of funding availability deadline and did not notify the public. The DOT policy office did not follow its own guidelines and advanced projects with lower technical ratings instead of more highly-rated projects, providing no documentation or evidence of the factors that led to these decisions.

This leads me to why we are offering this amendment, again to bring transparency and accountability to the process of awarding TIGER grants.

In 2011, GAO recommended that DOT should develop a strategy to document decisions and work with Congress to disclose how it makes its decisions. The Government Accountability Office further recommended that the DOT limit the influence of geographic considerations and instead have a merit-based process. In their most recent report, the Government Accountability Office again made similar recommendations to provide transparency to the process.

Now, my amendment does not do away with TIGER grants. Private sector partners, State and local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, transit agencies in Louisiana and elsewhere have applied for these. This amendment will not prevent them from the opportunity to receive funding, nor do I wish to prevent consideration of the hundreds of applications that have been offered for this current cycle. However, this amendment requires that the Department of Transportation follow the Government Accountability Office recommendations to be transparent and objective in the management and decisionmaking process when selecting applications for funding under the TIGER grant program.

We cannot have DOT have a process which is suspected to be political and not merit-based when there are Federal tax dollars at stake and when communities in Louisiana and elsewhere with meritorious projects are having theirs not considered when those with less merit are receiving prioritization. That is wrong. It is not what we should be pushing. Again, I push this amendment to bring transparency and accountability to the awarding of TIGER grants.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I have great appreciation for the gentleman's point. The report was very shocking as far as the transparency and how some of these grants have been given. I am in a position where I must insist on being consistent in opposing all legislation on the appropriation bill.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

''An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

The amendment imposes additional duties.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order? If not, the Chair is prepared to rule on the point of order.

The amendment imposes new duties on the Department of Transportation to implement a Government Accountability Office report.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. TITUS

Ms. TITUS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 to issue rules or regulations to allow an individual on an aircraft to engage in voice communications using a mobile communications device during a flight of that aircraft in scheduled passenger interstate or intrastate air transportation except for use by a member of the flight crew on duty on an aircraft, flight attendant on duty on an aircraft, or Federal law enforcement officer acting in an official capacity.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Nevada is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. TITUS. Madam Chair, after speaking with the committee, I plan to withdraw my amendment, but I want to take a moment to speak on the underlying issue because I think it is very important.

Madam Chair, my amendment would prohibit the Department from engaging in rulemaking to allow the use of voice communication devices in flight, in other words, cell phones.

When the Federal Communications Commission first floated the idea of allowing cell phone usage on airplanes, the response from the American people was so clear you could hear a pin drop, something that would not be possible if you were surrounded by people chatting on their phones on an airplane. Polling has consistently shown 2–1 opposition to allowing passengers to make voice calls in flight.

In February of this past year, I, along with my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, voted unanimously to approve H.R. 3676, which was introduced by Chairman SHUSTER, that has the same goal of the amendment I put forward today.

At a time when we document every moment of our lives over Twitter and Facebook and Instagram, the last thing the traveling public needs is to sit next to someone having a loud, one-sided conversation on a cross-country flight.

Now, this isn't just a matter of comfort and good manners; it is also a matter of safety. For our flight attendants who are charged with the safety and security of travelers in-flight, cell phone use will exacerbate potential conflict among passengers and will create distractions from crew instructions both prior to takeoff and during flights, so it would be dangerous for all on board.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member for this opportunity to speak on this important issue, and I hope that although this amendment doesn't move forward, H.R. 3676 will receive floor consideration in due time.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. TITUS. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. I really appreciate the gentlewoman bringing this issue to our attention. I know the authorizing committee has looked into the issue of voice communications on flights and unanimously voted out a bill out of the committee addressing the same concerns. I look forward to working with the gentlewoman and the authorizers as we move forward on this very, very important issue as far as you and I and all travelers are concerned.

So, thank you very much.

Ms. TITUS. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. YOHO

Mr. YOHO. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 promulgate, implement, or enforce any regulations that would mandate Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking or event data recorders in light-duty noncommercial passenger motor vehicles.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOHO. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. I would gladly accept your amendment.

Mr. YOHO. I thank the chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

My amendment would prohibit any funds made available under this act to be used to implement any Administration mandate for GPS or event data recording devices in ''light-duty, non-commercial'' passenger motor vehicles.

In the recent past, the Department of Transportation and the President have both indicated their support of a mandate, a mandate which would require every car to have a recording device installed. These recording devices are more commonly referred to as ''black boxes.'' Within the past year, our nation has been rocked by evidence of surveillance techniques that have been used, unconstitutionally, by government agencies to collect information on law-abiding Americans. It is understandable then, that the revelation that a black box installed in a vehicle, often times without consumer knowledge, is concerning.

Additionally, there is a need to provide clarity to the confusion surrounding who is the owner of the data collected by these event data recorders. I believe that ownerships resides with the owner of the vehicle. However, until such time as this issue is resolved, I must defer to my constituents back home who are adamantly opposed to these black boxes. I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting my amendment to protect the personal liberties of a public that is increasingly weary of government surveillance and privacy intrusions.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 156, after line 16, insert the following new section:

PROVIDING FUNDING FOR AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING FOR EXTREMELY LOW-INCOME FAMILIES BY IMPROVING TARGETING OF MORTGAGE INTEREST DEDUCTION

SEC. 417. (a) REPLACEMENT OF MORTGAGE INTEREST DEDUCTION WITH MORTGAGE INTEREST CREDIT.—

(1) NONREFUNDABLE CREDIT.—Subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to nonrefundable personal credits) is amended by inserting after section 25D the following new section:

"SEC. 25E. INTEREST ON INDEBTEDNESS SECURED BY QUALIFIED RESIDENCE.

''(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—In the case of an individual, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an amount equal to 15 percent of the qualified residence interest paid or accrued during the taxable year.

''(b) QUALIFIED RESIDENCE INTEREST.— For purposes of this section:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified residence interest' means interest which is paid or accrued during the taxable year on—

''(A) acquisition indebtedness with respect to any qualified residence of the taxpayer, or

''(B) home equity indebtedness with respect to any qualified residence of the taxpayer.

For purposes of the preceding sentence, the determination of whether any property is a qualified residence of the taxpayer shall be made as of the time the interest is accrued.

''(2) OVERALL LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount of indebtedness taken into account for any period for purposes of this section shall not exceed $500,000 ($250,000 in the case of a married individual filing a separate return).

''(3) ACQUISITION INDEBTEDNESS.—The term 'acquisition indebtedness' means any indebtedness which—

''(A) is incurred in acquiring, constructing, or substantially improving any qualified residence of the taxpayer, and

''(B) is secured by such residence.

Such term also includes any indebtedness secured by such residence resulting from the refinancing of indebtedness meeting the requirements of the preceding sentence (or this sentence), but only to the extent the amount of the indebtedness resulting from such refinancing does not exceed the amount of the refinanced indebtedness.

''(4) HOME EQUITY INDEBTEDNESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'home equity indebtedness' means any indebtedness (other than acquisition indebtedness) secured by a qualified residence to the extent the aggregate amount of such indebtedness does not exceed—

''(i) the fair market value of such qualified residence, reduced by

''(ii) the amount of acquisition indebtedness with respect to such residence.

''(B) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount treated as home equity indebtedness for any period shall not exceed $100,000 ($50,000 in the case of a married individual filing a separate return).

''(c) SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this section:

''(1) QUALIFIED RESIDENCE.—The term 'qualified residence' means—

''(A) the principal residence (within the meaning of section 121) of the taxpayer, and

''(B) 1 other residence of the taxpayer which is selected by the taxpayer for purposes of this subsection for the taxable year and which is used by the taxpayer as a residence (within the meaning of section 280A(d)(1)).

''(2) MARRIED INDIVIDUALS FILING SEPARATE RETURNS.—If a married couple does not file a joint return for the taxable year—

''(A) such couple shall be treated as 1 taxpayer for purposes of paragraph (1), and

''(B) each individual shall be entitled to take into account 1 residence unless both individuals consent in writing to 1 individual taking into account the principal residence and 1 other residence.

''(3) RESIDENCE NOT RENTED.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), notwithstanding section 280A(d)(1), if the taxpayer does not rent a dwelling unit at any time during a taxable year, such unit may be treated as a residence for such taxable year.

''(4) UNENFORCEABLE SECURITY INTERESTS.—Indebtedness shall not fail to be treated as secured by any property solely because, under any applicable State or local homestead or other debtor protection law in effect on August 16, 1986, the security interest is ineffective or the enforceability of the security interest is restricted.

''(5) SPECIAL RULES FOR ESTATES AND TRUSTS.—For purposes of determining whether any interest paid or accrued by an estate or trust is qualified residence interest, any residence held by such estate or trust shall be treated as a qualified residence of such estate or trust if such estate or trust establishes that such residence is a qualified residence of a beneficiary who has a present interest in such estate or trust or an interest in the residuary of such estate or trust.

''(d) COORDINATION WITH DEDUCTION.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in calendar years 2014 through 2018, the taxpayer may elect to apply this section in lieu of the deduction under section 163 for qualified residence interest.''.

(2) PHASEOUT OF DEDUCTION.—Section 163(h) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) PHASEOUT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after 2013, the amount otherwise allowable as a deduction by reason of paragraph (2)(D) shall be the applicable percentage of such amount.

''(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the applicable percentage shall be determined in accordance with the following table:

''For taxable years beginning in calendar year:	The applicable percentage is:
2014	100%
2015	80%
2016	60%
2017	40%
2018	20%
2019 and thereafter	0%.''.

(3) PHASEDOWN OF MORTGAGE LIMIT.—Subparagraph (B) of section 163(h)(3) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) PHASEDOWN.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in calendar years 2014 through 2018, clause (ii) shall be applied by substituting the amounts specified in the table in subclause (II) of this clause for '$1,000,000' and '$500,000', respectively.

''(II) PHASEDOWN AMOUNTS.—For purposes of subclause (I), the amounts specified in this subclause for a taxable year shall be the amounts specified in the following table:

''For taxable years beginning in calendar year:	Amount substituted for $1,000,000:	Amount substituted for $500,000:
2014	$1,000,000	$500,000
2015	$900,000	$450,000
2016	$800,000	$400,000
2017	$700,000	$350,000
2018	$600,000	$300,000

(4) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by inserting after section 25D the following new item:

''Sec. 25E. Interest on indebtedness secured by qualified residence.''.

(5) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to interest paid or accrued after December 31, 2013.

(b) USE OF MORTGAGE INTEREST SAVINGS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS.—

(1) USE OF SAVINGS.—For each year, the Secretary of the Treasury shall determine the amount of revenues accruing to the general fund of the Treasury by reason of the enactment of subsection (a) of this section and shall credit an amount equal to such remaining revenues as follows:

(A) HOUSING TRUST FUND.—The Secretary shall credit the Housing Trust Fund established under section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568) with an amount equal to 40 percent revenues.

(B) SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall credit an amount equal to 40 percent of the amount of such remaining revenues to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for use only for providing tenant- and project-based rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

(C) PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND.—The Secretary shall credit an amount equal to 20 percent of the amount of such remaining revenues to the Public Housing Capital Fund under section 9(d) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d)).

(2) CHANGES TO HOUSING TRUST FUND.—Not later than the expiration of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall revise the regulations relating to the Housing Trust Fund established under section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568) to provide that such section is carried out with the maximum amount of flexibility possible while complying with such section, which shall include revising such regulations—

(A) to increase the limitation on amounts from the Fund that are available for use for operating assistance for housing;

(B) to allow public housing agencies and tribally designated housing entities to be recipient of grants amounts from the Fund that are allocated to a State or State designated entity; and

(C) to eliminate the applicability of rules for the Fund that are based on the HOME Investment Partnerships Act (42 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.).

(3) EXPANSION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION.—The fourth proviso in the heading ''Rental Assistance Demonstration'' in title II of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (division C of Public Law 112–55; 125 Stat. 673) is amended by striking ''60,000'' and inserting ''250,000''.

Mr. ELLISON (during the reading). Madam Chair, I ask that the amendment be considered read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1645

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Chair, the budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development we consider today does not meet our Nation's affordable housing problems.

If this budget passes, more than half of the renters will still pay more than one-third of their income for housing. If this budget passes, fewer than four in 10 low-income elderly will receive the housing assistance they are entitled to. If this budget passes, we will still only provide housing assistance to one in four families who are eligible—tens of thousands will continue to linger on waiting lists for an affordable rental apartment that will never arrive. If this budget passes, there will still be more than 11 million families, Madam Chairman, paying more than half of their income for rent and utilities. There will still be a significant gap between incomes and housing costs.

The HUD budget is tens of billions short in order to meet American families' housing needs. That is why my amendment replaces the mortgage interest deduction with a flat-rate 15 percent tax credit.

My amendment lowers the maximum amount of mortgage interest that can receive a tax offset from $1 million to $500,000. About 4 percent of homes in this country sell for more than $500,000.

My amendment dedicates the revenue generated from these changes to increasing our investments in affordable rental housing for extremely low-income families.

My amendment provides for housing for veterans who find themselves homeless. It provides housing for people who are elderly and people with disabilities who cannot find affordable appropriate housing. It provides money to repair public housing facilities to provide homes to low-income families with children, seniors, and people with disabilities. It funds the national housing trust fund, repairs public housing, provides thousands of new vouchers, and raises the rental assistance demonstration cap.

Unfortunately, my amendment will likely be ruled out of order today. Why? Because the rules set by the majority in the House refuse to allow any tax changes to pay for a change in the appropriated budget.

This technical decision made by the majority in this Congress is inconsistent with previous Congresses, which realized that money is fungible.

By refusing to allow tax changes to offset the cost of needed programs, Congress stacks the deck.

Congress preserves the generous tax benefits for most financially successful households while ensuring that there is never anywhere close to the level of affordable rental housing we need.

For every dollar we spend on housing programs through the appropriations side of the budget, we spend more than $3 on the tax side.

The mortgage interest deduction itself is more than twice as large as the entire HUD budget we consider today. Yet, the vast majority of the mortgage interest deduction benefit the top income quintile—about 80 percent of the benefit goes to 20 percent of the households.

I want to keep a tax benefit for homeownership. I want one that is more accessible and more generous to working families. Nearly half the homeowners with a mortgage do not benefit from the deduction. That is because almost half of the people who pay mortgage interest do not itemize. Only 5 percent of the homeowners with incomes of $50,000 take a deduction. Contrast the 5 percent of homeowners with incomes beneath $50,000 and the two-thirds of households with incomes above $125,000 who get a tax benefit. The flat rate credit will benefit about 16 million current homeowners who do not currently benefit from a deduction but who will benefit from a flat tax credit.

I know that my amendment will be ruled out of order today.

Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MR. GINGREY OF GEORGIA

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, No. 28.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

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 mortgage insurance under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) for any mortgage on a 1- to 4-family dwelling to be used as the principal residence of a mortgagor who provides only an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) for identification.

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment that will prohibit funds in the underlying bill from being used to provide mortgage insurance under title II of the National Housing Act for any mortgage on a single-family dwelling—to be used as a principal residence—to a potential borrower who provides only an individual taxpayer identification number—called ITIN—for identification.

This includes usage for mortgage loans available under the FHA to ensure that an individual must use a Social Security number rather than an ITIN—individual taxpayer identification number—in order to secure government-backed mortgage insurance.

The ITIN was first implemented by the IRS and is a 9-digit tax processing number. The IRS issues the ITIN to individuals who are required to have a taxpayer identification number but who do not have—and are not eligible to obtain—a Social Security number. The IRS has indicated that the ITIN's only purpose should be Federal tax reporting. However, that has not always been the case.

Unfortunately, Madam Chairman, it is relatively easy for illegal immigrants to attain an ITIN because proof of legal residency in the United States is not a requirement. Due to this practice, illegal immigrants have the incentive to obtain an ITIN as a means to become permanent residents by showing the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services that they have been paying taxes while residing illegally in the country.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Of course I will yield to the chair.

Mr. LATHAM. We will gladly accept your amendment.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I thank the chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

This amendment solves a problem that does not exist.

Currently, the FHA requires a Social Security number and legal citizenship for all insured loans. FHA does not allow for individual taxpayer identification numbers to be used for mortgages.

What this amendment does is create uncertainty in the FHA underwriting process. It would allow FHA to use individual taxpayer identification numbers only with loans on investment properties.

The FHA has already addressed this issue, and this amendment would create unintended consequences.

I oppose 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 Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 pay any FHA mortgage insurance claim or in connection with the sale of any mortgage insured by the FHA before compliance with existing FHA loss mitigation requirements, documentation of such compliance by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and provision of such documentation to the mortgagor.

Mr. CONYERS (during the reading). Madam Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONYERS. Ladies and gentlemen, this amendment fights foreclosures by limiting payment of the FHA insurance claims in cases in which borrowers have not been through the full FHA loss mitigation process.

Our Nation's foreclosure crisis is not only an economic calamity, but it is also a social and public health calamity as well.

While we all know that foreclosures cause downward spirals in property values and tax revenue, new research has shined a light on foreclosures as a cause of massive and debilitating anxiety and illness.

According to a recent study in the American Journal of Public Health, foreclosures have even been a likely cause of an increase in suicides in America. I offer this amendment today to help end the terrible scourge of foreclosures.

When the Nation's largest banks—Bank of America, Wells Fargo, and Chase—sell delinquent FHA-insured loans into the Distressed Asset Stabilization Program, HUD pays them the outstanding balance of the loan. Only the loans that have fully complied with HUD's foreclosure provision and loss mitigation requirements are supposed to be sold through the Distressed Asset Stabilization Program. Yet, many of the loans banks are selling through the program have not met this standard.

I with great pleasure yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Chairman, I thank my friend from Michigan for yielding.

I rise to ask for support for our amendment to stop unnecessary foreclosures and ensure oversight of HUD's Distressed Asset Stabilization Program, the DASP.

When the Nation's largest banks sell delinquent FHA-insured loans into DASP the taxpayers have to pay the outstanding balance on the loan. HUD turns around and sells the loans at deep discounts to private investors. Many times banks don't comply with the law, and FHA inappropriately pays out claims. This is not an insignificant issue.

HUD has sold more than 70,000 of these mortgages in the past 3 years. Despite ongoing efforts to improve the program, HUD has not exercised sufficient oversight in this matter.

Our amendment would help ensure more rigorous oversight of the DASP so that only loans that have met all of HUD's loss mitigation requirements are sold through this DASP program.

Mr. CONYERS. Ladies and gentlemen, this amendment would help ensure prudent oversight over the program so that only loans that have truly met all of HUD's loss mitigation requirements are sold through the Distressed Asset Stabilization Program.

I hope my colleagues on the other side will join us in supporting this very commonsense amendment.

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

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

''An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

The amendment imposes additional duties.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chairman, I wish to speak on the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chairman, my initial response to the point of order made by the distinguished gentleman is that this is already in the law. To argue now that a modification of it is inappropriate I do not think should allow this point of order to be sustained.

The amendment is a straightforward attempt to ensure that our Federal agencies are in full compliance with their own codes of conduct related to foreclosure prevention. These foreclosures and evictions are not only responsible for massive anxiety, but also for downward spirals in property values.

My response to the point of order is that this provision is totally in order and that the point of order should not be sustained.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order? If not, the Chair is prepared to rule on the point of order.

The Chair finds that this amendment imposes new duties to provide documentation of certain activities to mortgagors.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. GINGREY OF GEORGIA

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, No. 29.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

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 pay a Federal employee for any period of time during which such employee is using official time under section 7131 of title 5, United States Code.

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairman, I rise today to offer a commonsense amendment to H.R. 4745.

The Gingrey-Bridenstine amendment would prohibit funds in the underlying bill from being used to pay a Federal employee for any period of time that such an employee is using official time.

□ 1700

As the author of H.R. 107, the Federal Employee Accountability Act, this amendment is a continuation of the work I have done over the last three Congresses to repeal the government-wide use of official time.

Under current law, Federal employees can use official, taxpayer-funded time to perform union functions or to participate in union activities when they would otherwise be on official duty status.

Madam Chair, according to a FOIA request by the Americans for Limited Government, there are 35 employees at the Department of Transportation alone—making an average, by the way, of almost $140,000 a year—who spend 100 percent of their workday working on behalf of a union.

These employees were hired to perform duties on behalf of the taxpayer—several are engineers or air traffic controllers—yet they are working exclusively for the union at the taxpayers' expense.

In fiscal year 2011, the most recent year for which we have official time data, the Department of Transportation spent more than $17 million on official time.

In the same year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development spent more than $2 million on official time.

Across the entire Federal Government, more than 3 million official time hours were used in collective bargaining or arbitration of grievances against an employer—who, by the way, is us—in fiscal year 2011. These union activities were performed at taxpayer expense to the tune of $155 million for the same time period.

While we are not voting on veterans funding today, it is timely, given recent events, to mention the impact that the use of official time has on the

Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA is one of the largest abusers of official time, spending more than $42.5 million on this cost in fiscal year 2011.

In 2012, more than 250 VA employees worked 100 percent of their day for the union, rather than working on behalf of our Nation's heroes. Over 100 of those same employees were health care professionals, including nurses, technicians, and mental health therapists.

In the wake of the nationwide scandal of the VA, it is unthinkable that employees there are allowed to work on behalf of the union, rather than focusing on serving our veterans.

It is particularly shocking that the use of official time by medical professionals and others at the VA continues, when the VA claims a shortage of health care professionals is what is contributing to the problems like the long waiting lists for people that are suicidal because of traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress syndrome.

Madam Chair, we must demand accountability at the VA and across government to be sure civil servants are focusing on their positions of record, not serving unions at taxpayer expense.

That is why stand-alone legislation I have introduced, H.R. 107, would repeal the governmentwide use of official time, saving over $1.5 billion over 10 years.

While we are not considering my stand-alone legislation on the floor today, I am proud to offer this amendment as a small step toward reining in the use and abuse of official time.

Simply put, a Federal employee hired to work as an air traffic controller should spend his or her time at work performing his or her duties as an air traffic controller, not serving as a taxpayer-funded union official.

Madam Chair, I want to make it very clear that I am not proposing to do away with unions. However, I am working diligently to increase the efficiency of the Federal workforce. This amendment limits Federal activity during normal business hours to simply working, not carrying out union activities.

We should not be forcing taxpayers to support private and often very politically active organizations. At $140,000 a year, Federal employees should spend their days performing the duties for which taxpayers hired them.

While families all over the Nation are tightening their belts and cutting their own spending, it should not be the practice of the Federal Government to allow expensive, special interest handouts; rather the Federal Government should be reining in its spending and looking for ways to save money and function more efficiently. This amendment is an important first step.

I urge my colleagues to support the Gingrey-Bridenstine amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this purely ideological amendment by my colleague from Georgia, which aims to eliminate the use of official time for representational activities for employees covered by the T-HUD bill before us.

This is yet another attempt to accelerate a race to the bottom and to deny workers their fundamental right to bargain collectively. Specifically, this amendment aims to prevent effective union representation by attacking the use of official time by employees.

Use of reasonable amounts of official time has been supported by government officials of both parties for 50 years.

In exchange for the legal obligation to provide the same services to those who pay as those who choose not to pay, the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 allowed Federal employee unions to bargain with agencies over official time.

Under this law, Federal employees who volunteered to serve as union representatives are permitted to use official time to engage in negotiation and perform representational activities while on duty status.

Using official time increases efficiency and is beneficial to both Federal employees and the Federal Government. These types of informal meetings save the government money by allowing the parties to avoid costly arbitration and other less efficient means of dispute resolution.

At the FAA, for example, official time is essential for the collaborative process between employees and management. At a time when we are overhauling our Nation's air traffic control system, eliminating official time is inappropriate, fiscally irresponsible, and an unnecessary violation of workers' basic rights.

At a time when we face so many challenges, when we are in massive need of infrastructure improvements, I wish that the majority would find something more constructive to do than attack the fundamental right to bargain collectively.

I urge a ''no'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chairwoman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chairwoman, I also rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

First of all, this amendment violates a collective bargaining agreement that has been negotiated by the Federal Aviation Administration and other agencies within the Department of Transportation and HUD.

For example, there are three groups at FAA that utilize official time: air traffic controllers, the inspectors, and the technicians that repair the air traffic control system.

Official time has been helpful in allowing controllers and technicians to participate in workgroups with the FAA management team to advance NextGen technologies, which all of us are supportive of. It is critical to modernize our air traffic control system.

I oppose this amendment because it would violate collective bargaining contracts, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. DELAURO

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 enter into any contract with an incorporated entity if such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity is incorporated or chartered in Bermuda or the Cayman Islands, and such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity was previously incorporated in the United States.

Ms. DELAURO (during the reading). Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent that we dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chair, my amendment would prohibit Federal contracts issued by the agencies under the jurisdiction of this bill—namely, the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development—from going to entities that were incorporated in the United States, but reincorporated in the most notorious tax havens—Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

According to a joint study issued last week by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group and Citizens for Tax Justice, 70 percent of the companies in the Fortune 500 used tax havens last year. These companies stashed nearly $2 trillion offshore for tax purposes, with almost two-thirds of that total—62 percent—being hidden away by just 30 companies.

According to that same study, approximately 64 percent of U.S. companies with subsidiaries in tax havens registered at least one in Bermuda or the Cayman Islands.

The profits these companies claimed were earned in these two island nations in 2010 totaled over 1,600 percent of these countries' entire yearly economic output.

Of course, it defies logic and credulity to believe these companies conducted such a large amount of business there. What these companies are really doing is avoiding U.S. taxes by stashing profits in these tax havens.

According to a 2009 GAO report, 63 of the 100 largest publicly traded U.S.

Federal contractors reported having subsidiaries in tax havens in 2007. I and others have long fought for—and succeeded in passing through the appropriations process—a ban on Federal contracts for inverted corporations.

These are U.S. companies that acquire a business in a lower tax jurisdiction and claim their headquarters there, despite still being a U.S. company, yet U.S. companies can still simply claim to the IRS that their profits were made in places like Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, and companies incorporated in these and other tax havens still find ways to receive Federal contracts.

We need to stop allowing companies to game our system. They take advantage of our education system, our research and development incentives, our skilled workforce, and our infrastructure—all supported by U.S. taxpayers—to build their businesses and then turn around and invert or otherwise avoid paying taxes by abusing these tax havens.

These companies should not be allowed to pretend that they are an American company when it is time to get contracts, then claim to be an offshore company when the tax bill comes.

We can start putting an end to this right here, right now, with this amendment. It will ensure that future contracts are not awarded to U.S. companies that incorporate in the most egregious tax havens—Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

Madam Chairman, in 2010, U.S. companies earned $129 billion on three tiny island nations—Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, and the British Virgin Islands.

As The New York Times recently pointed out, these islands have a total population of 147,400 individuals. That means, if you believe U.S. companies really earned that much in these locations, their profits worked out to be $873,000 per person. This is, of course, nonsense.

Some of my colleagues may echo the cries of these tax-avoiding companies and say the real need here is for corporate tax reform, but many of these companies are currently paying a tax rate of zero percent—zero percent—so unless you believe corporate tax reform should eliminate taxes for U.S. companies, the argument simply does not hold water.

Again, the amendment simply bans corporations, once incorporated in the United States, but have since incorporated in Bermuda or the Cayman Islands—a maneuver that is undertaken to avoid taxes—from receiving Federal contracts.

We need to send a clear message that, if a company is going to abuse tax loopholes at the expense of businesses that are paying their fair share, they will not be rewarded with government contracts.

I urge my colleagues to make a stand with me and pass this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Chair, I am in favor of the amendment. Hopefully, from the silence that we have heard, there is bipartisan support for this amendment because I know there is a bipartisan commitment here that competition is very much the American way.

If you have two companies, as happens all over America, competing on different government contracts, we usually come out with the best result from that competition. But the question with this amendment, which I am pleased to join the gentlelady from Connecticut in offering today, is whether we ought to advantage companies that renounce their American citizenship in favor of finding an office on the beach in Bermuda or in Ugland House in the Cayman Islands.

□ 1715

The other company is an American company, not only when it comes time to put its hand out for a government contract but also when it comes time to put its hand out to pay the taxes that it earned on its American business.

Which one of these companies should have a competitive advantage?

I think it is the one that stayed home and was an American, patriotic company and did not dodge its part of the responsibility for paying for our national security, which is so important to international commerce, and for other vital services.

American companies that stay and contribute to building America and that keep her secure at home and abroad deserve a level playing field, and that is all that this amendment does. If a Cayman company doesn't have to pay taxes on some of its income, of course it can underbid the company that stayed in America, that made it in America, that paid its taxes, and then asked to have a level playing field to compete for American business.

The history in this Congress, unfortunately, is that many very large companies pay their lobbyists more to lobby this Congress than they pay to the Treasury in taxes, and it has been a very wise investment because they have been able to have one loophole, one special preference, one advantage, one exception—one more bit of complexity to our Tax Code—in order to avoid paying their fair share.

The companies that are operating in the Cayman Islands and in Bermuda are reporting huge amounts of income earned in those countries, largely from stripping off earnings that they have here in America and shifting them there through interest gimmicks, through dividend gimmicks, through intellectual property gimmicks. They avoid paying taxes not only on the tiny amount that they might have earned from an occasional sale in the Cayman Islands but from all of the sales from which they are able to strip off earnings and shift them to this island paradise.

They are looking for, basically, a shell game. I am not talking about seashells on the beach in the Cayman Islands. I am talking about the shell game that exists when these companies come in, renounce their American citizenship, keep the form and operation of their business here in America, but claim that they are suddenly no longer citizens under the American flag that we honor but are under the flag of some foreign nation. They basically are sending Uncle Sam a postcard that reads: ''Sorry. You can find me on the beach. Glad you are not here.'' That is the answer that they give when it comes time to pay their taxes, but then they have the audacity to come and ask other taxpayers—other taxpaying businesses and individuals who have done their fair share, and then some, for American security—they ask for government business at taxpayer expense.

This amendment is set to send the executives a message: they can play all they want to on the beach to avoid taxes, but Congress is not going to put its head in the sand. They can have fun in the sun, but Congress refuses to let the rest of the Americans, who are working hard to pay their taxes, get burned by having to pay not only for the taxes that these tax dodgers haven't paid but for government contracts that are paid for with taxpayer money.

Let's support competition, and let's support American companies that are paying their fair share. Let's adopt this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GINGREY OF GEORGIA

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chair, as the designee of Mr. MICA of Florida, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. 417. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 24305(c)(4) of title 49, United States, Code.

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairwoman, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 4745. This amendment would prohibit funds from being used to subsidize Amtrak food and beverage service.

As my colleagues know, Amtrak operates at a loss every year, partially due to millions lost in the food service cost. In 2012, Amtrak lost $72 million

on its food and beverage service, and that loss is just one in a consistent series of losses. This loss on its own would be cause for concern, but even more concerning is that the loss directly violates the law.

Madam Chairwoman, in 1981, Federal law mandated that Amtrak break even on its food and beverage service by the following year, 1982. Despite this, Amtrak not only failed to break even, but it contracted with high-end chefs to develop gourmet recipes for Amtrak meals, to the tune of more than $905 million in the last decade.

Heavily subsidized routes feature dishes such as lamb shank and Atlantic salmon, and Amtrak has a Culinary Advisory Team to develop new high-end recipes. In 2012, a hamburger cost Amtrak $16.15, with riders paying $9.50. This means that we, the taxpayers, are forced to pick up the tab for the remaining $6.65 through subsidies provided to Amtrak. On some routes, first-class passengers are offered complimentary cheese, wine, and champagne. While the passenger may enjoy these luxury items, it is not fair that the taxpayer is forced to subsidize these extravagances.

Each spring, Amtrak brings together some of the best chefs in the country for a retreat of sorts. These chefs—several of them, of course, award-winning—come together for what The Washington Post has called ''an intensive 3-day session of cooking and brainstorming.'' At last year's gathering, chefs tasted more than 100 offerings. Of the recipes tested, including recipes for braised pork chop and a spinach and mushroom frittata, several will be deemed unsuitable for offering on Amtrak either due to kitchen limitations or due to a lack of cohesiveness with the rest of the menu.

Madam Chairwoman, I ask you: When the average American is struggling to make ends meet, why are we throwing away money at Amtrak for these luxuries, especially when Amtrak consistently operates at a loss?

If a private company wants to host a brainstorming weekend for top chefs, that is its prerogative, but the taxpayer should not be on the hook for a getaway focused on developing lavish meals for Amtrak passengers.

Taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize Amtrak, and they certainly should not be forced to cover tens of millions of dollars in costs to pay for gourmet meals and first-class service on Amtrak. Amtrak's food and beverage losses violate the law. Yet this is flagrantly disregarded. Rather than taking steps to correct the problem, the service goes after more upscale options.

We must end this cycle of wasteful spending and enact real change to get our fiscal house back in order. With a national debt of more than $17 trillion, we cannot afford to keep throwing money away, particularly on luxuries such as gourmet meals on a federally subsidized train service.

For that reason, Mr. MICA and I are offering this amendment to prohibit funds made available by this act from being used to subsidize Amtrak food and beverage service. I urge my colleagues to support the Gingrey-Mica amendment.

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, in the last 5 years, moving crude oil by train has grown exponentially from a virtually nonexistent industry to a booming one with no signs of slowing down; but after a number of high-profile derailments, the need for increased safety regulations on shipping hazardous materials via rail could not be clearer.

Last week, I had the privilege of attending a first responder training course that was focused on crude oil trains at the Port of Albany, which has become a major hub for crude oil shipments, processing more than 40,000 carloads last year. I know rail carriers and emergency planners are taking it upon themselves to prepare for handling hazardous materials in increased volumes, but regulatory steps are also needed.

We need a comprehensive approach to address this issue, including expanding route planning and selection requirements, requiring response plans for rail carriers and ensuring shippers and rail carriers are testing and classifying their shipments appropriately. Many of these suggestions have been recommended by the National Transportation Safety Board.

Many of the reforms I support are common sense. For example, comprehensive oil spill response plans are currently required for oil shipments greater than 1,000 barrels per tank car, but most tank cars only hold 700 barrels; therefore, trains, some with as many as 120 cars that are carrying crude oil, are not required to have comprehensive response plans because of this outdated threshold. Among other safety issues, tank car safety, particularly in regard to the DOT–111s, is a major concern for many of my constituents.

Every day, trains transporting Bakken crude oil move and idle next to public housing and the highway near Albany's South End before entering the Port of Albany. Everyone agrees—railroads, suppliers and the NTSB, to name a few—that we need a higher safety standard on new tank car orders and an aggressive phaseout or retrofit of the old DOT–111s, which have no business transporting hazardous materials. Only 14,000 of 92,000 DOT–111 tank cars are currently built to the latest industry standards. The remaining 78,000 have demonstrated that they are prone to splitting open during derailments.

The rail industry has taken meaningful and voluntary steps to account for the DOT–111s' inadequacies, including raising the industry standard for cars built after October of 2011, but we need higher Federal standards. This is long overdue, and DOT must act.

I know this is an issue my good friend from New York, Ranking Member LOWEY, is passionate about as well. Earlier this year, we sent a letter to Secretary Foxx, urging him to move forward with a rulemaking process that includes phasing out the DOT–111s. We should harmonize our regulations with Canada's already announced plan, which includes a 3-year phaseout or retrofit of DOT–111s. Just this morning, I had the opportunity to speak with Secretary Foxx about DOT's rulemaking process. I know this is a top priority for him, and I have been assured that it is moving forward aggressively. I encourage a speedy but appropriate resolution.

I also appreciate that the chair included language urging a comprehensive approach to rail safety. The language directs the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to update emergency spill response planning thresholds and to finalize a rule on tank cars by the end of this fiscal year. The bill also fully funds the President's request for FRA's safety and operations account and PHMSA's hazardous materials account.

Finally, the manager's amendment, during the full committee markup, designated some funds to hire additional safety staff to monitor routing and to make safety improvements on grade crossings that carry energy products. This, indeed, is a positive step. However, I would have preferred the inclusion of $40 million, as in the President's budget request, to establish a safe transportation of energy products fund within the Office of the Secretary of Transportation in order to support prevention and response activities.

Aside from the crude-by-rail issues, I understand the challenges of the current funding allocations, but I must strongly oppose this bill's shortfalls in numerous infrastructure and transit accounts. The FTA's Capital Investment Grant program is $809 million below the request. Amtrak's capital grants are cut by $200 million, and TIGER only receives $100 million, shamefully shortfalling what we need.

It is my hope that we can improve this bill during conference, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to include appropriate levels for underfunded programs while building upon this bill's rail safety provisions.

Again, I want to thank Chairmen Rogers and Latham and Ranking Members Lowey and Pastor for their attention to this critical rail safety issue.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1730

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SESSIONS

Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following new section:

SEC. 417. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to support Amtrak's route with the highest loss, measured by contributions/(Loss) per Rider, as based on the National Railroad Passenger Corporation Fiscal Years 2013–2017 Five Year Plan from May 2013.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Chairman, my amendment is really straightforward and one which I have offered year after year after year after year on the floor of the House of Representatives.

It would eliminate funding for the absolute worst performing line, one line, on the Amtrak system, a line that is known as the Sunset Limited, and it runs from New Orleans to Los Angeles.

Madam Chairman, the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997 required that Amtrak operate without any Federal assistance after 2002. Amtrak was supposed to be free of Federal operating subsidies.

Yet, despite this commonsense requirement that Amtrak cease their financial irresponsibility and mismanagement, instead, it costs the taxpayers $396.31 per rider, per year, on this line. That is $396.31 to subsidize the travels of passengers from New Orleans to Los Angeles, a trip that takes nearly 48 hours, assuming the train is on time.

Madam Chairman, we could buy everybody a free ticket on an airline from New Orleans to Los Angeles and probably end up saving money.

However, according to Amtrak's most recent performance report, the Sunset Limited only arrives on time 46 percent of the time. So it might even make sense for somebody to get there not only quicker, but also cheaper.

This places the Sunset Limited as one of the top 10 worst on-time routes for any of Amtrak's routes in its latest performance report.

Madam Chairman, taxpayers should be happy that the train really doesn't run more often. But when it does run, the route loses an average of $40 million a year.

So my amendment is the first step, once again, in instilling just a small measure, joining the gentleman from Georgia, in fiscal discipline that Amtrak should be told today that it has to establish.

If it cannot manage itself with its worst, most expensive performing line, then God help us all. If they won't do it, we are going to. Failure to do so will only allow Amtrak to continue misusing and wasting taxpayer dollars.

Look, it is just very simple. I am asking that my colleagues join with me and say that the worst-performing, the most cost-prohibitive line would be stopped by Amtrak. So, I think it makes sense to say, no more Sunset Limited.

So I urge all my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment. This Amtrak route, the Sunset Limited, runs through 8 States, Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, and if we start picking lines, individual lines in terms of terminating, what we begin doing is a downward spiral for the demise of Amtrak.

So, for the reasons that I want to ensure that my colleague from Texas, his constituents are able to travel on this line, as well as the ones from Arizona, I rise in opposition.

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MS. BASS

Ms. BASS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

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 by the Secretary or the Federal Transit Administration to implement, administer, or enforce section 18.36(c)(2) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, for construction hiring purposes.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BASS. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment that will spur local job creation through federally-funded transit projects nationwide.

Specifically, this amendment would provide the necessary flexibility for transit agencies to implement geographically targeted hiring and procurement preferences.

My amendment will help to ensure construction and operations jobs contribute to the local economic development and of cities and towns where the transportation projects exist, instead of outsourcing these new jobs. Flexibility to implement local hire policies will also provide local and State agencies the ability to address unemployment in our hardest-hit regions.

For example, the Los Angeles Transit Corridor Light Rail Line is currently under construction in Los Angeles. This project is expected to be a significant economic engine for development, generating an estimated 7,000 jobs during its 5-year construction period.

Los Angeles Metro, our local transit agency, would like to encourage construction contractors to hire within the local community in order to help address unemployment in the area.

However, according to current regulations, local transit agencies are restricted from implementing local hiring and procurement policies for federally-funded transportation projects, even when the vast majority of the project funds are State or locally generated.

This is a commonsense amendment. It will limit burdensome regulations placed on local government agencies, and it will allow State and local agencies to more easily generate employment and economic development, and it preserves the competition mandates in our current grant rules governing Federal transit projects.

Again, this is not a mandate. This just allows local agencies the flexibility.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment. It would allow transportation agencies to advance construction projects through the use of local workers.

Every year, cities and local communities must contribute their own resources in the form of a local match for projects that receive Federal funds. At a time when many communities are still struggling from the economic distress, it is understandable that these local agencies would want transportation dollars to benefit local workers and benefits businesses.

It will help ensure construction and operation jobs contribute to the local economic development within the cities and towns where the transportation projects exist, instead of outsourcing jobs to other countries or States.

Madam Chairman, I support the amendment, 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. BASS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SESSIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following new section:

SEC. 417. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to support any Amtrak route whose costs exceed 2 times its revenues, as based on the National Railroad Passenger Corporation Fiscal Years 2013-2017 Five Year Plan from May 2013.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Chairman, once again I stand up in a continuing theme of what I believe fiscally responsible Members who come to the floor should look at—the operation of Amtrak.

Today, once again, I come to the floor to offer my ideas about how we can help, especially during troubling financial times for the American taxpayer with our Federal Government, that we can look at and find ways to where we work with Amtrak.

Years ago I met with the chairman of the board, who openly acknowledged that there were challenges that Amtrak faced, not just safety issues, but many other issues that dealt with their financial integrity.

I told him I would continue doing these kinds of amendments, and he considered this, in a sense, an opportunity for the people who provide money, meaning the taxpayers of the United States, to have a say about the operation of how their money would be used. That is the same spirit that I am here on the floor today.

Madam Chairman, my amendment would eliminate funding for Amtrak routes that have total direct costs that are more than twice the revenue that they produce. That means, if the cost is twice as much as the revenue, I think that that should be a solid reason why someone should consider eliminating those routes.

They are all over the place, and I believe that Amtrak continues to provide these, accept government money, and they don't give two flips about what we think about the use of the taxpayer money. And so I think it is worth our time to be here.

Every single long-distance route that Amtrak provides over 400 miles in length operates at a loss every single month. If they have got a route that is more than 400 miles, I mean, we are helping them out here, Madam Chairman.

We are helping out Amtrak, and we are saying to them, if you have got something more than 400 miles, you are operating at a loss.

Now we are saying, however, if it is twice the cost of the revenue, that is what we would like to have you look at. And I think that it would be an argument for us, as a provider of money, to say, look, we think that you should help people. Maybe when they call in to you to take Amtrak, if it is one of those routes, why don't you suggest to them that they fly aircraft, that they take a bus, that they do something where the American taxpayer is not on the line.

The bottom line is, if you combine seven routes that are taken in this parameter, the American taxpayer pays $332.8 million for this subsidy. $332 million is maybe not a lot of money to Amtrak, but that is a darn lot amount of money for the American people to be putting into Amtrak to have them waste.

I believe it is a waste. I believe it could be not only better allocated, but utilized in a better way, like shifting people who are coming to you—let's take an alternative. Let's maybe take an airplane.

It is clear that the government subsidizes rail service on Amtrak, and it does not make economic sense that they take advantage of that.

So, Madam Chairman, it is real simple. This is an opportunity for the people who represent taxpayers to simply come forth and say, let's have a vote on this, that we believe that that is too much money. 332 million bucks should not be used on these seven routes, and that is why I am here today.

So, Madam Chairman, I urge all my colleagues to support what I think is a commonsense amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. While I support the efforts and reforms to move Amtrak to operate in a more efficient and effective manner, I must oppose this amendment.

I appreciate very much the gentleman from Texas, my good friend, and his raising this issue. The gentleman's amendment would eliminate seven Amtrak routes and eliminate rail service to dozens of cities and towns of all sizes across America.

Just to list, those would be California Zephyr, which goes from Chicago to Emeryville, California, which happens to go through Iowa; Cardinal Hoosier line, which is Chicago to New York; Coast Star Light, from Seattle to Los Angeles; the Crescent, from New York City to New Orleans; Silver Star, from New York City to Miami; Southwest Chief, from Chicago to Los Angeles; and the Sunset Limited, from Los Angeles to New Orleans.

□ 1745

Again, I appreciate very much what the gentleman is trying to do. I just think we need to work on efficiency at Amtrak.

We have been trying very, very hard, through all of our hearings and through our contact with Amtrak, to get efficiency and to modernize and to try to get them to a profitable state; but unfortunately, I must oppose this amendment, just because of the vast impact it would have on so many people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I also agree with the chairman for the reasons he stated.

I rise in opposition to this amendment. It would dismantle Amtrak, the only resemblance of a rail system that we have in this Nation.

Obviously, we need to work with them, so that Amtrak becomes more efficient, but this amendment would dismantle it, and for that reason, I oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. SESSIONS. 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 Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Chair, on May 24, 2011, President Obama issued a memorandum on Federal fleet performance that requires all new light-duty vehicles in the Federal fleet to be alternative fuel vehicles, such as hybrid, electric, natural gas, or biofuel, by December 31, 2015.

My amendment echoes the Presidential memorandum by prohibiting funds in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act from being used to lease or purchase new light-duty vehicles, except in accord with the President's memorandum.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ENGEL. I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. I would be happy to accept your amendment.

Mr. ENGEL. I thank the gentleman, and 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. ENGEL).

The amendment was agreed to.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

An amendment by Mr. DENHAM of California.

Amendment No. 1 by Mrs. BLACKBURN of Tennessee.

An amendment by Mr. SCHOCK of Illinois.

An amendment by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

An amendment by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

An amendment by Mr. SCHIFF of California.

An amendment by Mr. SESSIONS of Texas.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DENHAM

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 227, noes 186, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 288]

AYES—227

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—186

Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—18

Cantor
Culberson
Delaney
Doyle
Gerlach
Hall
Horsford
Kaptur
Lewis
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Owens
Pocan
Sires
Wasserman Schultz
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)

□ 1820

Ms. FUDGE, Ms. CHU, and Mr. RUSH changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. BLUMENAUER was allowed to speak out of order.)

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR VICTIMS OF REYNOLDS HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, Reynolds High School in Troutdale, Oregon, is a terrific institution in my district. I was there recently, and the kids gave me a wooden bowtie with a bicycle on it.

In a scene that is achingly familiar, this morning at Reynolds, a shooting occurred. A student was killed. The shooter died. A teacher was wounded.

The school and law enforcement recently completed drills to deal with these sad circumstances. Luckily, it went off without a hitch, and there were no further injuries. It went as well as could be expected under the circumstances, with a massive regional response from law enforcement on the scene.

I would ask, Mr. Chairman, that the House observe a moment of silence in support for the victims, their families, and the community.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Members will rise and observe a moment of silence.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, 2-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 159, noes 260, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 289]

AYES—159

Amash
Amodei
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Campbell
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cooper
Cotton
Crawford
Daines
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Gardner
Garrett
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
Long
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nunes

Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Williams
Wittman
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—260

Aderholt
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Richmond
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Westmoreland
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—12

Cantor
Delaney
Doyle
Hall
Horsford
Kaptur
Lewis
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1828

Mr. BARR changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SCHOCK

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 210, noes 209, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 290]

AYES—210

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—209

Aderholt
Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McKeon
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Peters (CA)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reichert
Richmond
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney

Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack

NOT VOTING—12

Cantor
Delaney
Doyle
Hall
Horsford
Kaptur
Lewis
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1833

Messrs. POE of Texas, GARCIA, and MAFFEI changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 190, noes 232, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 291]

AYES—190

Amash
Bachmann
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—232

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachus
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McKeon
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Nugent
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Richmond
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—9

Cantor
Delaney
Hall
Horsford
Lewis
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1838

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 181, noes 240, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 292]

AYES—181

Amash
Bachmann
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus

Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—240

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Nugent
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Richmond
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—10

Cantor
Delaney
Gutiérrez
Hall
Lewis
Miller, Gary
Moran
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1841

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. BOEHNER was allowed to speak out of order.)

RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVE LATHAM ON HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Chair, I will have the Members know that the gentleman from Iowa has announced that this will be his last term in Congress.

On behalf of the House, I want to thank Mr. LATHAM for his 20 years of service to the House, thank him for all those years of service on the Appropriations Committee, and thank him for being one of my best friends. Congratulations.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. HOYER was allowed to speak out of order.)

RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVE LATHAM AND REPRESENTATIVE PASTOR ON THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, first I want to say to Mr. LATHAM, with whom I had the opportunity of serving on the Appropriations Committee for some years, thank you for your service. We obviously didn't always agree, but I always found you to be a gentleman and conscientious and honest in your leadership and willing to work together where we could work together, and I want to thank you for that.

□ 1845

Mr. Chairman, not only is Mr. LATHAM retiring, but his partner, the ranking member, Mr. PASTOR, who is standing at the back of the Chamber, is also retiring.

Mr. Chairman, let me simply say about ED PASTOR, ED PASTOR is a quiet man, a little bit like John Wayne in ''The Quiet Man,'' but a very effective man who worked very hard not only for his constituents, but for the citizens of our country.

I also had the opportunity to serve many years with Mr. PASTOR on subcommittees together and on the full committee together. We owe a debt of gratitude to both of these gentlemen who worked together to produce products that America could be proud of and work forward on. Perhaps we didn't always get there, any of us, but they worked as a team trying to get the best job possible within the constraints on which they were operating, and we thank them both for that.

Thank you, Mr. PASTOR. We are proud of you.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SCHIFF

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, 2-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 208, noes 212, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 293]

AYES—208

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Campbell
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garcia
Gibson
Goodlatte
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Lankford
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richmond
Rooney
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stewart
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Yarmuth
Yoho

NOES—212

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Chabot
Coble
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Larsen (WA)
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—11

Cantor
Cole
Delaney
Gutiérrez
Hall
Lewis
Miller, Gary
Moran
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1849

Ms. DUCKWORTH changed her vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SESSIONS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 167, noes 250, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 294]

AYES—167

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bishop (UT)
Black
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Camp
Campbell
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Culberson
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Guthrie
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lankford
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Thornberry
Upton
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—250

Barber
Barletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Richmond
Roby
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—14

Bilirakis
Blackburn
Cantor
Delaney
Gutiérrez
Hall
Lewis
Miller, Gary
Moran
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Royce
Ruiz
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1853

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. FOXX). The Clerk will read the last three lines.

The Clerk read as follows:

This Act may be cited as the ''Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015''.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, I move that the committee do now rise and report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments, with the recommendation that the amendments be

agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington) 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. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, directed her to report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under House Resolution 604, the previous question is ordered.

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a separate vote on Gingrey amendment No. 29.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is a separate vote demanded on any other amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will redesignate the amendment on which a separate vote has been demanded.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment.

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 167, noes 254, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 295]

AYES—167

Aderholt
Amash
Bachmann
Bachus
Barr
Barton
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lankford
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—254

Amodei
Barber
Barletta
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stivers
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Westmoreland
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—10

Cantor
Delaney
Gutiérrez
Hall
Lewis
Miller, Gary
Moran
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

□ 1903

Messrs. HURT and HASTINGS of Florida changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

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

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

Ms. ESTY. I am in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Esty moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4745 to the Committee on _____ with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 37, line 13, (related to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Operations and Research), after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

Page 48, line 5, (related to Federal Transit Administration, Administrative Expenses), after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

Ms. ESTY (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

Mr. Speaker, we owe Americans a safe transportation system. Drivers

need to know that their cars are safe. Parents shouldn't have to worry about a faulty accelerator propelling them at speeds of 100 miles an hour as they drive to work or pick up their children from soccer practice. None of us should be concerned about a faulty switch turning off power steering, our brakes, or airbags.

Tragically, as recent news reports and congressional investigations have shown, Americans are justifiably worried. The costs of inadequate safety oversight are real.

My friend and senior Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL shared the following story with me.

A woman from Fairfield County was driving one of the recently recalled car models on a major highway. She wound up under a freight dump truck, and her airbags failed to deploy. Her head hit the steering wheel, and she was knocked unconscious. Nine months and two surgeries later, she still suffers from postconcussion syndrome.

In her own words, she said:

> I had to move back home . . . giving up the dream I had been pursuing.

Mr. Speaker, the free market won't protect consumers by itself. We have learned over the decades that consumer safety depends not only on our automakers, but also on our Department of Transportation having the resources to conduct investigations and enforce our recall system.

I am a mother of three children, all of them young drivers. I know how important product safety oversight can be to keeping our children safe.

In fact, just before coming on the floor this afternoon, I learned that two school buses in my district were involved in a multivehicle accident, sending dozens of students to the hospital.

I also know oversight won't save lives, unless we provide investigators the resources they need to keep our vehicles safe. We can do better. We must do better. Do you know why? We need to save lives.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today provides millions less than the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has requested for operations and research. My motion to recommit adds $5 million for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's vehicle safety enforcement program. This amendment would not add one penny to the deficit.

Mr. Speaker, it shouldn't take a record settlement, after years of litigation, to bring some small measure of closure to victims and their families following a preventable defect, nor should it take 10 years to issue a recall once a major problem is discovered.

Whatever your position is on the underlying bill, I ask you to support my amendment in the name of common sense. I ask you to support this proposal in the name of auto dealers in my State and in yours, who have reported difficulty getting replacement parts that are desperately needed for these recalls.

I ask for your support on behalf of the thousands of Connecticut car-owners and millions across this country affected by recent recalls.

Safety is—and should be—a bipartisan issue. We can do better. We should do better. We must do better.

I ask for your support as someone who believes that we can write better legislation without spending more money. Let's do the right thing. Let's do the reasonable thing. I ask all House Members to join me to vote for this motion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to say thank you to Speaker BOEHNER and Mr. HOYER for the kind words earlier and to also express my appreciation to my counterpart here, Mr. PASTOR, who has been such a great partner through this whole process. It has been a real pleasure.

Mr. Speaker, the bill we considered is a good piece of legislation that adequately funds critical transportation and housing programs, programs that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle support, and it does so within the confines of a reduced budget.

The motion specifically adds money to NHTSA's administration account. Unfortunately, simply throwing money at a problem will not solve the problem. We have an opportunity in the next surface reauthorization bill to look at NHTSA's authority and regulatory ability.

It is kind of a surprise to have this motion now. We have gone through 2 days under a totally open rule. This could have been considered in regular order. Mr. Speaker, this is just an effort to grind the appropriations process bills to a halt.

I urge my colleagues to reject this motion and pass H.R. 4745 today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 195, noes 227, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 296]

AYES—195

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—227

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)

Grimm
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—9

Cantor
Delaney
Hall
Lewis
Miller, Gary
Moran
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

□ 1917

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 229, nays 192, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 297]

YEAS—229

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marino
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—192

Amash
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Labrador
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—10

Cantor
Delaney
Hall
Lewis
Miller, Gary
Moran
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Speier
Wilson (SC)

□ 1924

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4800, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4457, AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2014; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4453, S CORPORATION PERMANENT TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2014

Mr. BURGESS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–472) on the resolution (H. Res. 616) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4800) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4457) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4453) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 286, I voted ''yes'' inadvertently. I would like the RECORD to reflect that my vote would have been ''no.''

CPI'S 100 PERCENT JOB PLACEMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the faculty, staff, and students of the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology, referred to as ''CPI,'' in Centre County, Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District.

On April 30, CPI's Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning class graduated with a 100 percent job placement rate.

The HVAC class included over 900 hours of technical training in order to prepare students for careers in repairing basic residential and commercial heating, ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration, and pipe fitting. Students also learn plumbing, mechanical, building codes, design schematics, blueprints, and hazardous materials and gas handling techniques.

As the cochair of the bipartisan House Career and Technical Education Caucus, I am very proud to have a great model of career and technical education right in Pennsylvania's Fifth District.

Despite unemployment remaining above average levels, many industries face challenges finding qualified employees to fill job vacancies. The skills gap between those seeking jobs and those businesses requiring highly qualified and skilled workers can adequately be addressed with the rigorous, high-quality career and technical education programs, such as those offered at CPI.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the recent CPI graduates. I wish them the best in their new jobs.

THE SILENCE IS DEAFENING

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, sadly, the House asked for a moment of silence for a student who was killed in Oregon. Yesterday, sadly, we had a moment of silence for deaths in Nevada. We didn't have a moment of silence for the death of a student at Seattle Pacific University in Washington 3 or 4 days earlier.

Sadly, it is becoming a regular occurrence of moments of silence for children who are killed in schools. We had Santa Barbara. We have had others. There have been 74 since Newtown.

The silence is deafening that the House has not acted. Whether it is mental health, whether it is gun laws, the House needs to act and not continue to be silent.

□ 1930

IT IS TIME FOR CONGRESS TO STAND UP AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, today we stood up again for a moment of silence because there was violence in schools, and we know this has happened repeatedly since Newtown.

These families are waiting for us to do something. They are waiting for Congress to do something. They don't want us to keep standing up for a moment of silence. They want us to stand up for a vote.

I call on Speaker BOEHNER to bring some legislation to the floor. We have legislation, good legislation that can help prevent some of this terrible tragedy. So let's work together and start addressing this terrible program that is impacting so many people in our country.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS AND POLICIES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BELARUS AND OTHER PERSONS TO UNDERMINE BELARUS'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES OR INSTITUTIONS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113–118)

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

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2014.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions, to commit human rights abuses related to political repression, and to engage in public corruption continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 10, 2014.*

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I don't think we will take a full hour here, but there are a couple of things that we need to talk about.

I always like to start these hour sessions with why we are here; what are the values that we want to put forth.

Why do we spend these hours in the Chamber?

What is our job here?

I often find myself going back to FDR. He said back in the thirties something that has always been with me. He said: ''The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much. It is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.''

The test of our progress: Do we provide more to those who have much, or to those who have too little?

How can we meet this test?

What can we do?

Today is one of those days that I guess comes from ''A Tale of Two Cities''; the best of times and the worst of times.

I am going to put up this photo of a levee break in California. I represent 200 miles of the Sacramento River Valley and probably have over 1,100 miles of levees. Today, actually is the best of times. The levees are not breaking. Actually, we are in the middle of a drought.

But today, at the White House, the President signed the Water Resources and Reform Development Act, an extremely important piece of legislation for my district, and for America, because this legislation provides for the protection of our cities. It provides for the flood control programs that are absolutely essential in my part of California and all across America.

So, Mr. President, thank you very much for signing that legislation.

And for the Members of this House and for the Senate that decided that it was time to put aside all the partisanship and to do something right for the people of America, we actually made progress today and the Water Resources Reform and Development Act is now the law of the land.

For California, Hamilton City will see their levees, after 15 years of effort, they will see their levees under construction in the coming year. And God willing, there won't be a flood this winter. And also an end to the drought, thank you.

Natomas, the city of Sacramento, major levee improvements there, and along Yuba City, along the Feather River, 40 miles of levee improvements now underway, and also over in Marysville.

We are thankful that there was bipartisanship and that there was a major piece of legislation. We have to provide the funding, but the authorization is there.

So this photo of a levee break in California, we can put it aside and we can then talk about this. This takes us back to FDR.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act not only deals with levees and floods, it also deals with the ports. It deals with the inland waterways. It deals with the locks and all that comes with the transportation in the sector of water transportation, whether it is on the east coast ports, the ports in California, Long Beach, Los Angeles and in my area, Stockton and Sacramento ports.

We are talking about 13 million jobs, and these are the good, middle class jobs that Americans need. They want to go to work. They want a job. They want to be able to support their families. They want to be able to have a home. They want to be able to have that vacation.

With the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, now law, signed today by the President, we will see 13 million jobs in the future. They are not going to happen tomorrow, but they will over the next 5 years, as this bill—over the next 2 years as this bill goes into effect.

So FDR's challenge to us: What have we done for those who do not have enough?

Today, the signing of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act provides for those who do not have jobs the opportunity. For those who are in harm's way in floods, it provides for them to have those levees built over the next several years.

For those who have abundance, well, maybe their home is behind the levee also, or maybe they also will benefit from the improvement of our ports and waterways. So that is the good news.

So what happened today on the bad news side?

Well, let's talk about that. This is a picture of an Amtrak train that has been built in Sacramento, California. This train was paid for by the stimulus bill, which some in this House think was a failure, but the 600 employees in Sacramento at the Siemens manufacturing plant there, they don't think it was a failure: $800 million in the stimulus bill 5 years ago to provide for 100 percent American-made locomotives.

This is the most modern locomotive in the United States. It will soon be running on the Northeast corridor between Washington, D.C., and Boston, made in America, made in Sacramento by Americans, 100 percent American-made.

So why am I talking about something that happened in this House 5 years ago with the stimulus bill, the American Recovery Act? Why am I bringing it up tonight?

Because today, the House of Representatives passed an appropriation bill for transportation and housing, a woefully inadequate piece of legislation that actually will reduce funding for public transportation.

Amtrak may not be able to use this train, may not be able to use the locomotive that was built specifically for the Northeast corridor because our Republican colleagues reduced the funding for Amtrak and actually passed legislation to further restrict public transportation, Amtrak and public transportation, in our cities all over this Nation.

Why would they do that when we know, when everybody knows that transportation is absolutely critical, that public transportation, whether it be Amtrak or a light-rail system or a rapid transit system in any of our cities, is absolutely essential for those people who have little ability to travel to their jobs?

Whether it is on a bus, light rail or a train, they need to have that public transportation.

So what did our colleagues do?

They reduced the money for public transportation all across this Nation, whether it is Amtrak or your local light rail or your local bus system. Why? Why, when we know that we also have to deal with climate change?

And how can you deal with climate change when you do not fund the public transportation systems of this Nation?

It makes no sense. In fact, it is nonsense. You want to put people to work?

You put people to work in building the infrastructure of this Nation, whether it is a train, an Amtrak locomotive, or a levee, or a port, you put people to work building the transportation systems.

We know that we also have a major funding bill that is necessary. We have to reauthorize the transportation programs. The MAP–21 expires this year. We know that this summer the highway trust fund runs out of money.

So where was that money in the transportation bill?

It wasn't there. Reductions.

So who is going to build?

Who is going to repair our bridges?

Are we going to be able to do that?

Probably not, not with the money that was not appropriated today for the transportation programs.

But the President has proposed a major reauthorization of the transportation programs. It is called GROW AMERICA. It expands our highway fund some $302 billion over the next 5 years, an expansion so that we can repair our bridges.

We know across America, some 25 to 30 percent of the bridges in every district that the 435 of us represent, every single one of us have a bridge that is subject to collapse. In my district, I probably have more than 200 bridges that are in desperate need of repair for the protection of the individuals and communities that use those bridges, as well as the commerce that is dependent upon them.

But, no. We don't have a transportation bill on our side. We need to take the President's bill, we need to embrace it because it is fully paid for. It has not only the money that is currently available from the various programs that currently fund it—these are the excise taxes on fuel, whether it is gasoline or diesel, but it adds to that another very large sum of money by corporate tax reform.

Those corporations that have been able to skip out of their responsibility here in the United States to pay for the programs that all of us depend upon, they would have to pay their fair share in a corporate tax reform.

That money would then flow into the transportation programs, providing the money that we need to build our transportation system, whether it is the light-rail systems, the heavy rail, Amtrak systems, or the roads and the bridges of this Nation.

□ 1945

It is a good bill. It deserves our full support. We can tweak it. We can make little changes here and there, but unless we take up the challenge of transportation funding in this Nation, unless we are willing to work with the President and his proposal—we have no other proposal before us in this House of Representatives.

Let us embrace the President's proposal, make the changes that we think are necessary, but let us move forward. Let us make America move forward with a transportation program for this millennium, not for the last one, but for this one, one that provides all the benefits that we need.

I want to bring up another part of the transportation program—and once again, it is about jobs. The economist in this case, Mark Zandi, has done an economic analysis of the transportation programs and the infrastructure investment. By the way, this guy worked for JOHN MCCAIN in the McCain Presidential campaign.

His analysis is, for every $1 we invest in infrastructure, $1.57 is pumped into the American economy, so you are getting that multiplier effect. You are putting men and women to work, not just the hardhats, not just with the pick and shovels working on the roads and bridges, but also in the offices, the engineers, the architects, the economists, and all those who are doing the work in the back office.

So for every $1 that we invest—and let's think about it. The President's proposal is $302 billion over the next 5 years. Multiply it out. An extra $1.57 for every dollar invested.

So let us take Mr. Zandi's analysis. Let us apply it. So we probably have somewhere over $450 billion of actual economic growth, if we were to follow what the President has proposed in his

GROW AMERICA transportation program.

Has anybody got a better idea around here? I don't see much happening, but we know by midsummer, the transportation programs in America face a highway cliff. The Federal highway trust fund runs out of money—no new contracts.

Some 700,000 people are likely to be laid off in the ensuing year, unless the House of Representatives and the Senate takes up the challenge of funding the transportation programs of this Nation.

It is ports. It is highways. It is bridges. It is the bus systems. It is the Amtrak system. It is the rail systems of America. All of these are part of the President's proposal, and it is something we ought to take up and we ought to move forward with.

What we have been talking about here in these hour-long sessions over the last 3 years is another piece of this puzzle.

When we do infrastructure—whether it be the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, the levees and the ports, and the inland waterways, the locks, the channels, all of those critical parts of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, as we do that and the transportation bill, we need to think about how to increase the multiplier that Mr. Zandi talked about.

He talked about, for every $1 we invest, you get $1.57 growth in the economy. However, he did not take into account another critical aspect of this.

This is our Make It In America agenda. If we take that $302 billion Presidential program and we take the piece of it that he has suggested—that we take the Buy America law that has been in effect in the United States since 1933—and we expand that from the current 60 percent content; that is, for every dollar spent in the transportation programs, we would go to 100 percent of that money being spent on American-made steel, concrete, iron, and American-made products of all kinds, so that when we build a bridge, it is American steel, and it is made in America.

The Make It In America agenda says: let us spend our tax money on American-made equipment, on American steel, by United States companies operating in the United States, that the men and women of America get to benefit from the tax money that they have contributed to our transportation programs.

This is the Make It In America agenda. It is using our tax money to employ Americans, American steelworkers, American bridgebuilders, American contractors.

I wanted to give you an example of what happens when you do not use the Make It In America agenda, when you ignore the 1933 law that says, at a minimum, 60 percent of the content in our transportation programs must be spent on American-made steel, American-made equipment.

Here is what happens. This is a picture of the new San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge. It opened less than 7 months ago. It is a marvelous piece of architecture. It is quite a bridge. It has beauty, and it is extraordinarily expensive. This is a single-suspension bridge, so it is suspended on both sides, an architectural marvel.

However, all of the steel here in this 500-foot tower and the steel on the roadway was not produced in the United States. It was made in China by a Chinese Government-owned steel mill that was actually expanded and built on the backs of the American taxpayer—$1 billion spent of American taxpayer money, directly sent to China, to the Chinese Government-owned steel mill.

By the way, there were significant delays, and there were cost overruns because the Chinese steel manufacturer did a shoddy, crumby job of producing the parts of this bridge.

All of the welding was done in China by Chinese welders that were, by all accounts and by audits done by Caltrans, ill-trained, ill-prepared, and had done thousands upon thousands of very inadequate welds, so that when this incredible bridge arrived by boat from China, the welds were inadequate. There were cracks.

In fact, much of the welding was done in the rain in Shanghai. When you do welding in the rain, you are going to get a very bad result.

So there were thousands of problems, all of which led to a delay, and all of which led to additional expense, a prime example of what happens when you do not follow the law. The law said 60 percent content in the United States.

However, the Schwarzenegger administration in California figured out a way to circumvent the law. They took this bridge, a multibillion-dollar bridge, and they broke it into 20 different pieces, so that they could avoid the Buy America law—the result: made in China, 3,000 jobs, shoddy work, additional expense, and additional delays.

The President's proposal, the GROW AMERICA proposal that he has given to this Congress to consider and which we ought to consider, would say that, in this case, if you are going to use American taxpayer money to build a bridge, then it will, over the next 5 years, ramp up from 60 percent American content to 100 percent American content.

Let's do it. Let's Make It In America. Let's employ Americans, and let's tell the Chinese: you build your own bridges in China, but by golly, in America, it is going to be built by American steel and American workers.

That is what the President is proposing for us. That is what we ought to be doing, and we ought to be embracing the notion that we cannot do it on the cheap, as this Congress did attempt to do less than an hour ago with the passage of the Transportation-Housing appropriation bill, totally inadequate money to deal with our fundamental transportation programs, to say nothing of the housing programs that are desperately needed for the low- and moderate-income people of America.

If you care about the American workers, if you care about the ability of this economy to prosper, then we must embrace an aggressive, fully-funded, robust transportation program.

We must fund the Water Resources Reform and Development Act that the President signed today, and we are grateful for his signature. I am personally grateful that communities in my district will be able to have protection from floods in the future, as a result of that law.

However, the question will come to us: Are we willing to put up the money to build those projects? Today, we have a prime example of the unwillingness of my colleagues on the Republican side to fund the transportation program that this Nation desperately needs.

The infrastructure of this Nation is the foundation upon which the economy will grow. These are the issues of the Make It In America. Tax policy, the President addresses that in the GROW AMERICA. He says that American corporations cannot duck their responsibility to this Nation.

He has proposed tax reforms for corporations to pay their fair share—no more running away, no more getting a tax break for sending jobs overseas, but, rather, pay your fair share, and build America.

We will come to energy policy another day.

His proposal also calls for the job force preparation, so that we are training those men and women who are going to be our future engineers to build the bridges of the future, so that we will have the men and women that know how to do the welding—apparently, the Chinese could use that kind of training also—so that we would have the job training programs that at every level—the back office accountants, the engineers, the architects, the men and women that are operating the heavy equipment, and those that are doing the welding on these projects, that is part of the proposal that the President has put forward, and that is part of the GROW AMERICA proposal.

So the labor and the education come together. Down here, infrastructure. This is the Make It In America agenda. Tomorrow, my Democratic colleagues and I will be talking with our leader, STENY HOYER, about how we can take an additional package of bills and advance the Make It In America, the GROW AMERICA proposals.

We would hope our colleagues here on the floor of the House of Representatives would embrace a bipartisan effort to really build our infrastructure, to take what success we had in the water resources and reform and take that success to the transportation issues that confront this Nation. There is much more that we must do.

As we do these things, we will also address a fundamental problem that faces this Nation, which is climate change. This is real. I studied this in the 1990s, when I was Deputy Secretary of the Department of Interior, as we prepared the American agenda for the Kyoto climate conference. Unfortunately, the treaty that came back from that conference was never adopted by the Senate in the 1990s.

So to this day, we have yet to address this issue, and we must. This is an issue that will cause flooding across this Nation. It will cause sea levels to rise, which we are already seeing, and it will lead to more severe storms, which we are already seeing.

How can we do that? Again, back to the transportation bill, back to the water resources bill. Put together the levees that we need to protect ourselves, and put together the transportation systems that allow for increased public transportation, whether it is on a locomotive built by that German company in America, in Sacramento, which is the most modern locomotive in the United States, made in America 100 percent.

Maybe it is a streetcar or a fast rail system or a bus, again, financed by Americans, built by Americans with a Buy America proposal, our taxpayer money used to employ Americans as we build high-speed trains, as we build new locomotives, hybrid buses, or whatever.

That public transportation will lead to a reduction in greenhouse gases, and if we eliminate the congestion that is caused by our inadequate highway system, we also will reduce greenhouse gases, all of which is good for climate change.

□ 2000

There is much more to be said. But now for more than 3 years, I have stood on this floor and brought to this floor and to the attention of this Nation the Make It In America agenda, which is part of the transportation system as well as part of our highways and ports system. So we are going to continue with this.

The plea I have to my colleagues—435 of them, Democrats and Republicans—is that we learn from our success. The Water Resources and Reform Development Act was a success—a bipartisan success. It lays the foundation for the protection that we need from floods, as well as growing our economy on the rivers, locks, and the ports of America. It was a good one. We thank the President for his signature today. Step one.

Step two comes to us over the next 3 months as we face the highway cliff where we know that if we fail to enact a new highway bill, we will see 700,000 Americans unemployed, losing their jobs over the next year. We have to get this job done. The President has laid out a good proposal. We can tweak it, we can make changes to it, but we must take it up, and we must move forward with the transportation program. And when we do, no more—no more bridges made in China, only bridges made in America, American taxpayer money spent in America for American steel and American workers.

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

THE DECLINE AND FALL OF GREAT CIVILIZATIONS

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we have been going through appropriation bills, today Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development. We have had an open rule process where anybody who wanted to bring any amendment could do so. I was a little surprised that my amendment did not pass. It had 160 votes today. This is a very simple amendment. We took the last official number we could find from an executive branch, from January of 2009, before President Obama was sworn in, and it indicated that there was less than 1 percent of those getting section 8 public housing given to them, and so we took the amount of money clear back from 2009, even though there are indications that it is many times that now, we just took that conservative amount, trying to be conservative and trying to be more than fair, which it was, and said, okay, we have got to send a message to Housing and Urban Development folks that you can't just keep giving housing away.

I know the mainstream media never talks about it when there is a Democratic President, but they sure bring it right back up as soon as a Republican takes over the White House, and that is homelessness. Well, if homelessness is ever a problem, then why do we keep offering and paying for people to use federally financed housing when they are not legally getting federally financed housing?

So it gets me to use the word ''only'' with $24 million, but it was only $24 million that would be the amount reduced from section 8 public housing to send a message that, HUD, if you are going to be providing housing to people who are not legally allowed in public housing, then we are going to cut your funding by that much. It seemed like a pretty good amendment. It sent a message. And I was grateful for the numbers. The USA is very concerned about the illegal immigration issue. We scored that as an important vote, and we got 160 votes.

If we cannot, as a majority Republican Congress, muster a majority of votes to say to the rest of the country that we have an obligation in this generation not to spend future generations' money, not to continue to be the first generation in American history to put succeeding generations into so much debt they can never get out of it—we have a moral obligation not to do that. It is absolutely immoral to be spending future generations' money. It is wrong, and if we can't even agree to cut public housing that is provided to people by the amount that was provided 5 years ago—illegally—then where are we ever going to make cuts?

It would be nice if America were strong enough to house and feed the entire world. But if we try to do that, we will be so devastated and emaciated as a country that we will become a Third World country, because you just can't do that. You go bankrupt, then people quit buying your products, and then you have an entire rebound situation. But that is how you can become a destitute country.

It is how the Soviet Union went out of business. It is what happens to any country, any group that tries to live under a communist or socialist system. As Margaret Thatcher said, eventually you run out of other people's money, and you are broke.

A true free market system does not fail. A free market system fails when it becomes more and more and more socialistic, more government controlled, more giveaways, less reward for one's own work, and more reward for not working at all. That brings down a nation under the rules of socialism because it cannot stand—not in this life. It cannot. Yet, this Congress, though we are Republican-controlled in the House, is continuing to fail to stand strongly enough to protect future generations. And it is heartbreaking.

Now, I got back from being in Nigeria for a couple of days. There are mothers with whom I met of young minor girls. Three of the girls were taken into captivity by Boko Haram, a radical Islamic group, and they were able to escape. There were only a handful that were able to do that, and this was three of those. Twenty-two of the mothers—one mother had two of her girls kidnapped.

Radical Islam, because of its desire for a global caliphate, is a threat to all freedom-loving people. It is a threat to moderate Muslims because they generally go to the top of the list. If they protest, then they are at the top of the list to be knocked off by the radical Islamists. But consistently at the top are Christians and Jews. So radical Islam is a threat to civilization as we know it.

The progress that was made in Muslim civilizations could not have been made if they were truly radical as we keep seeing them raise their ugly heads in Iran and places like Nigeria, the northern part where Boko Haram continues to terrorize, including yesterday. I am not for going to war, but we were able to go into Afghanistan when we knew Afghanistan was where the 9/11/2001 attack originated, and with less than 500 American soldiers, Special Forces and some intelligence, air cover, some weapons, they were wiped out within 4 or 5 months. It wasn't until we became occupiers with tens of

thousands of military in-country that we started running into real difficulty and loss of American lives.

Then this President came in and basically was ready to announce a date of withdrawal, which is considered by most warriors as an announcement of surrender. When you say, this is when we will withdraw no matter what is happening, most consider that as a declaration of surrender if they are opposing those who are going to withdraw.

So we could do that in places. We have done it in the Philippines. Send a little embedded help for the Nigerians to eliminate Boko Haram, take them out as a threat, and then don't become occupiers, don't nation-build, just help them take out anything that is a threat to civilization as we know it and our freedom and liberty as we love it.

It may shock some, Mr. Speaker, but in Nigeria these families have heard repeatedly that nobody cares about your daughters that were abducted and nobody cares what is happening. And if you think for a minute anybody from America cares, they are too busy enjoying their own lifestyle, they could care less what happens here. Nobody from America is coming.

One Congressman came, and there are more, there was another small group there, but I was the only one that met with family members. So they didn't know there was another group.

Again, it may shock some, but these families in Nigeria don't follow Twitter. They don't know what a hashtag is. So when the best an administration in the United States can do is #bringbackourgirls, it doesn't do anything for the families. They continue to cry day after day after day. One of these three girls was telling me that they had nightmares because they knew what was happening to the girls because of what happened to them while they were there, and they felt guilty because they were out and these girls were in.

When the superpower of the world doesn't seem to care about the rule of law, number one, and begins to reward our enemies, begins to penalize our allies, those three things—and I will add one more—and then fourth, spending massive amounts more of money than we take in, those four are a very good prescription for bringing about the end of a great nation.

Now, I am not a doom-and-gloom person, but I did major in history before I went—I knew I was going into the Army for 4 years, I loved history, especially American history, but anybody that studies world history understands that no nation will last forever—none. No nation will ever last forever in this life and in this world. So it is a question of how long you can maintain a great nation.

The Romans, as great as they were, couldn't make an empire last forever. Later, the Ottoman Empire took over all these nations, most of them surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. And until the stop in Vienna, it looked like they were headed toward taking over all of Europe. They didn't last forever.

□ 2015

Going back before the Romans, the Greeks, they had a great empire. They didn't last forever. Ironically, some like to point to Alexander the Great and say: see, you can conquer Afghanistan and occupy it successfully.

I point out that Alexander the Great died leaving Afghanistan. I wouldn't consider that a great victory. It didn't work out that well. It didn't then. It didn't for the Russians. We have to be smarter about what we do because no Nation does last forever.

My goal in being in Congress—one of my goals—is to try to work with other Members of Congress to perpetuate this little experiment in democracy for another 200—maybe 100 to 200 years.

As Ben Franklin said:

It is a republic if you can keep it.

That takes work.

As Thomas Jefferson said:

The price of liberty is eternal vigilance.

Our Nation seemed to grow more apathetic after World War II and has seen our deficits go through the roof. Countries around the world are now saying: You can't trust the dollar because Americans can't control their spending; they have no moral judgment which would keep them from spending their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren's money, so we need to stop taking the dollar.

When the dollar ceases to be important international world currency, it will have a devastating effect, bring about a crash, most likely, here in the United States, and you will not be able to revive the economy by creating more and more and more money, day after day, as is currently happening in this country now and has been dramatically happening for some years, especially since 2008.

Nothing indicates to the world at large our lawlessness more than our refusal to enforce our immigration laws and to secure our borders. Some say: oh, you must not like Mexicans.

Nothing could be further from the truth. I think the Hispanic culture, with a love of God—generally speaking—a love of family, and hard work ethic can help reinvigorate our Nation's morality where it should be. My wife and I went for our honeymoon 36 years ago in Mexico. It was quite extraordinary. I have very fond memories.

What we have seen recently are not Mexicans coming across our border—no. The big numbers have been coming from further south. They have been coming from South America and south Latin America, south Central America.

In talking to a law enforcement officer in Texas, the pride of Governor Rick Perry, I was just told—talking in the cloakroom to Steve McGraw—they are not sure how many 12 and under are in these masses, but generally, it doesn't look like there is a big percentage 12 and under.

Apparently, in the last 8 days, the first 8 days of June, it appears that they have dwarfed the massive thousands that have come into the U.S. in the whole month of May, and May was dramatically ratcheted up from the month before that, and it is continuing to grow larger and larger.

It was a bit appalling to hear a spokesman for the Obama administration is saying they have no idea why there is such a tremendous surge in the numbers of children coming into the United States.

I mean, for heaven's sake, when you send out an invitation saying ''you all come,'' you shouldn't be surprised when they do.

When you basically send out notification to the world that, if you can come quickly, we will give you amnesty, and we will provide you housing, and we will give you welfare benefits, and we will give you education, and we will give you better hospital care than you have ever had, then I think you can expect a great—a dramatic increase in the numbers of people who send their children to America. It shouldn't be a mystery.

I have had great regard for the Anti-Defamation League. My understanding of their inception is basically to deal with hate, particularly as had been seen with anti-Semitism.

After studying about the Holocaust during World War II and studying about it in history—high school and college—I couldn't believe that we would ever see anti-Semitism, an anti-Jewish sentiment arise in America as it had around the world.

I didn't think we would see the rise of anti-Judaism in Europe again. I figured the Europeans would be too ashamed to ever allow that to happen, and yet we have seen it happen.

While the Anti-Defamation League has not done the best job of helping suppress the anti-Jewish sentiment growing in Europe and that some see growing here in America, as we see Middle Easterners like Iran saying they want to wipe out Israel as the Little Satan and the U.S. as the Great Satan, and when you read the pleading that the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks wrote in his comfortable cell at Guantanamo Bay and he talked about and quoted the Koran, in essence, as the basis for wanting to destroy all Jewish people and all Christian people, so that Jews and Christians are together, as far as the radical Islamists are concerned, we all need to be wiped out.

Instead, the Anti-Defamation League, this noble endeavor, sent this letter to me that was received last week:

Dear Representative Gohmert:

We write to urge you to stop using inflammatory rhetoric in the immigration debate. Your statements from the House floor that the current administration is ''luring young children across the border'' and that current policies are complicit in ''helping lure people into sex trafficking'' do not help engage in a

productive discussion about the salient issues surrounding the immigration challenges our country is experiencing. Immigration remains a deeply polarizing issue in American politics and public life.

Well, let me assuage concerns by the Anti-Defamation League, but the policies of this administration are luring young people—children—into this country, mainly being sent by adults, because of the policy of trying to create amnesty for children.

Anyone in Congress, Republican—and I know we have some—and Democrat who keep saying yes, any children that are here, we need to go in and give them amnesty, are helping to lure children.

I know they are not doing it intentionally, but they are doing it, and talking about amnesty for children is sending more and more children from South America and Latin America and other places, so they can get here in time for their amnesty.

I was told by a missionary about a billboard up with our President's face, encouraging sending children to America, and the word spreads like wildfire: America is going to give amnesty to any children that can get there.

Deeply troubling should be the fact that some children get tied in with sex trafficking and really despicable human traffickers—why? Because of this announced, discussed policy that we want to provide amnesty for children that are here.

There is an article from Breitbart today entitled, ''Illegal Immigrants Intentionally Surrendering to Border Patrol to Gain Entry to U.S.,'' by Tony Lee.

Illegal immigrants are reportedly signaling Federal officials to detain them once they are near the U.S.-Mexico border, as Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have declared they may not pursue all illegal immigrants who do not show up for hearings after they enter the country.

Mr. Speaker, if anybody in this administration thinks they don't hear that and that word does not get around to those who are tempted to send children to America, they are wrong. That word gets around: they are not going to send you back if you come.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Yoselin Ramos, an illegal immigrant from Guatemala who was with ''20 other families with children,'' actually ''had looked forward to being caught,'' telling the outlet ''at one point even waving down Federal helicopters—because of the welcoming treatment they had assumed they would receive.''

In their home countries south of the border, reports have been circulating that illegal immigrants, especially those with children, will be allowed to stay in the United States ''indefinitely.'' Ramos said she decided to make the trek to the United States after hearing reports ''that parents will not be detained in the U.S. if they arrive with a child.''

The Federal Government has been sending illegal immigrants to States like Arizona and Oklahoma, and local officials do not even know where some of them are headed. And though illegal immigrants are required to show up to meet with local Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, officials within 15 days, ICE official told the Times that ''they couldn't guarantee they would pursue all cases in which immigrants do not show up for follow-up appointments, but would examine each case to determine priorities.''

In fact, ''ICE officials say that the immigrants are released as long as they can provide an address for their destination—with family or friends, no matter their legal status.''

Ramos was sent to stay with her family in Iowa. And the Houston Chronicle reported that another illegal immigrant said he considered the papers ICE gave him to be a ''permit'' to remain in the United States. That illegal immigrant was sent to stay with family in North Carolina.

Though these illegal immigrants said they intended to show up at their hearings, there is no guarantee that ICE is willing or even has the resources to track them down if they do not show up.

This is from Judicial Watch from yesterday: ''Influx of Illegal Alien Minors a Disaster: Overcrowded Shelters, Diseases, Sexually Active Teens.''

It sure seems to be clear from the pictures we have been seeing that a very small percentage of the minors coming in would be below teenage years, but this story says:

The barrage of illegal immigrant minors entering U.S. through Mexico in recent weeks has created an out-of-control disaster with jampacked holding centers, rampant diseases, and sexually active teenagers at a Nogales facility, according to information obtained by Judicial Watch from a Homeland Security source.

□ 2030

There was a liberal game plan laid out some years ago that indicated the way to bring down the United States, for those extreme liberal activists who wanted to do so, the hippy mentality, let's bring down the evil United States that was the freest country in the history of the world, they wanted to bring it down, destroy it. The part of the game plan for doing so in this well thought-out narrative, you overwhelm the system. You get so many people on welfare rolls, the government implodes. You bring so many people in, you lure them in, so much so that the country cannot take care of them, and it implodes.

My dear friend Joel Rosenberg has a good book I was reading recently, called, ''Implosion.'' That is one way a nation can end its existence as a strong nation.

Another article from Newsmax, ''Central America Newspapers Tout Open U.S. Door for Illegal Minors.''

Mr. Speaker, for those in the administration that just cannot imagine what is causing the dramatic increase week after week, more and more and more coming to this country and overwhelming our Border Patrol's ability to handle the situation, then they just need to read a few newspaper articles. It's really quite telling.

This one by Todd Beamon says:

Newspapers in El Salvador and Honduras are promoting policies by the Obama administration that defer deportation to minors brought to the United States as children by their parents—known as ''DREAMers''—and those that are housing illegal children at military bases in the South and West.

Almost all agree that a child who crossed the border illegally with their parents, or in search of a father or a better life, was not making an adult choice to break our laws, and should be treated differently than adult violators of the law,'' Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson is quoted in a story about a new 2-year extension of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Act published by Dario El Mundo in El Salvador.

Signed by President Barack Obama in 2012, the law grants temporary legal custody to many young illegal immigrants, ending the threat of deportation for at least 2 years.

The policy, however, does not entitle the immigrants to state services. The law was renewed for 2 more years. ''With the renewal of DACA, we act according to our values and code of this great Nation,'' Johnson said. ''But the biggest task of comprehensive immigration reform is yet to come.''

Meanwhile, La Prensa of Honduras discusses in a report how as many as 500 illegal minors are being housed at the Naval Base Ventura County in southern California. ''The children will be accommodated for between 3 and 4 months, while their parents or relatives are located in the United States,'' the report says.

''The administration of President Barack Obama has acknowledged he faces a serious crisis for the continuous arrival of children, mostly Central Americans, who are illegally entering the country on the border with Mexico.'' Besides Mexico and Honduras, the report notes that many of the children are coming from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

''During their stay, in addition to accommodations and food, the children receive English classes, play sports, and participate in targeted programs while immigration authorities contact their families,'' the La Prensa report says. On Monday, the Obama administration said it would begin housing as many as 1,200 illegal minors at the Army base in Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

And it goes on.

For anybody who could wonder why the numbers are increasing basically daily, weekly, dramatically increasing, so that potentially in the first 8 days of June they have already overshadowed the massive number that came in in May, and because this Nation is a caring and the most charitable nation in the history of the world—any time, any place—the most charitable nation in the world, the most welcoming of immigrants around the world to our country legally—no one comes close to the number of immigrants that we allow into this country annually, nobody. Legally, I am talking about. And yet they dare to criticize our immigration policy as not being open enough?

I still believe if the President or the Secretary of State notified the leaders in Mexico: Look, we turn around people that come in by mistake to the U.S. If they try to come in by mistake, we normally turn them around—that is until this administration's policy of just welcoming everybody, basically, particularly if they have got children. But if the President or Secretary of State added that we are about to start pushing the change of our laws in some respects to being like your immigration laws, so when an American citizen

cannot own property outright by themselves in Mexico, we are going to change our laws, because if it is good enough for you to treat United States citizens like this in your country, then it should be good enough for the United States to treat our—treat your Mexican visa holders the same way, so we are going to outlaw Mexican nationals owning property outright in America. But if you want to head off our beginning to have our immigration laws more reflective of your own laws treating us when we come in, then you better let our marine go, and you better not ever pull that again.

The man said he made a mistake. It was easy to make a mistake. I couldn't believe somebody could make a wrong turn and end up being unable to turn around, but then when you see Greta Van Susteren's video where she goes in, you have the concrete barriers, you can't turn around until you get there and say, ''I made a mistake; I want turn around and go back,'' and they decide this is a great chance to grab an American soldier and throw him in jail.

It is a similar message that's being sent around the world by this administration doing nothing about our marine being falsely, wrongly held in jail. The same kind of message is going into Africa and into Afghanistan and into the Middle East and China and Russia and Crimea. And the message is: we don't even protect our own people, really. If we have a deserter, then we may give away five people that are destined to kill lots more Americans, but otherwise, we are not going to help a marine who really had served honorably. We are not going to help him, but we may help somebody who walked away from his post.

The message is going out and making America appear to be a joke. It is why some are pushing their nation like Putin, knowing he could take over the Crimea. And the U.S. Government might talk about it, they might do as they did and put a hashtag and Twitter something and then be shocked that the Russians weren't scared to continue on in their imperialistic landgrabs by this administration's Tweets.

What a shock. A man who learned manipulation and domination from the KGB appears to the world to be backing down a community organizer. What a shock.

The story from Breitbart written by Kristin Tate, ''Border Children Reportedly Sickened by Food in U.S. Facilities, Throwing in Trash.'' It is from a Houston story.

> A tidal wave of illegal immigrants along the U.S.-Mexico border has caused Federal housing and processing facilities to become overwhelmed and overcrowded.

The surge of thousands of children, it talks about. And so is it any surprise that more and more are coming to the extent we can't even provide them proper food?

Here is one from Townhall.com, ''Internal Border Patrol Email: Unaccompanied Child Crisis is 'Unprecedented' ''—Katie Pavlich. That is from today.

A story from Stephen Dinan of The Washington Times, ''Holder Seeks Legal Team for Children on Border, Program to Aid 'Most Vulnerable.' ''

A story from Breitbart—I am not sure that is an appropriate title—''Obama's Criminal Activity on Immigration.'' The story talks about:

> With the wave of illegal immigrants crossing America's southern border thanks to the Obama administration's policy of nonenforcement, more and more Americans are rightfully anxious about the new and unprecedented use of executive power by President Obama. In December, U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen of Brownsville, Texas, wrote, ''[The government] has simply chosen not to enforce the United States' border security laws.''

It was written by my friend Ben Shapiro.

Here is one, ''Officials 'Overwhelmed' by Influx of Children Crossing Mexican Border into U.S. on Their Own.''

It is very dramatic what has been going on, and there is a price to pay when we do not enforce our own laws, and we will pay by having more and more and more children coming into this country illegally.

So, Mr. Speaker, let's think about this. When people come into the U.S. and we fail to turn them around and say: You are not lawfully coming in, so you can't come in. We are not going allow you to come in illegally, so go back, go back from where you came. You were able to get here, so go back wherever you came from. When we refuse to do that and allow them to come on in anyway, then we end up providing food, shelter, supervision, education. Apparently, we are going to provide legal services now, according to this article discussing our contemptuous Attorney General Eric Holder, who has shown a pattern of refusing and failing to follow and enforce United States law.

□ 2045

It would seem that when you add up all the costs of those things, we would be better off—I had heard there was a plane with 100 and something minors that landed in the U.S. It seems it would be cheaper to just refuel their fuel tanks and send them back where they came from, sending a message with it: we are not letting people come in illegally. We already let more people in legally more than any Nation in the world, and we are not even one of the largest nations in the world.

You have got China with estimates between 1.3 and 1.8 billion. You got India that is nearly as big. We are a large Nation, but not nearly compared. We are about a fifth the size of China, a fourth the size maybe of India, yet we let in many more immigrants than they do.

So it is not that we have a ruthless immigration policy. But, Mr. Speaker, it seems, and I have had more and more reporters asking this question: So what do you do? Well, you secure the border first. You don't seal it. I have never advocated that. People lie when they say I have ever said that. I have never said that. You don't seal the border. You secure the border so that we continue to allow over a million people a year legally to come in.

But anyone who is trying to come in illegally must be stopped, they must be stopped and be required to attempt entering legally because they will not be allowed to come in illegally.

Whatever adults are sending children, it would still be cheaper to put an ICE agent with a group that came from a place like the 113 and make sure they go back where they came from, because otherwise the radical liberal approach of overwhelming the system so you can bring it down is in full display right now on America's borders, overwhelming the spending so that our dollar is not worth what it was, overwhelming our ability to protect ourselves, dramatically cutting the military where we can't adequately defend ourselves and those who would be harmed immediately before we would be harmed. Because as President Bush used to say, it is a whole lot better to fight people in another country than have to fight them within our own country.

There are those who have compared Israel to the miner's canary; that if Israel is under attack, as they are every day, then the free world will be immediately behind it.

We have got to start being more lawful. As I asked somebody in one of our hearings on immigration before, why are people coming here? Well, they are coming here for jobs or for food or for opportunity. Well, no, that is not answering why they are coming here, because they wouldn't need to come here if the countries they were coming from had jobs and had opportunity. Obviously, they don't have the jobs and opportunity where they are coming from. So why are there more jobs or more opportunity here? The answer is, up until more recently, we have been a Nation of laws. Up until this administration, we abided by the Constitution as best we could.

Sometimes in our history the Constitution was misconstrued. It should have stood for freedom for all men and women throughout our history, but it took a Civil War and then an ordained Christian minister named Martin Luther King, Jr., to see that rights were to be applied across the board.

But nonetheless, there was an effort throughout our history where Presidents were supposed to follow the law and have their administrations enforce the law. This Attorney General is in contempt of Congress because he is not.

It is time to take further action and send a message to the world that we are still a Nation of laws and believe in the rule of law, because until we do that we will be overwhelmed, and hopefully we can take a stand and require

the administration to follow the law before it is too late.

But it genuinely was heartbreaking to me. It is not angering but heartbreaking to hear the President of the United States say, if Congress doesn't act I will, indicating that he would usurp constitutional authority reserved for the legislature in the Constitution. He would usurp that. The response by most of my friends on this side of the aisle was to stand and applaud the announcement that the President would ignore the Constitution, and if Congress didn't change the law he would take care of it himself by himself.

To see people applaud the destruction of our Constitution was heartbreaking to me because I know they didn't realize they were applauding the implosion of our Constitution. There are an awful lot of good friends I have on the other side of the aisle who probably stood and applauded, and I am sure they didn't realize. But that is the effect when a President of the United States says if Congress doesn't address the law, change the law, then I will.

The result is what our Founders promised. It was a Republic as long as you tried to keep it. You did have liberty, but you ceased being vigilant so you lost it. I tried to warn you about all these things. We tried to warn you, as John Adams did, that this government is only meant for religious and moral people, and not fit to govern any others.

Abraham Lincoln, as inscribed on the inside wall on the north wall of the Lincoln Memorial in his inaugural address a month or so before he was assassinated, talked about God. Lincoln tried to debate in his inaugural address within himself how a good God could allow such suffering.

It comes down, it appears, from his theological dissertation, that when a nation acts wrongly, as this Nation did in allowing slavery, a just God would allow suffering as a result. To paraphrase Lincoln, if it be God's will that every drop of blood drawn by the master's lash also be drawn by the sword in war, then we still must say, as was said 3,000 years ago, the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous all together.

When we as a Nation ignore the law, when we as a Nation encourage other nations to ignore our law, when our Justice Department refuses to enforce the law fairly and justly across the board, you lose the country that was, has been, and hopefully for a while longer will be the greatest country in the history of the world.

We have an obligation, a moral obligation, to future generations not to leave this country the way we are about to. But people have got to wake up on both sides of the aisle. You can't keep announcing that we are going to ignore the law if you can just get here before we pass the law. We are looking the other way, come on, ignore our law along with our Justice Department, ignore our law along with the Homeland Security Department, ignore our law along with the White House, come on, we will ignore our law together. It truly is a prescription for the end of the Nation. We can't let that happen. People have got to wake up.

So for those in the administration that just can't imagine why there is a dramatic increase in minors coming to our border, start reading some of the things you are saying and you will find the answer.

Mr. Speaker, we have an oath to follow. By God's grace let's follow it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEWIS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for the afternoon of June 10.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 11, 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:

5891. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho: Infrastructure Requirements of the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R10-OAR-2012-0183; FRL-9911-09 Region 10] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5892. A letter from the Director, Regularity Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California; San Joaquin Valley; Contingency Measures For the 1997 PM2.5 Standards [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0534; FRL-9911-07 Region-9] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5893. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Revision to the Chicago 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0274; FRL-9910-92 Region 5] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5894. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Cyflumetofen; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0269; FRL-9905-80] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5895. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Finding of Failure to Submit a Prevention of Significant Deterioration State Implementation Plan Revision for Particulate Matter Less Than 2.5 Micrometers (PM2.5); Arkansas [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0380; FRL-9911-25 Region-6] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5896. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Oregon; Approval of Substitution for Transportation Control Measures [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0139; FRL-9911-23 Region-10] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5897. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of States' Requests to Relax the Federal Reid Vapor Pressure Volatility Standard in Florida, and the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill and Greensboro/Winston-Salem/High Point Areas in North Carolina [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0787; FRL-9911-13-OAR] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5898. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Review of New Sources and Modifications in Indian Country — Amendments to the Federal Indian Country Minor New Source Review Rule [EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0076; FRL-9909-78-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR25) received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5899. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee; Removal of Obsolete Regulations [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0813; FRL-9911-44 Region-4] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5900. A letter from the Director, Regulation Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Revision of the Venting Prohibition for Specific Refrigerant Substitutes [EPA-HA-OAR-2012-0580; FRL-9911-42-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AM09) received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5901. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Massachusetts; Regulations Limiting Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds and Nitrogen Oxides [EPA-R01-OAR-2008-0446; A-1-FRL-9901-93 Region-1] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5902. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Georgia; Redesignation of the Roma, Georgia, 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Nonattainment Area to Attainment [EPA-R04-OAR-2012-0893; FRL9910-65 Region-4] received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5903. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Utah; Revisions to UAC Rule 401- Permit: New and Modified Sources [EPA-R08-OAR-2012-0168; FRL-9756-5] received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5904. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Priorities List, Final Rule No. 58 [EPA-HQ-SFUND-2013-0630, 0632, 0633, 0634, 0637, 0638, and 0639; FRL-9910-72-OSWER] received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5905. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Georgia; Redesignation of the Macon, Georgia, 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Nonattainment Area to Attainment [EPA-R04-OAR2012-0851; FRL-9910-64 Region-4] received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5906. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Update of the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton 199 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Maintenance Area [EPA-R03-2014-0278; FRL-9910-48 Region-3] received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5907. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Mancozeb, Maneb, Metiram, and Thiram; Tolerance Actions (RIN: 2070-ZA16) [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0431; FRL-9909-80] received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5908. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-348, ''Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5909. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-347, ''Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Consumer Protection Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5910. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-346, ''Homeless Services Reform Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5911. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-345, ''Transportation Infrastructure and Public Space Impact Mitigation Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5912. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-344, ''Traffic Adjudication Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 616. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4800) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4457) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4453) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations (Rept. 113–472). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself and Mr. RICE of South Carolina):

H.R. 4822. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for 100 percent bonus depreciation for manufacturing property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself and Mr. HUDSON):

H.R. 4823. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to require one-stop delivery systems under such Act to offer services through Internet websites and to direct the Secretary of Labor to develop standards and best practices for such websites; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ENYART:

H.R. 4824. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish a scholarship program for dislocated workers or unemployed individuals transitioning into manufacturing employment; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NOLAN:

H.R. 4825. A bill to establish presidential awards to recognize organizations that have made extraordinary efforts to create jobs and strengthen the economy of the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HOLT, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 4826. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 4827. A bill to establish a pilot program to promote public-private partnerships among apprenticeships or other job training programs, local educational agencies, and community colleges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GARCIA:

H.R. 4828. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to establish STEM Innovation Networks; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mrs. ELLMERS):

H.R. 4829. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 with respect to high priority corridors on the National Highway System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H.R. 4830. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to ensure continuing funding for the United States Merchant Marine Academy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 4831. A bill to establish a Federal tax credit approximation matching program for State new manufacturing jobs training tax credits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself and Mr. ENYART):

H.R. 4832. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide student loan eligibility for mid-career, part-time students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 4833. A bill to increase the participation of historically underrepresented demographic groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and industry; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself and Mr. CAPUANO):

H. Res. 614. A resolution strongly supporting the quality and value of diversity and innovation in the Nation's higher education institutions, and strongly disagreeing with the President's proposal to create and administer a Postsecondary Institution Ratings System; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H. Res. 615. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Members who vote in favor of the establishment of a public, Federal Government run health insurance option are urged to forgo their right to participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) and agree to enroll under that public option; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H. Res. 617. A resolution condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the terrorist group known as Boko Haram in northeastern provinces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 618. A resolution expressing support for Lunchtime Music on the Mall in Washington, DC, to benefit the District of Columbia, regional residents, and visitors and recognizing the public service of the performers and sponsors; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER

H.R. 4822

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill makes changes to existing law relating to Article 1, Section 7, which provides that ''All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives.''

By Mr. SWALWELL of California

H.R. 4823

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18.

By Mr. ENYART

H.R. 4824

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NOLAN

H.R. 4825

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1 and clause 3 of the US Constitution

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York

H.R. 4826

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HORSFORD

H.R. 4827

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have power . . . to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among several states, and with the Indian Tribes

By Mr. GARCIA

H.R. 4828

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD

H.R. 4829

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.

By Mr. ISRAEL

H.R. 4830

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KILDEE

H.R. 4831

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico

H.R. 4832

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York

H.R. 4833

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 36: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 166: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 543: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 594: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 713: Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 715: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 809: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 831: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 963: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 997: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 1037: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1074: Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. FLORES, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 1179: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 1201: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 1254: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 1313: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.

H.R. 1427: Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 1440: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1449: Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 1462: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 1518: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

H.R. 1563: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 1666: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1698: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1717: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 1761: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. JENKINS, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1779: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 1827: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2139: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 2164: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 2175: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 2178: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2179: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2247: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 2263: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 2291: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 2328: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 2384: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 2417: Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 2444: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 2453: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. DESANTIS, and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 2607: Mr. TONKO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. NOLAN, and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 2656: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.

H.R. 2673: Mr. MCALLISTER

H.R. 2835: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 2852: Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 2996: Mr. HULTGREN and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 3086: Mr. NUGENT, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 3301: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 3303: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 3318: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 3322: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 3422: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 3423: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 3471: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3481: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 3485: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 3486: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 3538: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 3560: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 3680: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CARNEY, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. HIMES, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KIND, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. BARBER, Ms. BASS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. HAHN, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KLINE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. Velázquez, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 3740: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 3776: Mr. CASSIDY.

H.R. 3854: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 3858: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 3867: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 3877: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 3992: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 4017: Mr. DAINES.

H.R. 4047: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 4105: Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 4106: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 4136: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 4190: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 4212: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 4234: Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 4289: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 4347: Mr. COSTA, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 4351: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 4365: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 4370: Mr. HENSARLING and Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.R. 4430: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 4447: Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 4450: Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. BARTON, and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 4510: Mr. LONG, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, and Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 4574: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 4582: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. ESTY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 4589: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.

H.R. 4618: Ms. CHU and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 4630: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 4631: Ms. ESTY and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 4635: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 4651: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 4653: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 4659: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 4664: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 4698: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 4707: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 4716: Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 4717: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 4747: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 4767: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 4781: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 4783: Mr. PALLONE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 4786: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 4802: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 4803: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 4805: Mr. NUNES, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 4810: Mr. TERRY, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. BASS, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DUFFY, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HALL, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LONG, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MEADOWS, Mrs. NOEM, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. YOHO, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KINGSTON.

H.R. 4812: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 4816: Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.J. Res. 113: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H. Res. 231: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H. Res. 411: Mr. GOSAR.

H. Res. 456: Mr. POMPEO.

H. Res. 525: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KIND, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H. Res. 562: Mr. KENNEDY.

H. Res. 609: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. CONYERS

AMENDMENT NO. 33: 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 pay any FHA mortgage insurance claim in connection with the sale of any mortgage insured by the FHA in contravention of—

(1) section 230(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715u(a)); or

(2) section 203.500, 203.501, 203.600, 203.602, 203.604, 203.605, 203.606, or 203.365(c) of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. RICHMOND

AMENDMENT NO. 34: 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 recover Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery funds from any eligible homeowner recipient impacted by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita who used such funds to restore the homeowner's home to a habitable state and has made an honest attempt to utilize the funds for their intended purpose and comply with the covenants of the grant agreement.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. CONYERS

AMENDMENT NO. 35: 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 pay any FHA mortgage insurance claim or in connection with the sale of any mortgage insured by the FHA before compliance with existing. FHA loss mitigation requirements, documentation of such compliance by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and provision of such documentation to the mortgagor.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. CONYERS

AMENDMENT NO. 36: 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 pay any FHA mortgage insurance claim or in connection with the sale of any mortgage insured by the FHA before compliance with existing FHA loss mitigation requirements, documentation of such compliance by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and provision of such documentation to the mortgagor.

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MR. HUELSKAMP

AMENDMENT NO. 1: 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 finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled ''Importation of Beef From a Region in Brazil'' published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on December 23, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 77370 et seq.)

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MRS. HARTZLER

AMENDMENT NO. 2: 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 implement section 12106 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79; 128 Stat. 980), section 11016(b) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2130), or the amendments made by such sections.

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MRS. BLACKBURN

AMENDMENT NO. 3: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) Each amount made available by this Act is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

(b) The reduction in subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to the following mandatory accounts:

(1) ''Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund''.

(2) ''Commodity Credit Corporation Fund—Reimbursement for Net Realized Losses''.

(3) ''Child Nutrition Programs''.

(4) ''Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program''.

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MR. BLUMENAUER

AMENDMENT NO. 4: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel of the Department of Agriculture to provide any benefit described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (E) of subsection (b)(2) of section 1001D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a) to a person or legal entity if the average adjusted gross income (as defined in subsection (a) of such section) of such person or legal entity exceeds $250,000.

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MR. BRIDENSTINE

AMENDMENT NO. 5: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the final rule entitled ''Milk in the Northeast and Other Marketing Areas; Order Amending the Orders'' published by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on April 23, 2010 (75 Fed. Reg. 21157 et seq.).

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MR. CONNOLY

AMENDMENT NO. 6: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be provided to a Member of Congress or the spouse of a Member of Congress through any agriculture program administered by the Secretary of Agriculture (or by any agency of the Department of Agriculture) that provides financial support (including incentives, payments, loans, and contracts) to persons based on the business of agriculture in which such persons are engaged.

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MR. ROYCE

AMENDMENT NO. 7: Page 16, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $15,500,000)''.

Page 48, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MR. GALLEGO

AMENDMENT NO. 8: Page 3, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,869,000)''.

Page 82, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,869,000)''.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2014 No. 89

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr LEAHY)..

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Majestic God, forever wise, we are grateful this day and thankful for new mercies. We are invigorated by Your love, patience, and grace. We praise You even for the trials that draw us closer to You.

Help our lawmakers to remember that without You they will labor in vain. As they seek to serve You today, give them Your peace. O God, receive honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving from our mortal lips, for You are worthy. And, Lord, comfort the families of the five American soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432, the Warren college affordability legislation.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if any, there will be a rollcall vote on the confirmation of Hannah Lauck, who will serve in the State of Virginia. Following that vote the time until noon will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

At noon there will be two rollcall votes on confirmations that come from the Judiciary Committee. One is a judge who will preside in Massachusetts by the name of Sorokin, and one will preside in the State of Nevada by the name of Boulware.

Following the vote on the Boulware nomination, the Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. for our weekly caucus meetings. At 2:30 p.m. there will be three cloture votes on Federal Reserve nominations: first, cloture on the nomination of Lael Brainard to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, then cloture on the nomination of Jerome H. Powell to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and finally, cloture on the nomination of Stanley Fischer, who is already a member of the Federal Reserve but he will be elevated to be Vice Chair of the Board of Governors.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2450

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand S. 2450 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2450) to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is landmark legislation. I so compliment Senators SANDERS and MCCAIN for coming to this agreement. I hope we can move this bill expeditiously.

BOULWARE NOMINATION

Later today the Senate will vote to confirm a man by the name of Richard Boulware to be a district court trial judge for the State of Nevada. A remarkable man he is, extremely smart, and he is a very talented lawyer from Las Vegas. His father was the first neurologist to come to Las Vegas—a fine man—and his mom was very politically active in a lot of matters for so many years.

Richard F. Boulware has impeccable credentials. He grew up in Las Vegas and attended Harvard University. He went out on his own after graduating from Harvard. He had a consultancy, and he was watching the impeachment proceeding that took place of President Clinton and he said to himself: I should be involved in understanding this stuff more. So he applied to Columbia. It wasn't a walk in the park for him to go. It was extremely expensive. But he is so smart. He got scholarships almost all the way. He graduated very high in his class at Columbia.

Upon graduation, he worked at Covington & Burling in New York, one of the premier law firms in the country. He also became a Federal public defender in New York. Since 2007 he has been a Federal public defender in Nevada. If confirmed, Richard Boulware will become the first African American man to serve on the U.S. district court in Nevada.

I had the pleasure and good fortune to put the first woman on the Federal bench in Nevada. She was a black woman. She was so good. Her name is Johnnie Rawlinson. She was so good that in a very short period of time she was elevated to become a member of

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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the Ninth Circuit. During Obama's presidency, she has always been on the short list.

Richard Boulware will be just as good as any member of that bench we have in Nevada. I am impressed with his dedication to the State of Nevada. He has already distinguished himself as a public servant. So I look forward to his confirmation today.

STUDENT LOANS

Mr. President, we have all seen the old cowboy western movies that saw some unfortunate character getting into quicksand—either pushed or fallen—and they try everything they can to get him out. It is always the same scene in the movies. An unsuspecting person winds up in quicksand, panics, flails around, and each time he does that he gets deeper and deeper into this earthy liquid.

Fortunately, a hero always comes to the rescue. Sometimes it is with a rope or branch or something to pull him out of the quicksand to safety. That happens once in a while but not very often in real life.

In America today millions of Americans are caught in financial quicksand and looking for a helping hand to pull them to safety. About 45 million Americans have student loans. As their debt mounts, they sink deeper and deeper into financial hardship. There is more student debt today than there is credit card debt.

These Americans who have these loans are trying their best to make good on their student loans. They are working multiple jobs, pinching pennies. But even the slightest hiccup can plunge them into financial ruin.

The Bank on Student Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, introduced by Senators ELIZABETH WARREN and AL FRANKEN, is a lifeline. Just like people being stuck in the quicksand in those movies, people are stuck in the quicksand in real life with student debt. The bill would provide graduates who are now beholden to higher interest rates with a 2-year period to refinance current student loans at 3.86 percent.

This legislation would allow more than 25 million Americans to refinance expensive student loans. In Nevada, more than 250,000 student loan borrowers would save thousands and thousands of dollars in interest rate fees by refinancing at current rates.

But the problem of mounting student loans is not limited to individual borrowers. It is a problem that threatens our entire economy. I had a call yesterday with a bunch of college students in Nevada. They can't get married, they are living with their parents, and they are struggling. Is it worth it for me to go to college? I spent time trying to convince them that it was and it is.

Student loan debt now exceeds far more than $1 trillion—approaching $1.3 trillion. That is more than credit card or auto loan debt. As of last September, 40 percent of student loan borrowers were in default, forbearance or deferment. Yet even as many Americans make loan payments on time, the staggering amount of those installments precludes young Americans from buying houses, beginning families or going into business. The legislation before the Senate will give borrowers a fair shot in investing in their families and their financial well-being. As young Americans are able to purchase new homes and invest in their futures, it will inject much-needed capital into our economy.

Unfortunately, not all Senators agree that allowing borrowers to refinance their student loans is a good idea. I was disappointed to learn my colleague the Republican leader doesn't support this legislation. It wasn't long ago that he referred to this proposal we are taking up here today dealing with student loan debt—$1.2 trillion or $1.3 trillion debt and 45 million people it affects—he called it a fake fight.

For 25 million Americans, or even more, who stand to benefit from this bill, I assure my friend there is nothing fake about helping working families pay off debt and save money.

I so admire what the President did yesterday. He said that if you are continuing to refuse to legislate—and we know there has been obstruction after filibuster after obstruction after filibuster. The President said before the American people he was going to do everything he could administratively. Yesterday he did. What he did isn't as good as what we are doing, but he did what he could to help 5 million students with their debt. So to a single mother working two jobs just to take care of her family, make a student loan payment on time, this legislation is real. But instead, the Republican leader has reaffirmed his commitment to the status quo. Why reform today when he and his tea party-driven members said they will reform next year or maybe the next year?

We Democrats aren't standing around waiting for a new year or a new Congress to tackle the problem of student loan debt. It is real. We are anxious to extend a helping hand to the more than 40 million Americans who are fighting to keep their heads above water, trying to get out of the quicksand.

So let's come to the aid of those individuals struggling with student loan debt and keep them from sinking deeper and deeper into financial quicksand.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. President, would the Chair note the business of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF M. HANNAH LAUCK TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

NOMINATION OF LEO T. SOROKIN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

NOMINATION OF RICHARD FRANKLIN BOULWARE II TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will now report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today we vote to confirm nominees to District Courts in Virginia, Massachusetts, and Nevada.

Although I will be supporting the nominees from Virginia and Massachusetts, unfortunately I will be unable to support the nomination of Richard Boulware II when the Senate considers his nomination and wanted to explain the reasons for my vote. As an initial matter, Mr. Boulware received a partially ''not qualified'' rating from the American Bar Association. Some of us on this side of the aisle have raised concerns over the years with what we view as an inconsistent application of the ABA's rating system. I have viewed the ABA's ratings with suspicion for many years. They always seemed to be harder on Republican Presidents than Democrats. Because of that, I tend to consider their ratings with a grain of salt. On the other hand, given their history, in my view, of treating Republican nominees more harshly, it gives me pause when I see a partial ''not qualified'' rating from the ABA for a nominee from an administration the ABA has been so aligned with on many issues.

Of course, ABA ratings are only one factor in my assessments of nominees. Unfortunately, there are other aspects of Mr. Boulware's record that concern me.

He has limited legal experience, especially in comparison to other nominees. He has only been practicing law since 2002, and that includes a clerkship. Additionally, his entire career has been in criminal law. He has no experience in any of the complex civil matters that would come before him if he is confirmed.

I am also concerned that over the course of his career he has taken very aggressive policy positions on a number of different issues in testimony before the Nevada Legislature. For example, he has spoken against updating the antiquated paper-based pool book system to a more efficient system of processing voters because he believes voter identification laws unfairly impact poor and minority communities. He has testified that solitary confinement is a reduction of due process rights for prisoners. He has opposed taking DNA samples from arrested persons. And he has joined the American Civil Liberties Union in writing letters to the legislature on several issues relating to police conduct.

If Mr. Boulware had more experience, it would be easier to give him the benefit of the doubt. But when I consider the entirety of his record, his lack of experience as an attorney and his zealous advocacy for many controversial policy positions, it is with reluctance that I will vote no on his nomination. I anticipate Mr. Boulware will be confirmed, and it is my sincere hope that he proves me wrong.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote on three nominees to serve on the U.S. district courts. This includes Judge Hannah Lauck, to serve in the Eastern District of Virginia; Judge Leo Sorokin, to serve in the District of Massachusetts; and Richard Boulware, to fill an emergency vacancy in the District of Nevada. The Senate Judiciary Committee favorably reported two of these nominees unanimously to the full Senate and the third nominee with bipartisan support. All of these nominees are qualified to serve on the Federal bench, and the nominations of both Judge Lauck and Judge Sorokin unanimously received the American Bar Association's highest rating of ''well qualified.''

Yesterday, the Senate was once again forced to invoke cloture on these qualified judicial nominees, all of whom have demonstrated legal excellence during their already impressive careers. With yesterday's votes, the Senate will have voted for cloture on 47 judicial nominees so far this year. During all 8 years of the Clinton administration, the Senate voted four times for cloture on circuit and district court nominees. During all 8 years of the Bush administration, the Senate voted 29 times for cloture on circuit and district court nominees. After today, we will have already voted 47 times for cloture in just the last 6 months. These votes do nothing to further what should be our collective goal of an efficient and fair justice system, accessible to all. I can only hope that Senate Republicans soon put an end to this obstruction. Today, we will vote on the confirmation of the following judicial nominees.

Judge Hannah Lauck has been nominated to fill a judicial vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. She has served since 2005 as a U.S. magistrate judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. During her judicial service, she has handled hundreds of criminal and civil cases and has presided over 150 bench trials. She has served as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Richmond from 1996 to 2006 and from 2010 to 2013. She worked in private practice as a supervising attorney at Gentworth Financial from 2004 to 2005 and previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia from 1994 to 2004, where she worked in both the Criminal and Civil Divisions. She worked as an associate at Anderson, Kill, Olick & Oshinsky from 1992 to 1994. After graduating from law school, she served as a law clerk to Judge James Spencer of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Her nomination unanimously received the American Bar Association's highest rating of ''well qualified.'' She has the support of her home State Senators, Senator WARNER and Senator KAINE. The Judiciary Committee reported her nomination favorably by voice vote to the full Senate on March 27, 2014.

Judge Leo Sorokin has been nominated to fill a judicial vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. He has served since 2005 as a U.S. magistrate judge in the District of Massachusetts and as the chief magistrate judge since 2012. During his judicial service, he has presided over 60 criminal and civil cases that have gone to verdict or judgment and 15 cases that have gone to trial. He has served since 2013 as an adjunct professor at Boston University Law School and previously served as an assistant Federal public defender in Boston from 1997 to 2005 and as an assistant attorney general in the Office of the Attorney General of Massachusetts from 1994 to 1997. He worked in private practice as an associate at Mintz Levin from 1992 to 1994. After graduating from law school, he served as a law clerk to Judge Rya Zobel of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. Judge Sorokin's nomination unanimously received the American Bar Association's highest rating of ''well qualified.'' He has the support of his home State Senators, Senator WARREN and Senator MARKEY. The Judiciary Committee reported his nomination favorably by voice vote to the full Senate on March 27, 2014.

Richard Boulware has been nominated to fill a vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada that has been designated as a judicial emergency vacancy by the nonpartisan Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Since 2003, Mr. Boulware has served as a Federal public defender for the District of Nevada. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to Judge Denise Cote of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and as a litigation associate at Covington & Burling in New York City.

Mr. Boulware's nomination has the strong bipartisan support of both his home State Senators, the majority leader, and Senator HELLER. There is no question that the Senate should confirm Mr. Boulware. However, some in committee raised concerns about his qualifications, citing his minority ''not qualified'' rating by the ABA's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary. I note he received a rating by a substantial majority of the ABA Committee of ''qualified.'' I also note that Mr. Boulware's ABA rating is higher than or on par with 33 of President Bush's nominees who were confirmed despite partial ''not qualified'' ratings, including two nominees to the Eastern District of Kentucky who received majority ''not qualified'' ratings by the ABA's Standing Committee but were nevertheless confirmed by the Senate by voice vote.

I support Mr. Boulware's nomination without reservation and hope that Senators from both sides of the aisle will join me in voting to confirm this worthy nominee. If confirmed, he will be the first African-American man to serve as a Federal judge in the District of Nevada. I am proud to be a part of this important historic milestone and am glad that the majority leader continues to make judicial nominations a priority.

There are seven additional judicial nominees reported by the Judiciary Committee currently pending on the Senate Executive Calendar. Five of these nominees are nominated to fill judicial emergency vacancies, and I hope the Senate will act quickly to confirm these nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia?

Mr. CRAPO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 179 Ex.]

YEAS—90

Alexander	Grassley	Murray
Ayotte	Hagan	Nelson
Baldwin	Harkin	Paul
Barrasso	Hatch	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Heller	Reid
Boozman	Hirono	Risch
Boxer	Hoeven	Roberts
Brown	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Burr	Isakson	Rubio
Cantwell	Johanns	Sanders
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Chambliss	Kaine	Sessions
Coats	King	Shaheen
Coburn	Kirk	Shelby
Collins	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Levin	Toomey
Cruz	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Walsh
Feinstein	Menendez	Warner
Fischer	Merkley	Warren
Flake	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murkowski	Wicker
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden

NOT VOTING—10

Begich	Corker	Moran
Blunt	Graham	Scott
Carper	Landrieu	
Cochran	McCaskill	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12 noon shall be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Who yields time? If neither side yields time, both sides will be equally charged.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Americans across the Nation have been truly shocked by the way our veterans have been mistreated. The fact that 18 veterans died in Phoenix alone while waiting for care is, as we all know, a national tragedy. This should be reason enough for Washington to take decisive action to reform a system that has allowed this tragedy to occur and action to hold those responsible accountable.

Yet, as we know, the scandal extends well beyond Phoenix. In the words of the government's own inspector general report, the kind of problems we saw there are systemic and extend throughout the administration's facilities.

A new internal audit released just yesterday found that the scandal has spread to 76 percent of the VA facilities that were surveyed. It also found that about 100,000 veterans continue to wait for VA appointments and that many veterans have already had to wait 3 months or more. This is a national disgrace.

I recently received a message from a disabled veteran who lives in West Liberty, KY. He said he has experienced delay after delay in the VA system, and he is understandably fed up. He said every time he thinks he is getting somewhere, he finds that some VA employee has changed a date in his file or posted a ''no show'' for appointments he was not aware of.

''I suppose I will become a casualty of the war with the VA,'' he wrote, ''before I ever receive a decision on my appeal or ever receive proper treatment.''

We know this is not right. That is not the promise this country made to our veterans, and there is no good reason to make veterans wait another day longer. There is no reason for the majority leader to prioritize partisan bills aimed at boosting Democratic turnout in November over bipartisan legislation that is aimed at fixing the problems at the VA.

We will have a vote tomorrow on one of these partisan bills that is going nowhere, when we know the Sanders-McCain bill is ready. It has been filed and that is what we ought to be moving to. Veterans have been made to wait long enough at these hospitals. Congress should not keep them in the waiting room by putting partisan games ahead of solutions. Fixing this problem is where the Senate's focus should be right now.

As the Acting VA Secretary recently said, the extent of the problems at the VA ''demand immediate actions.'' He is certainly right about that.

I know the majority leader is going to have us turn to another one of these political show votes tomorrow, written by people over at the campaign committee, but we will have plenty of time to consider bills designed to fail later. Instead, now is the time for the Senate to act like the Senate again—to be serious and more than just a campaign studio for one political party.

Senators BURR, COBURN, and MCCAIN have been working extremely hard on the issue, along with the chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. We all know there is no one in this Chamber better suited to tackle this crisis than JOHN MCCAIN. He understands the experience and needs of our veterans.

We should give Senator MCCAIN and the rest of this group the space and support they need to get effective and bipartisan reform through the Senate. Given that their legislation contains provisions similar to a bill that has already passed the House overwhelmingly, I think we will get there as well, but we need to give the effort the attention it deserves first, and that means putting the designed-to-fail bills off to the side for a minute because, look, this is what the American people actually sent us to do—to legislate.

I am calling on the majority leader and the President to hit the pause button on the never-ending campaign. Veterans have been denied care. Veterans have actually died. This is an issue that deserves the Senate's immediate attention.

If our colleagues are serious about getting to the bottom of the scandal, holding the perpetrators accountable, and enacting reform to fix it, then they will actually focus on helping our veterans instead of worrying about saving their own seats this November.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank the Republican leader for his comments on the veterans situation. I believe everybody in this body agrees, on a bipartisan basis, that we should move this bill forward as quickly as possible and address the real crisis. This is an issue I have been talking about for a long time. No one who serves our country should wait in line to get the health care they need when they come home.

I am delighted both sides are working very expeditiously to move this legislation forward, and I hope we can take that up as soon as possible and move it without it becoming political on either side.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

Having said that, I come to the floor to talk about a different topic; that is, about the highway trust fund. As we know, right now States across the country are working on transportation projects to repair bridges and relieve traffic on our Nation's roads and highways.

Kentucky, for example, has started to widen Interstate 65 between Bowling Green and Elizabethtown. Local officials tell us it is an important project to ease their traffic and help ambulances and firetrucks get to the scene of emergencies quickly, but earlier this year Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear said that project might be at risk because of a shortfall in our highway trust fund.

A crisis in the highway trust fund could jeopardize thousands of important transportation projects—such as the example I gave in Kentucky—around the country if Congress doesn't act. So I am on the floor again to call on our colleagues to work together to avert a crisis in the highway trust fund.

I wish to call attention to specific wasteful tax loopholes that Congress could eliminate to actually shore up the trust fund—loopholes that actually both Democrats and Republicans have in the past said we should close.

There can be no question that the highway trust fund is facing a revenue problem. The Department of Transportation has been warning us for months that it expects the trust fund to reach critically low levels as early as this summer. If that happens, the Department might have to delay reimbursements to our States.

This crisis is no longer a hypothetical. It has already caused States to plan for a construction shutdown if Congress does not act. In Georgia, more than 70 transportation projects could be delayed indefinitely, according to their State officials. In North Carolina, an engineer from the State's department of transportation says, if the trust fund runs dry, ''that essentially stops our construction program.''

This crisis is having a serious impact on construction jobs. If States are not

able to enter into new construction contracts, as many as 700,000 jobs could be at risk, according to the Department of Transportation.

The construction industry was particularly hard hit during the economic downturn. Allowing the highway trust fund to reach critically low levels would be another blow to an industry that has already seen more than its fair share of job loss and uncertainty.

For all of these reasons, Congress must act to avoid a potential construction shutdown this summer.

In the past few weeks I have been very encouraged that Members on both sides of the aisle agree we do need to replenish the highway trust fund with revenue. Allowing the trust fund to run dry is not an option. Putting construction jobs at risk is not an option. Failing to make much needed investments in our roads and bridges is not an option.

House Republicans have offered a proposal to cut mail delivery down to a modified 5-day delivery system to temporarily fund the highway trust fund, but I believe that is the wrong way to go. There are better ways to address both Postal Service reform and the highway trust fund shortfall.

But I do think there is now an opportunity to solve this looming crisis in a way that actually should have bipartisan support. We all know our Tax Code is riddled with wasteful tax loopholes that benefit the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations, and many of those loopholes that both Democrats and Republicans have proposed closing are available for this fund.

For example, Republican Congressman DAVE CAMP, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, Senator REED of Rhode Island, and Senator LEVIN of Michigan have all proposed eliminating the so-called stock option loophole. Right now corporations claim the largest tax breaks by compensating their executives with stock options instead of a regular paycheck. That is so the corporation can skirt a tax rule that limits deductible cash compensation to $1 million per year for each of a handful of corporate officers. Closing that loophole alone would save us as much as $50 billion over the next 10 years.

Another loophole allows some wealthy business owners to mischaracterize their income as business profits instead of salary to avoid paying their fair share of payroll taxes. Putting a stop to that unfair practice, as both Republican Chairman CAMP and Democrats have proposed, could save us more than $15 billion over the next 10 years.

Those are just two wasteful and unfair tax loopholes that both Democrats and Republicans have proposed closing. The list of loopholes goes on and on. We can use that kind of revenue generated by closing just a few of them to avoid an unnecessary crisis, shore up our highway trust fund, and make the critical investments we need in our roads and bridges across the country.

I know that for many people around the country this looming highway trust fund crisis is all too familiar. For them it is just another example of Congress lurching from crisis to crisis. Just last week the director of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department said he reminds people that just last year Congress shut down the entire Federal Government. That is how he knows there is a real threat that Congress will shut down investments in our roads and bridges. So States such as Arkansas aren't taking any chances. State officials there recently delayed 10 highway projects, and they said they might have to delay even more if we—Congress—don't act.

So I believe our States need certainty in the highway trust fund. Commuters are counting on transportation projects to ease congestion. Construction workers are counting on jobs to repair roads and bridges. I believe we should build some common ground that Democrats and Republicans share to replenish the highway trust fund. Let's work together to show commuters and businesses and workers and States that Congress can come together to solve this crisis. I hope we will work together to prevent a construction shutdown this summer.

Mr. President, before I yield, I ask unanimous consent that the time during any quorum calls prior to noon be charged equally to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, life is about choices. We make them all the time, the choice about where you are going to school, what you are going to study, what you are going to do with the rest of your life, what kind of job you want, your car, a lot of other choices we make.

Tomorrow the Senate gets to make a choice. It is going to affect some people. Here is the choice: We have in this country a serious problem with college loan debt. It has grown dramatically over the last several decades. Now we estimate the total amount of college loan debt in America is over $1.2 trillion. What does that mean? How big is that?

More college loan debt than the sum total of all credit card debt in America. More college debt than the sum total of all automobile debt in America. The only other debt larger—mortgage debt.

This is growing, the college student loan debt. Forty million families are affected by student loan debt out of a nation of 300 million. So we are dealing with somewhere in the range of 14, 15 percent of America making payments on college student loans.

The amount of debt has grown dramatically. I will not come to the floor and tell you what I borrowed to go to school because it makes me sound ancient. But I will tell you this: When I graduated from law school, my student debt equaled one-half of my gross income the first year, just to put it in perspective. Not so anymore.

What we are finding is that most students are so deeply in debt coming out of college that they are making life decisions based on their debt. I get emails in my office from young men and women who always wanted to be teachers. They love teachers. They want to be a teacher. They tell me they cannot be a teacher, because the cost of getting an education to become a teacher is so high, that the starting pay of a teacher is so low, and so they are going to do something else. What a loss for this country, when someone who desperately wants to teach does not get that chance.

Now 25 million of the 40 million Americans with student loan debt can get a break tomorrow morning, because we have a bill coming to the floor which will allow 25 million of these student loanholders to refinance their debt. Ever own a home with a mortgage? I have. You heard there was a lower interest rate available. You called the bank and said: Hey, can I knock that interest rate down from 8 percent to 6 percent? Yes, let's do it, because a lower interest rate means a lower monthly payment, or the same monthly payment is going to pay off more principal on your debt.

So we are going to give college students tomorrow an opportunity, 25 million of them, to refinance their college student loans to lower interest rates at 3.8 percent for undergraduate education. Currently many of these students are paying 6 percent, 7 percent, 8 percent, 10 percent, and higher. Is this a good thing? You bet it is. For many of these students, this is the lifeline they have been looking for.

That is one possibility. That is one of the choices: Help 25 million in debt. But to pay for this, if we are responsible, we had to come up with a source of revenue to make up for the lost interest payments to the Federal Government when the debts are refinanced. We came up with it. It is called the Buffett rule. It is named after Warren Buffett, this seer of Berkshire Hathaway, a fellow I have come to know a little bit through his family. He came to us a few years ago and he said, something is wrong with the Tax Code. Here I am, Warren Buffett said, one of the wealthiest men in America, and my income tax rate is lower than my secretary's income tax rate. How can that be? Why would my secretary pay a

higher income tax rate than me, a billionaire? So we created what we called the Buffett rule. It said: If you are one of the fortunate few in America who makes over $1 million a year, you are going to have a minimum income tax rate of 30 percent, which at least puts you on par with the people who work for you. You are going to pay an income tax rate at least as high as they do, 30 percent.

How many Americans are like Warren Buffett, making over $1 million a year? How many would have to pay this new income tax rate? Twenty-two thousand Americans make over $1 million a year in 2009 and paid less than a 15 percent effective tax rate. Okay, Senate, here is your choice: Do you help 25 million students refinance their college debt and reduce their loan payments by an average of $2,000, or do you protect 22,000 millionaires from paying more in income tax? That is our choice tomorrow. I think it is a pretty easy choice.

I do not have anything against wealthy people. If they made their money honestly, God bless them. But I do not think it is unreasonable to say to the wealthiest people in America: Count your blessings, buddy. You are living in the greatest Nation in the world that gave you a chance to get rich. Now give something back to that country. Give something back to that next generation that wants to build this country even to a higher standard and more success for more people. That is what we face tomorrow.

I go around my State. I have had hearings at college campuses. Some of these are worth repeating. Casey Graham Barrette at North Central College up near Chicago graduated in 2010, got married, has an infant boy she is very proud of. She and her husband both have jobs. His paycheck pays living expenses, her paycheck pays student loans. She is working to pay the student loans in her household. She worries about the future of her family until she gets these loans paid off.

Joshua Schipp. I recently met him. He told me he graduated with a student loan debt of $80,000—from a good school, do not get me wrong. But $80,000. His interest rates on his debt range from 4¼ percent to 9¼ percent. They could come down to as low as 3.8 percent under our bill coming up tomorrow. That is the range of his current interest rates on a variety of loans he has.

Joshua, at one point, said his student loan payment was $700 a month. Now stick with me for basic math and forgive me if I miss this a little bit but I think I have got it. Joshua has got a job making $11 an hour—$11 an hour, 40 hours a week, $440 a week, 50 weeks a year. I know there are 52, but let's assume 50 weeks a year. He is making somewhere in the range of $22,000 a year.

His gross pay of $440 times four makes that right at $1,800—I am rounding it off, $1,800. Let's assume after you take the taxes and all of that out, he has about $1,200 net that he makes each month. Do you remember what I said he paid in student loans? Seven hundred dollars a month. Twelve hundred dollars net, seven hundred dollars on your student loan. How could you possibly make it? That is Joshua, who stuck it out, finished with his college diploma, did what he was told to do. Now there he sits with that debt hanging over his shoulder.

Here is a story I know well because I met this young lady several times, Hannah Moore from the city of Chicago. Hannah got off to a great start. She was not sure what she wanted to do, so she went to a community college. Affordable community colleges, I recommend them to everybody. The hours can be transferred to universities. You have a lot of different courses you can take, and it is affordable. That is where Hannah started.

Everything was going well. Then she stumbled and made a bad decision and did not even know it. She transferred from community college to a for-profit college. For-profit colleges are different than public universities. They are different than private schools. They are different than not-for-profit schools. They are out to make money. Hannah did not know it. She thought she was signing up for a real college and a real education.

She went to something called the Harrington College of Design in Chicago. Their parent company, Career Education Corporation, is under investigation by 17 different State attorneys general. They have got big problems. They create big problems for people such as Hannah.

So Hannah went to this Harrington College of Design and got her ''degree.'' Do you know, when it was all over, how much student debt she had for her time at Harrington College of Design, the for-profit school? It was $124,570. She cannot keep up with the payments. She has fallen behind. And the debt from the interest keeps adding up. She is now up to $150,000, lives in her parents' basement. Her dad came out of retirement to try to help her pay off her college loans.

This for-profit college and university issue is a separate one I will save for another day. But this outrageous sector of our higher education economy accounts for 46 percent of all student loan default. They overcharge their students and provide them with diplomas and degrees which, in many cases, are worthless. But having said that, there sits Hannah. Did I mention she is 32 years old and $150,000 in debt, with a worthless diploma from a for-profit college run by the Career Education Corporation? That is what she is up against.

This bill will help her some. It is not going to eliminate her problem, because there is one point you cannot overlook when it comes to college student loans. This is not like the mortgage on your home. This is not like the money you borrow to buy a car. It is not like a line of credit you might take out to start a business. A college student loan is in a rare category of debt and loans in America, a rare category of debts that cannot be discharged in bankruptcy, no matter how bad things get for you, no matter how terrible your circumstances, your economic circumstances. You go into court and say: I have got to declare bankruptcy. They will help you with everything, but they cannot do anything about your college student loan. It is with you for a lifetime.

We are hearing the horror stories. Grandma decides her granddaughter needs to go to college, cannot get the money to go through. Grandma says: Let me cosign the note with you, honey. I want you to finish college. The granddaughter finishes school, defaults on the loan. They levy grandmother's Social Security check. That is the reality.

I just left a press conference where a young woman who was trying to pay off her college student loan fell behind. Then she said: Well, at least I have got my income tax refund coming back. It was claimed. She did not get any of it. That is what these loans do to you. That is what the collection agencies do to you.

So the question tomorrow morning for the Senate is: Whose side are you on? Take your pick here. Are you on the side of 22,000 or so millionaires in America? Do you want to protect them from paying a penny more in taxes, or are you on the side of 25 million college students and their families who are struggling, just like the ones I have told you about? The choice is pretty clear to me. A college diploma ought to open the door of opportunity.

It shouldn't open the door to debtors' prison, and that is what is happening to thousands of students across America right now.

The first step here is to pass this bill. There is more to do, but the first step is to pass this bill.

The President helped us yesterday. The President said he was going to give 5 million of those paying off college student loans a chance to really organize their debts and to limit the amount of money they had to pay out to 10 percent of their income. That gives some relief to 5 million, but we can do more. We can help 25 million, and that is what we ought to do tomorrow.

When you go back home and talk to people around the Senate, a lot of them start gazing at the ceiling and saying: I don't know about you politicians in the Senate. All you do is give speeches, put out press releases, and take up valuable time on television. What do you do to help us? What are you doing for working families?

Well, I have a speech—and it is pretty good—about what we try to do with minimum wage and making sure people—women and men—are paid fairly in the workplace, but this college student

loan thing haunts me. It haunts me to think that these young people, who are convinced they are doing the right thing, who are borrowing money for the right reason—higher education—are getting so trapped in debt that their lives are compromised. People make speeches about, well, it affects the economy. If you have a lot of student debt, you may not buy a new car, a new home, get married, or have children once married because of your debt. That is all true. That looks at the big picture. But I can't get away from those smaller photographs in my mind of the people I have met in Chicago and all over my State who are trying to pay off these debts.

It comes down to this: We have 55 Democrats and there are 45 Republicans in the Senate. My job is to count votes. I think we are going to get all of the Democrats. I think every one of them will vote for it. But that is not enough. Fifty-five out of one hundred is not enough. Tomorrow we need at least five Republicans to join us—five. None of them have cosponsored the bill yet to refinance college student loans, but they can get into this conversation and join us tomorrow in an effort to help. If five will cross the aisle to make this a bipartisan effort, we can get this moving.

I know the House of Representatives has been a dead end. So many things have gone over there to die—immigration reform and a long list—but I sense this is different. I sense that Members of the House of Representatives in both political parties, if they go home, wherever they live, if they have a real town meeting, if they invite real people, real families, they are going to hear about this issue. Forty million Americans are living with this issue.

Let's do our job in the Senate. Let's pass this college refinance bill. Let's give these students a break, a chance. Let's do the right thing for them. They did the right thing and went to school. Their debt should not compromise their future.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I rise this morning to discuss the very pressing challenge that too many of our young people are facing; that is, the issue of college affordability.

As I travel throughout New Hampshire, I continue to hear young people and their families express their deep concerns about the high cost of college and about their student loans.

In New Hampshire this problem is especially significant because New Hampshire ranks second highest in the Nation for the proportion of students who are graduating from college with debt and also for the average amount of debt per graduate. Seventy-four percent of students in New Hampshire graduate with debt, and that debt is an average of $33,000 per student. I have talked to some young people who worry that they are never going to be able to get out from under that student debt burden.

We all know that obtaining a college education has been viewed as a step that can propel Americans into the middle class, allowing them to pursue goals such as starting a family, opening a business, or purchasing a home.

Unfortunately, education costs have increased at four times the rate of inflation from 1985 to 2011. This is a problem that has both short-term and long-term implications for our citizens who want to continue their education after high school. It is also a problem that has serious implications for the Nation's economy. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, approximately 40 million Americans hold more than $1.2 trillion in student loan debt. The agency also indicates that student loan debt has exceeded credit card debt in the country and is exceeded only by home mortgages in terms of total amount of debt. So we have more student loan debt than credit card debt, and only home mortgages exceed the student loan debt.

While Americans are struggling to pay back this staggering debt, it is projected that the Federal Government will earn $66 billion in profits from its role in student lending between 2007 and 2012. That is just not right.

Clearly it is time for Congress to take action to help individuals with student debt. It is time to help them reclaim their American dream, to help them have a chance at pursuing the goals that drove them to college in the first place.

To this end I am very pleased to join with so many of my colleagues in supporting the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. This legislation would allow eligible borrowers who took out student loans before July 1, 2013, to refinance those loans at rates currently being offered to new borrowers.

It is clear that Congress needs to come together to work to reduce the cost of college for aspiring students throughout the country, but we also need to provide relief to those who have already borrowed to pursue their education, many of whom have interest rates for their student loans that are much higher than they would be if they were purchasing a home or a car.

This action is also way overdue. The extent to which young people are feeling this pressure really came home to me when I visited a veteran from New Hampshire named Calvin, who served in Afghanistan. I first met Calvin at Walter Reed Medical Center, where he was recovering after losing his leg from stepping on an IED. He was married, had a young child, and he was talking about the challenges he faced after he recovered from his injuries. But what impressed me the most was his No. 1 concern was how he and his wife were going to repay their student loans. That is why I think we have to do something about this problem. We have to make sure young people such as Calvin don't spend their professional lives worrying about how to pay back student loans.

I plan to file an amendment today as we take up the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act that will address the challenge young people have as they look at how to keep track of their student loans. I think they need to have a portal that gives them a one-stop shop so they can view all of their student loan information, public and private, in one central online location.

I have heard stories from young people in New Hampshire about this concern, from people like Kim, who is from Nashua. She is a 30-year-old woman, and she has student debt from obtaining her bachelor's and two master's degrees. Her student loan payments cost her more per month than a home mortgage. She recently found a job that is helping her make her loan payments, but before she got that offer she felt overwhelmed by her debt and she found it difficult to communicate and work with her lenders.

By providing a one-stop online shop for debt management, the amendment I will be offering will give people like Kim an easier way to track and understand their loans and their repayment options.

I am pleased that just yesterday the President announced a number of initiatives to help borrowers, including plans similar to the provisions in my Simplifying Access to Student Loan Information Act, so we can encourage the use of innovative methods to communicate with borrowers, but as we all know, we need to do more in this Congress to ensure that we can help borrowers who are struggling to repay their student loans.

I thank my colleague from Massachusetts, Senator WARREN, for her work on this bill. I look forward to continuing to work with her and my other colleagues to ensure that student loan borrowers finally see some relief.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as every Member of Congress knows, Americans are hurting, and after 5½ years of the Obama economy, they are getting pretty discouraged, as a recent CNN poll reported.

That ''pessimism,'' Erin Currier, director of the Economic Mobility Project at the Pew Charitable Trusts, stated in a recent CNNMoney article, ''is reflective of the financial realities a lot of families are facing. They are treading water, but their income is not translating into solid financial security.''

Unfortunately, Senate Democrats have responded to the economic instability facing so many Americans by essentially doing nothing. Instead of legislation to create jobs and expand opportunity, Democrats have tied up the Senate this year with politically motivated show votes designed to go nowhere.

Back in March the New York Times reported that Democrats planned to spend the spring and summer on messaging votes ''timed to coincide with campaign-style trips by President Obama.''

The Times reported:

> . . . Democrats concede that making new laws is not really the point. Rather, they are trying to force Republicans to vote against them.

Democrats have certainly been following that playbook. This week, in their latest election-year political stunt, they will take up a designed-to-fail student loan bill. According to plan, it will be accompanied by some ''campaign-style'' stops by President Obama.

The Democrats' bill would do nothing to make college more affordable or reduce the amount of money students have to borrow, and it would do nothing to address the real problem facing recent college graduates; that is, the lack of jobs.

The Democrats' student loan bill would provide some former students with old loans a taxpayer subsidy which, based on Congressional Research data, would be worth about $1 a day. To provide this, their bill would raise income taxes by $72 billion.

Meanwhile, Democrats have conveniently ignored the fact that student loan repayment plans that could lower monthly payments by more than their proposal are already available to all students with Federal loans.

Republicans have student debt solutions, such as simplifying the student loan process so more students can take advantage of the affordable repayment options that already exist in current law, but young Americans need a lot more than student debt solutions. The best thing we can do for graduates is to help create jobs.

Young people in particular are suffering in the Obama economy. The current unemployment rate for those 16 to 24 years old is 13.2 percent—more than twice the national average. Unemployment among those 16 to 34 years old is 9.2 percent—significantly higher than the overall unemployment rate of 6.3 percent. Nationally, 6.1 million 18- to 24-year-olds are living below the poverty line, and 36 percent of young adults are living at home with their parents.

It is no wonder that CNNMoney reports that ''young adults, age 18 to 34, are most likely to feel the [American] dream is unattainable.''

What young people need is not a government subsidy but access to jobs, good-paying, full-time jobs with the opportunity for advancement, but those jobs are few and far between in the Obama economy.

While young people may be having the hardest time finding jobs, no one in the Obama economy is doing well. Nationwide, nearly 10 million Americans are unemployed, almost one-third of them for 6 months or longer.

The unemployment rate has hovered at recession-level highs for the entire Obama Presidency. Since the President took office, the average length of unemployment has increased from 19.8 weeks to 34.5 weeks. Approximately 14 million Americans have been forced to join the Food Stamp Program since President Obama took office, bringing the total number of Americans receiving food stamps to more than 46 million.

Meanwhile, everywhere families look prices are going up. Gas prices have almost doubled during the Obama Presidency. Food prices have increased, and the President's policies are just making things worse. Chief among the President's policy disasters, of course, is ObamaCare, which has driven up the price of everything from premiums to pacemakers.

The President told the American people his health care law would drive down health care premiums by $2,500. Instead, prices have risen by almost $3,700, and they are still going up.

ObamaCare has meant new burdens for just about everyone: higher premiums and deductibles, more expensive medications, fewer doctors and hospitals from which to choose, lost jobs, and increased taxes on businesses both large and small. Millions of Americans were forced off their health plans—the plans they were promised they could keep—and into the health exchanges, where they were frequently forced to pay more for plans they liked less.

Not content with the high health care bills, now the President is adding insult to injury by putting in place EPA regulations that will drive up electricity bills for all American families. The President's de facto energy tax will hit low-income families and seniors on fixed incomes the hardest. It will also slash tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of jobs. Coal plants will close, leaving their workers unemployed, and manufacturers will send jobs in America overseas to countries with more affordable energy.

The worst part is that President Obama's EPA regulations will devastate family budgets and the economy for nothing because the President's proposals will do almost nothing to reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. As long as our country is acting unilaterally, there will be no meaningful effect on global emissions, but the President is pressing on anyway and apparently Americans will have to get used to their massive new energy bills.

The President's policies are having a devastating effect on American students, families, and the middle class, but instead of trying to make things better, the Democratic leadership in the Senate has chosen to take up gimmicky legislation, not to help Americans but to get Democrats reelected.

Yesterday a bipartisan veterans bill, which would address the systemwide VA crisis, was introduced in the Senate. The failures at the VA are a national embarrassment and a betrayal of our compact with our veterans. Congress has an obligation to make sure nothing like this ever happens again.

Today we could be discussing the best ways to fix our VA system. Instead, we are going to be discussing a bill designed not to improve things for Americans but to win the Democrats a few votes. Instead of proceeding to a student loan bill that was designed to fail, we should proceed directly to the VA reform bill.

The House of Representatives acted decisively to bring greater accountability to the VA 3 weeks ago. Today they are moving forward on a VA reform bill that includes many of the provisions of the bill that was introduced in the Senate last night. Now that we have a bipartisan VA reform bill in the Senate, we should be acting with the same sense of urgency.

If Democratic leaders in the Senate truly wanted to make things better for American families, they wouldn't be focused on gimmicky show votes. Instead, they would be working with Republicans to fix the VA crisis. They would back a repeal of the ObamaCare medical device tax, which has already cost tens of thousands of jobs and will cost many more if it isn't repealed. They would support Republican efforts to repeal the ObamaCare 30-hour workweek rule, which has resulted in lost hours and decreased wages for way too many workers in this country, and they would embrace legislation to halt the devastating EPA rules the President has proposed and protect millions of American families from crippling energy bills.

They would push—they would push for job-creating measures such as the Keystone XL Pipeline and the 42,000 jobs it would support or trade promotion authority for the President to open new markets to American farmers, workers, and businesses, and create those good-paying jobs.

We throw around a lot of statistics in the Congress—1 million people this, 10 million people that. It is important for us to remember the faces behind the numbers: the parents trying to figure out how they will afford to pay both their daughters' tuition and their new ObamaCare premiums, the college graduate who can't find a job and is currently living in his parents' basement, the single mother whose working hours have suddenly been cut because her employer can't afford to pay the ObamaCare mandate, a father who has been out of a job for months and can't get an interview anywhere.

These Americans need help, and the President's policies are not helping. The good thing is it doesn't have to

stay that way. We can get America working again, but it is going to take something different than the policies of the last 5½ years.

I challenge my Democratic colleagues to join us in passing real jobs legislation, the kind of legislation that will open a future of opportunity and economic security for all American families.

What college graduates don't need are political gimmicks. What college graduates need more than anything else are good-paying jobs with opportunities for advancement. That is what we should be focused on, not political show votes, not election-year sloganeering but real meaningful policies that will grow and expand our economy in this country and create the good-paying jobs our young college graduates need and that will lift more lower income families into the middle class.

That is what this Senate ought to be focused on. We can change to that focus, and we can start doing some things that will make this country stronger and provide a better and more prosperous and a more secure future for middle-income families.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON SOROKIN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Court Judge for the District of Massachusetts?

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would vote ''aye.''

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 180 Ex.]

YEAS—91

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murray
Ayotte	Grassley	Nelson
Baldwin	Hagan	Paul
Barrasso	Harkin	Portman
Begich	Hatch	Pryor
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Blunt	Heller	Risch
Booker	Hirono	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Boxer	Inhofe	Rubio
Brown	Isakson	Sanders
Burr	Johanns	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Kirk	Shelby
Coats	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coburn	Landrieu	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Coons	Lee	Toomey
Corker	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Crapo	Markey	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Walsh
Donnelly	McConnell	Warren
Durbin	Menendez	Whitehouse
Enzi	Merkley	Wicker
Fischer	Mikulski	Wyden
Flake	Murkowski	
Franken	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—9

Chambliss	Graham	Moran
Cochran	Kaine	Scott
Feinstein	McCaskill	Warner

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BOULWARE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada?

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would vote ''aye.''

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 181 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Ayotte	Brown	Donnelly
Baldwin	Cantwell	Durbin
Begich	Cardin	Feinstein
Bennet	Carper	Franken
Blumenthal	Casey	Gillibrand
Booker	Collins	Hagan
Boxer	Coons	Harkin
Heinrich	Menendez	Schatz
Heitkamp	Merkley	Schumer
Heller	Mikulski	Shaheen
Hirono	Murkowski	Stabenow
Johnson (SD)	Murphy	Tester
King	Murray	Udall (CO)
Kirk	Nelson	Udall (NM)
Klobuchar	Paul	Walsh
Landrieu	Pryor	Warren
Leahy	Reed	Whitehouse
Levin	Reid	Wyden
Manchin	Rockefeller	
Markey	Sanders	

NAYS—35

Alexander	Enzi	McConnell
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blunt	Flake	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Chambliss	Hoeven	Sessions
Coats	Inhofe	Shelby
Coburn	Isakson	Thune
Corker	Johanns	Toomey
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Vitter
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Cruz	McCain	

NOT VOTING—7

Cochran	McCaskill	Warner
Graham	Moran	
Kaine	Scott	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:48 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 2:30 shall be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

BANK ON STUDENT EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise in strong support of the Bank on Student Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. I urge my colleagues to work with us to brighten our Nation's future by turning the tide against the student loan debt burden that threatens to hold back this generation of Americans.

Since 2003, student loan debt has quadrupled. It has surpassed credit card debt, and it is only second to mortgage debt for American households. We know that borrowers are struggling with this debt. Delinquency rates are substantially higher for student loans than for other types of debt. Default rate have risen. The Federal Reserve Bank, the National Association of Realtors, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Pew Research Center, and others have begun to sound the alarm about the broader impacts of student loan debt on our economy.

Home ownership among young people has fallen. Young households with student loan debt have accumulated seven

times less wealth than their debt-free peers. The interest rate on undergraduate student loans was 3.86 percent this year, yet many borrowers are locked into loans at 6.8 percent with no way to refinance. The Government Accountability Office estimated the Federal Government would earn an estimated $66 billion from student loans originated between 2007 and 2012.

Surely we can afford to give these borrowers a break and reduce their interest rates to at least that which was agreed to in the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act that was signed into law last year, which still sets rates too high in light of the fact that the Congressional Budget Office estimates show that student loans will still generate revenue for the government even at these lower rates.

That is the simple premise behind the Bank on Student Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. I am a proud cosponsor with Senator WARREN. I salute her for her leadership, for her insight, and for her advocacy for students and families across this country.

The other side may deny that student loan debt is an urgent problem that requires Senate action. But for the estimated 25 million Americans who could benefit from refinancing, including 88,000 in my home State of Rhode Island, that is cold comfort indeed. We can provide real relief for student loan borrowers, and let them put their hard-earned money to work for building a better life for their families and a stronger economy for our Nation.

Looking forward, we need to work together to tackle the drivers in student loan debt—rapidly rising college costs and the rollback of State investment in higher education in public colleges throughout this country. We need to renew our commitment to the core principle of the Higher Education Act, that no American should be denied the ability to go to college because their family lacks the means to pay.

We need to get back to the idea that educating Americans is fundamentally in our national interest and that we have a shared responsibility at the Federal, State, local, institutional, and individual levels for investing in our people. My generation benefited from this kind of investment. This and future generations should have similar opportunities to develop their talents and pursue their dreams in order to secure a brighter future for them and for our country.

Tomorrow, we begin voting to move forward on legislation that could provide relief to as many as 25 million Americans struggling under the weight of student loan debt. For those people, this is not a political stunt. The legislation would enable student loan borrowers to lower their interest rates, reducing their payments and ultimately reducing the amount they will have to repay overall. When rates go down, we can refinance other types of debt. Student loans should not be an exception.

This student debt relief is fully paid for by addressing an inequity in our Tax Code that allows millionaires and billionaires to pay lower rates than regular middle-class Americans. Student loans are supposed to help people finance their education so they can get ahead, not serve as a ball and chain that weighs them down for years and years and years.

I urge all my colleagues to support the Bank on Student Emergency Loan Refinancing Act.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Harry Reid, Tim Johnson, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Ron Wyden, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Elizabeth Warren, Bill Nelson, Robert Menendez.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would vote ''yea.''

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 59, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 182 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Alexander	Hagan	Murphy
Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Hatch	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Kirk	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Corker	Markey	Walsh
Donnelly	McCain	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murkowski	

NAYS—35

Ayotte	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Flake	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Heller	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Sanders
Chambliss	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Isakson	Shelby
Coburn	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Paul	

NOT VOTING—6

Cochran	Kaine	Moran
Graham	McCaskill	Scott

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 59, the nays are 35. The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Harry Reid, Tim Johnson, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Ron Wyden, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Elizabeth Warren, Bill Nelson, Robert Menendez.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would vote ''yea.''

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 183 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Alexander	Franken	Murray
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Begich	Hagan	Pryor
Bennet	Harkin	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Heitkamp	Rockefeller
Boxer	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Landrieu	Tester
Casey	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Coats	Levin	Udall (NM)
Collins	Manchin	Walsh
Coons	Markey	Warner
Corker	Menendez	Warren
Donnelly	Merkley	Whitehouse
Durbin	Mikulski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murkowski	
Flake	Murphy	

NAYS—36

Ayotte	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Hatch	Portman
Blunt	Heller	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Chambliss	Isakson	Sanders
Coburn	Johanns	Sessions
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Crapo	Kirk	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Enzi	McCain	Vitter
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker

NOT VOTING—6

Cochran	Kaine	Moran
Graham	McCaskill	Scott

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the ayes are 58, the nays are 36. The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Harry Reid, Tim Johnson, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Ron Wyden, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Elizabeth Warren, Bill Nelson, Robert Menendez.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would vote ''yea.''

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi, (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 184 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murray
Baldwin	Hagan	Nelson
Begich	Harkin	Pryor
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Landrieu	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Levin	Udall (CO)
Collins	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Markey	Walsh
Corker	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden
Franken	Murphy	

NAYS—38

Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Chambliss	Inhofe	Sanders
Coats	Isakson	Sessions
Coburn	Johanns	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Crapo	Kirk	Toomey
Cruz	Lee	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—6

Cochran	Kaine	Moran
Graham	McCaskill	Scott

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 56, the nays are 38. The motion is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now resume legislative session and proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN, be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

(The remarks of Mr. BEGICH and Mrs. MURRAY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2455 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mrs. MURRAY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

IMMIGRATION POLICIES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, in recent weeks it has become impossible to deny the fact that we have a full-blown humanitarian crisis along the U.S.-Mexican border. Sadly, this crisis is directly the result of President Obama's own policies, and it involves tens of thousands of young children, some reportedly as young as 3 years old, risking their lives.

Indeed, young children are traveling through extremely dangerous territory run by brutal drug cartels that prey on the weak in the form of human trafficking, rape, and even murder. This year alone tens of thousands of unaccompanied minor children have been detained while crossing illegally into the United States. A large percentage has been found in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas.

To give the Senate an idea of what has happened and the timeline here, as recently as 2011 there were 6,560 unaccompanied minors detained at the border between the United States and Mexico. Then in 2012 the President announced he was taking administrative action to defer deportation of a certain class of minors, most of whom had come here as young children but had since grown up, sometimes called the Dreamers. But this action in 2012 sent a message, apparently, to other people who were anxious to come to the United States. So you see in 2013, there were 24,000 unaccompanied minors. It is projected, although the number is not known, that it will rise to 60,000, or the Senator from Arizona has said he has heard as high as 90,000 potentially of these unaccompanied minors.

Mr. MCCAIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CORNYN. I will.

Mr. MCCAIN. I apologize if I am being redundant here, but how does the Senator from Texas explain to the American people how we have gone from, in 2011, when we start this chart, from 6,000, to now the projection, 3 years later, of over 60,000 and some say as many as 90,000? But let's say it is 60,000. Does this not have to be some kind of orchestrated, organized effort

to account for this dramatic increase? If it is, who is doing it?

Mr. CORNYN. I would say to the Senator from Arizona, he knows a lot about this topic, living in Arizona. But I think it is a combination of factors. It is, 1, the message that was sent by the unilateral deferred action the President ordered in 2012 saying that even children who come here meeting certain criteria would be low priorities for deportation. So the message was: If you can come to America, and you get here, then you are basically not going to be sent back home.

I think it is also a combination, as the Senator knows, of the violence in the failed state status, nearly, of some of the Central American countries where most of these kids come from. But it is creating, as the Senator knows, a humanitarian crisis because we do not have the facilities to take care of this many minor children.

Here again, these are just the ones who made it. The Senator knows how dangerous the trek is from Central America up through Mexico through areas controlled by the drug cartels. Many of these children, some reportedly as young as 5 or 3 years old, are obviously very vulnerable to being preyed upon by unscrupulous characters.

Mr. McCAIN. Additionally, though, these children—when you are saying especially the very young ones, there has to be some kind of organized effort that is bringing them. The average 5-year-old or 6-year-old does not decide to leave home one day and come across the U.S.-Mexican border.

Mr. CORNYN. The Senator is exactly right. I did not answer his question. Let me try to do a better job. As the Senator knows, in years past, the migrants who came across the border typically were people looking for work. But now with the dominance of large swaths of Mexico and Central America by drug cartels, they basically are trafficking in people, in drugs, in guns, and anything that will make them a buck. Unfortunately, they have no scruples whatsoever and no concern for these young, vulnerable children. They recognize their parents are willing to pay money to them to transport them from Central America to the United States. But the problem is they have no control over what happens to those children when they are in the hands of the drug cartels and these transnational gangs as they bring them all the way from Guatemala, for example, which is 1,200 miles away from McAllen, TX. Many of these children suffer from exposure, in addition to being preyed upon by a variety of unscrupulous characters.

Mr. McCAIN. Could I ask again? So these children now, ones because of the numbers in overwhelming our facilities, are in terrible conditions for someone, a human being in the United States of America: no facilities, no bathing, diet, overcrowding, being put on transportation and taken to Arizona and dropped off at bus stops, and yet not only is that a terrific problem, at least once they are there, they are not prey to some of the things they are prey to on the 1,200-mile trip which are horrible in many circumstances given the nature of these people who are the drug smugglers and human smugglers at the same time. So is it true that the dimensions of this humanitarian tragedy/crisis are something that deserve the attention of all of us? I am surprised it has not gotten a lot more attention than it has up to now.

Mr. CORNYN. I would say to the Senator from Arizona that I am a little surprised it has not gotten more attention either. That is one reason that motivated me to come to the floor today to highlight this. Tomorrow, before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Secretary Jeh Johnson of the Department of Homeland Security will be testifying. I hope he can provide us some answers, because what we need is a comprehensive look at what are the incentives that would convince parents to send their unaccompanied children up through this horrific trip through Mexico, some 1,200 miles from Central America, to such an uncertain fate here in the United States, much less along the way. We need to know what the President's plan is to deal with this.

I know the Senator has spent a lot of time in places such as Jordan and Turkey that I have had the occasion to visit. One of our colleagues pointed out, this is like having refugee camps here in the United States, something nobody ever thought we would have.

Mr. McCAIN. I would ask one more question. Does the Senator know of any plan or any idea of what our Department of Homeland Security and our Border Patrol and people have to deal with this? Do you have any idea what they have to address this issue besides transporting children from Texas to Tucson, AZ, and dropping them off at a bus stop?

Mr. CORNYN. I would say to the Senator, I know some of it entails warehousing children at places such as Lackland Air Force Base, and the last report I saw, about 1,000 of them are located there. I am not sure what the plan is going forward. I assume some of it will be to try to reunite them with family members here in the United States. But if they do not have family members, then they are going to basically become wards of the State. I am not aware of any plan.

The reason why I came to the floor today is to express the very concerns the Senator from Arizona has expressed about the causes and the effects of such a poorly thought out policy, which basically sends the message that anybody who can make it here, particularly minors, can come into the United States and we are totally unprepared, in my view, to deal with this humanitarian crisis. We need to be prepared.

Mr. McCAIN. In other words, by making the decision the President of the United States made on deferred action, if you believe those numbers and they are accurate, that triggered a mass movement into the United States of America. So it is not an accident that these numbers have gone from 13,000 up to 60,000 or 90,000, depending on who you talk to. It is not an accident. So if it is a matter of policy, then that policy needs to be reviewed. Rather than cure the symptom, which we have to do because it is a humanitarian crisis, the humanitarian crisis is not going to be over until we address the root of the problem. Is that correct?

Mr. CORNYN. I agree with the Senator from Arizona. I think this is not a coincidence. There is, in my view, very much of a cause-and-effect relationship between this poorly thought out unilateral action by the President, without much knowledge of or thought given to the consequences.

As the Senator from Arizona knows, because he has certainly fought the fight to fix our broken immigration laws, and I have been involved in many of those myself, this is a direct result of the President basically trying to go it alone and basically trying to send a message, a political message, but one that gives very little thought to the very real-world human consequences of his political actions.

The Senator from Arizona was talking a little bit about this trip from Central America. I would show my colleagues, as we know, Mexico has had a lot of security issues that have been dealt with by the last administration, President Calderon's administration, and now are continuing to be dealt with by the current administration in Mexico. But the Zetas, some of the hardest core of the drug cartels, essentially control large portions of this region of eastern Mexico. If you look from Guatemala, from Central America right at the bottom of Mexico here, the pathway these children would have to make all of the way up through Mexico into South Texas, into the Rio Grande Valley, essentially is through territory controlled by the Zetas, the drug cartel.

One question that is horrible to contemplate is how many of the children who started this long 1,200 mile or so trek actually made it to the end of their journey, and how many fell out along the way as a result of illness, as a result of criminal activity, such as kidnapping, how many were assaulted along the way. This is a crisis that needs to be addressed.

I would point out to my colleagues, I have in my hand—and I ask unanimous consent that this document be printed in the RECORD following my remarks. I would read from it. This is a release from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection dated May 12, 2014. As of May 12, 2014, nearly 180 sex offenders were arrested in the Rio Grande Valley sector alone. That is so far in 2014. Can you imagine that amidst the 47,000 children who have been detained since October of last year coming across the

border, that mixed into this pot of people were we know at least 180 convicted sex offenders.

This article continues to point out that:

Additionally, agents have arrested more than 50 members of the Mara Salvatrucha gang, or MS–13, a notorious transnational criminal gang that started in Los Angeles, and about 14 members of the 18th Street gang.

For my colleagues' information, many of them have heard about a train that goes up through Mexico that many of the migrants from Central America take in order to help them make their journey. This train is called the Beast, sometimes called the Beast of Death.

The stories, and indeed the books, that have been written about this chronicle how horrendous this trip is. We can see in this picture there are young people and older people sitting on top of this train, riding it as far as they can, helping them make their journey up that eastern coast of Mexico from Central America, the 1,200 miles they would take to get from Guatemala City to South Texas. Many of them travel on this train known as the Beast.

The stories of what has happened here, of people who have lost their lives, people who have been decapitated when the train has gone through tunnels, people who tried to jump on a moving train only to lose limbs after a fall under the train, will chill your blood.

But the fact is the administration, and indeed the entire Federal Government, needs to deal with this crisis and needs to deal not only with the causes of it but what the effects are and particularly the humanitarian crisis involving this growing number of unaccompanied children.

Federal, State, and local authorities along the border have completely been overwhelmed by the influx. You can imagine that the Border Patrol, which is in the business of processing these children as they are detained and handing them off to Health and Human Services and other agencies, their attention has been diverted from their primary mission of border security because they have had to lend a hand to deal with the humanitarian crisis.

With so many children arriving day after day and with so many of them lacking any identification documents, it has been tremendously difficult to figure out exactly who they are, why they left home, where they have family, and where they should be sent while their case is being processed.

We don't know how many of them have been victims of human trafficking, for example, how many of them might qualify as refugees under U.S. law, how many of them are actually over the age of 18, and how many of them might have a criminal record.

Can anyone at the White House or in the administration say with certainty the children being released from U.S. custody are leaving with an actual family member?

The Senator from Arizona alluded to children being shipped from Texas to Arizona where they were left at bus stops and elsewhere, basically with a request that they reappear at a given time. But, of course, 90 percent, I am told, never show up back at their court appointment.

For that matter, can the administration say with certainty that none of these children have been handed over to an adult with a criminal record? The answer to both of these questions is no.

In short, this is a complete mess, and the use of resources available to Texas and U.S. officials are under enormous strain. The administration estimates that roughly 60,000 of these unaccompanied children will be apprehended this fiscal year. Perhaps twice that many may be apprehended next year.

We can see the trend here and, of course, all we know from this chart is what it was before the President's deferred action announcement, and we know what it is now. But the trendline is undeniable and appears to be growing at an exponential rate. The crisis we are facing now represents a tragic and painful example of the law of unintended consequences.

Two years ago when the President stood in the Rose Garden and announced a unilateral administrative change in U.S. immigration policy, he probably thought he was doing a good thing. But between that policy change and his broader failure to uphold our immigration laws—indeed his statement that he essentially will not enforce broad swaths of those laws—the President has created an extremely dangerous incentive for children and their parents to cross into the United States under these sorts of treacherous and horrific circumstances.

In other words, the policies that were supposed to be adopted for humanitarian purposes to help these children have created a genuine humanitarian disaster for these same supposed beneficiaries of this unilateral policy. While there is widespread violence and poverty in Central America, sadly, that is not something entirely new, and it is not the cause of our current crisis.

President Obama's immigration policies, primarily his policy of nonenforcement, have encouraged untold numbers of parents and children to make a shockingly dangerous journey through the interior of Mexico riding the Beast, some of whom have been subjected to unknown horrors and treatment at the hands of the very same people who were paid to transport them.

The stories I have read indicate that at stops along the way people are held up at gunpoint. If they don't turn over money to their would-be assailant, then they are threatened with being shot and even killed.

While we may have a rough idea of how many children are actually crossing into America, we will never know with certainty how many actually start that journey and never make it, how many die along the way, are kidnapped or perhaps sexually abused or otherwise mistreated because of the lawless conditions under which this takes place. But we do know the massive surge in unaccompanied minors is directly attributable to actions taken or not taken by the administration.

Therefore, I would implore President Obama to immediately do five things:

No. 1, he should immediately declare that the so-called deferred action program—which I referred to earlier that he unilaterally ordered in 2012—does not apply to the children currently arriving at the border. One aspect of enforcement is deterrence, and so deterring the children from ever starting that long, dangerous trek has to be part of the solution.

No. 2, the President should immediately discourage people in Central America and elsewhere from sending their children on such a dangerous journey.

No. 3, the President should immediately begin to enforce all U.S. immigration laws and engage with the Congress in any changes he thinks are warranted and not simply ignore the ones he finds convenient or politically expedient.

No. 4, he should immediately take steps to ensure that Texas and other U.S. border States have the resources they need to address this ongoing humanitarian crisis.

No. 5, he should immediately start working with the Mexican Government to improve security at Mexico's southern border. This is a 500-mile border between Mexico and Guatemala that, if it were better secured, would deter many of these children and other migrants from coming through Mexico and subjecting themselves to these dangerous conditions in the first place.

If the President did all five of those, not only would it help us resolve the current crisis, but it would also help us prevent similar crises from erupting in the future.

These children are being preyed on by drug cartels and human traffickers, and they are at high risk of being kidnapped, raped or even killed while traveling this long dangerous journey to the United States. But sadly, when they arrive here, we still have no way of guaranteeing their safety because of the lack of an adequate plan to deal with this humanitarian crisis.

President Obama effectively created this problem and now he has an opportunity to work with us to fix it. I can only hope he does the right thing.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the U.S. Customs and Border Protection document I referred to earlier.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, May 12, 2014]

NEARLY 180 SEX OFFENDERS ARRESTED BY RGV SECTOR AGENTS SO FAR IN FY14

EDINBURG, TX.—U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Rio Grande Valley Sector have arrested nearly 180 illegal immigrants with prior convictions for sex offenses so far for fiscal year 2014, which began Oct. 1, 2013, and goes through Sept. 31, 2014.

The majority of the sex offenders have convictions for sexual assault crimes involving children. Some of the more heinous offenses include: sexual assault of a child; sodomy, lewd or lascivious acts with a child under 14; aggravated sexual assault of a child; and aggravated indecent assault and corruption of a minor. The sex offenders have convictions for crimes that occurred in states from coast to coast as well as in the Rio Grande Valley.

In addition to the arrests of convicted sex offenders, agents apprehended three illegal immigrants over the weekend who have arrest warrants for sex-related crimes. They include a Mexican national wanted in FortWorth on a continuous child sex abuse charge; a Salvadoran wanted by the Loudan County Sheriff's Office in Virginia on a charge of adultery/fornication: incest with a child between 13–17 years of age; and another Mexican national wanted by the Travis County Sheriff's Office on a charge of indecency with a child/sexual contact The three men were turned over to the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office pending extradition.

Additionally, agents have arrested more than 50 members of the Mara Salvatrucha gang, or MS–13, a notorious transnational criminal gang that started in Los Angeles, and about 14 members of the 18th Street gang.

The Rio Grande Valley Sector is part of the South Texas Campaign, which leverages federal, state and local resources to combat transnational criminal organizations. To report suspicious activity, call the sector's toll-free telephone number at 800–863–9382.

Mr. CORNYN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. As a Senator from a Western State, as is my friend from Texas, I hope the American people understand the only thing the Republicans can do for whatever happens is blame President Obama: Oh, it rained today—it is President Obama.

How about the most obvious point—that the Republican House has failed to take up an immigration bill. The Senate did it in a bipartisan way. I applaud that bipartisanship. We did it a long time ago. The fact that the Republican House refuses to do it never passes the lips of my Republican friends in the Senate.

If we want to correct our immigration system, we have to sit down and do the hard work, as we did in the Senate. There is no question that we are facing a crisis with children from Central America running away from gangs, violence, rape, and deprivation. There is no doubt about it. The fact is we can deal with that, but we have to look at the laws, and that is why we want to set the rules in a bill.

There is lawlessness because we haven't updated our laws. For example, we have to make sure these short-term holding facilities have humane conditions. We can do that by law.

I want to say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, because it is cloudy one day, don't blame the President. Because it rains the next day, don't blame the President. If you wake up with a sore throat, don't blame the President. When you have trouble at the border, look at your own party, which has held up immigration reform. If we can do it over here, they can do it over there. The whole world is watching.

It is the same way with the veterans. I am hoping and praying that this new effort by Senator SANDERS and Senator MCCAIN will bear fruit in the Senate on a VA bill. But remember that the Republicans filibustered the last BERNIE SANDERS bill, which would have added clinics, which would have addressed the problems. They filibustered it.

Keep your ear open here. We have a chance to address so many issues.

STUDENT DEBT

Mrs. BOXER. I talked about immigration. I talked about veterans. We have a chance now to deal with the student loan crisis, and it is a crisis.

The student loan debt is $1.2 trillion. That is more than credit card debt.

In my home State, the average amount owed by a borrower in 2012 was more than $25,000—a 65-percent increase from 2004. In the same time period, the number of Californians with outstanding student loan debt increased by 60 percent.

In addition, in 2012 there were 641,000 Californians over the age of 50 who were still paying down their student loans and more than 6.8 million people over 50 nationwide still paying off their student loans.

This is a crisis that must be addressed. It is important to our Nation's economy. It is important to the future of our families, to our children, and our grandchildren. It is time to act.

I have to say, Senator WARREN has been a tremendous leader. We can take an important step toward addressing this dire situation by passing Senator WARREN's Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. It would help millions of Americans refinance their loans at lower interest rates, put more money in their pockets. I have to say, it is kind of a no-brainer. When you have more money in your pocket than you had before, you are going to spend it in your communities.

I am so proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation.

Sadly, even though the Federal Government is the biggest student loan lender, and it is making billions of dollars in profits each year, it doesn't allow its borrowers to refinance their existing student loans when rates are low. That is wrong. Our middle class is hurting.

The New York Federal Reserve Bank and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau have been warning us that student loans are acting like an anchor on our economy.

When our President took office, there was a crisis. We were losing 700,000 jobs a month. He has turned it around, and now month after month we are creating over 200,000 jobs, and we have restored all those jobs we lost. But why would we keep this anchor of student loan debt on our economy?

For example, students can't buy cars because they have so much in student loan debt. They can't buy houses.

Andrea from San Francisco writes:

My boyfriend and I both have student debt. He started with $90,000 and has finally gotten it down to $50,000 after 10 years of paying. I recently finished my MFA and now have $56,000 in debt. This has kept us from saving for a house, purchasing a car, and doing things day to day that would boost the economy, like shopping and going out to eat.

Patrick from Thousand Oaks wrote to me and said:

I pay half of my monthly wages to cover the interest alone on my loan.

Worse still, many young Americans wrestling with student debt cannot save enough to start a family.

Stefanie from Pacific Grove wrote:

We are finally starting a family in our late 30s. My husband has been paying off his student loans for ten years. This loan will cost him twice as much as he borrowed—doubling the cost of his college education. That is simply not fair. If the Fed sets interest rates low for everyone else, why not for students?

As Stefanie's story illustrates, student debt is not only a drag on the American economy, it is tearing at the fabric of our American dream.

I read last week that for the first time a majority of people don't really believe the dream will be there for them as it was for us. When 40 million people in America are struggling with a combined $1.2 trillion in student debt, it is no wonder the American dream is elusive.

I have 3.7 million Californians dealing with $97 billion in student loans, and many of these loans are stuck at outrageously high interest rates—7, 8, 9 percent. With interest rates this high, it is hard for anyone to pay off their debt, and it is really hard for recent graduates who are just launching their careers.

In order to help the nearly 40 million Americans with student debt, Senate Democrats have introduced this plan, with the leadership of Senator WARREN. It is a simple plan. The idea is to let borrowers refinance their outstanding student loan debt.

We are at a time of record-low interest. I am asking rhetorically whether it is fair to charge 7, 8, 9 percent interest when the Federal Government lends money to banks at less than 1 percent. The people who have borrowed money to pay for college or send their children to college are trapped with these exorbitant interest rates. And the private student loans can be even worse. I have seen 10 percent and 11 percent.

The Senate Democratic proposal would allow borrowers of both Federal and private student loans to refinance from their high rates into much lower rates. The rates would be 3.86 percent for undergraduates, 5.41 percent for graduates, and 6.41 for the parents who

have helped their kids. Those are the rates Democrats and Republicans agreed on last year, and those are the rates new borrowers received this past school year. But the older borrowers are stuck with these exorbitant rates, and they can't refinance. If those lower rates are good for new borrowers, why wouldn't we allow them for those who have been stuck in this vicious cycle of these high rates?

These young people are not saddled with this debt because they went to the mall and bought a lot of clothes. They worked hard to learn new skills that will benefit our Nation and help keep us strong. They deserve a fair shot at saving and building a career and having a family.

Matthew from Antelope, CA, wrote to me and said:

> I have never worked harder on one single goal than to be the first in my family to gain a degree in higher education. I've been on the Dean's List every semester in college. [But] the ever-present fear of paying off the thousands of dollars of interest I have gained is overwhelming and I am struggling to see past it.
>
> If big banks, which collapsed our financial system, are able to borrow at a rate of nearly zero percent, I don't see why students who will ultimately grow our economy and grow our nation cannot borrow at the same rates.

Matt from Newport Beach, CA, said:

> I am grateful for my college education. As a son of middle-class parents, I knew [college] was an investment in my future, despite the need to take out loans. I even graduated in three years and served as a Resident Adviser to keep costs down. However, my student loan debt is now a major expense that hangs over me as a working adult. It affects my ability to achieve certain life milestones—buy a house, finance a wedding, and save for retirement.
>
> I support efforts to refinance loans at low interest rates—rates comparable to those in the real estate market. Please take action! With more affordable student loans, my generation can grow this economy.

Matt, Matthew, and their classmates who worked so hard to achieve their dreams deserve a fair shot. Tomorrow morning we will have a chance to make achieving the American dream a little easier for Matt, Matthew, and all our struggling college students. So I stand with Matt, Matthew, Patrick, Stefanie, Andrea, and the 40 other million Americans with student loans.

What we are saying is very simple: We want to give students who are trapped in those high interest rates a chance to refinance. We pay for it by saying that those billionaires who aren't paying at least as much as their secretaries pay at least as much as that. It is called the Buffett rule. I can't imagine a better way to pay for this than that.

I urge my colleagues—Democrats and Republicans—to stand with my constituents and their own constituents by voting to let us move forward to consider the bank on students act.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise to speak today on behalf of our veterans. I am here to speak about both challenge and opportunity. The challenge is the problems we face with our Veterans' Administration, which is that we are not getting the care for our veterans that they need and that we all want them to have and that they so very much deserve.

We also have a real opportunity because we have been working on legislation. We have legislation on the Republican side in the Senate and on the Democratic side, and now we are working to bring those two pieces of legislation together. So I think this creates a real opportunity, and it is a vitally important opportunity—one that we grab and that we address on behalf of our veterans. We need to make sure we come together on bipartisan legislation that fixes the Veterans' Administration health care system, and it takes care of our veterans.

I believe the solution, the real key to solving the problem, is choice—or another way to put it might be access to health care. I think that not only solves the problems we have seen with the wait lists but also the problem of distance, which is also an issue, and it is a challenge we see in States such as my own. For example, in our State the issue truly is distance. In other places it is access to health care. We know, for example, in places such as Phoenix, veterans were put on wait lists and in that way denied access to care. That is absolutely unacceptable—absolutely unacceptable.

I think the Veterans Choice Act, which I am pleased to cosponsor with a number of my fellow colleagues, solves that problem, and it solves not only the access and the wait list problem but also, as I have said, the distance problem essentially by providing choice, meaning that if a vet can't get access to a veterans health care facility, then the veteran can go to another health care provider. I believe that works for the vet and it works for the health care provider. The veteran can go to a hospital or a clinic that has the service he or she needs if he can't get into the VA facility in a timely way, and then that hospital or clinic is reimbursed just as if it were for a Medicare patient. Clearly, our health care system has the facilities in place, the resources to handle that type of reimbursement just as they do for Medicare patients.

Now I wish to speak about the distance issue for just a minute because in North Dakota the distance issue is the one we face. For example, in North Dakota it is about 800 miles round trip from Williston to the VA health care system in Fargo. Some services, as we all know, are provided by CBOCs—community-based operating clinics—and we have those around the State. But where we don't have CBOCs or where they are not able to get the service they need from that CBOC or walk-in clinic, then it can be an 800-mile trip to get services.

Not too long ago I held an open forum in Williston, ND, which, as many people know, is the site of an incredible energy boon, the Williston Basin. Now in North Dakota we produce about 1 million barrels of oil a day—second only to the State of Texas. So we have a tremendous number of people moving into this region. We are the fastest growing State in the Nation. We have veterans there who are driving long distances to get medical services. So this is a different challenge than we faced in some of the centers such as Phoenix where they were waiting to get patient care. In our case they are having to drive long distances—as I said, 800 miles round trip to Williston; 400 miles to Fargo and then 400 miles back.

I recently held a forum up in Williston to discuss this issue and look for solutions on behalf of our veterans. I met with our veterans, I met with veterans service officers, as well as health care providers from the region. I talked to two vets who told me their story about trying to get health care. We have a walk-in clinic, a CBOC—community-based operating clinic—in Williston. There were two cases where veterans needed some health care services. In one case, because they couldn't—the first veteran couldn't get it at the local CBOC, that individual took a day to drive to Fargo, which is 400 miles, stayed in a hotel, the next day went in and got those services, stayed in a hotel that night, and then drove back the third day. So he had to take 3 days off of work to get services. He had to drive 800 miles round trip. He had to be put up in a hotel for 2 nights. Now, all of that is reimbursed, as far as the travel in the State, by the VA. So for a relatively straightforward procedure, the VA paid a lot more and inconvenienced that veteran terribly and cost him money because that individual had to take 3 days off from work. That doesn't make any sense.

In the second case, a veteran in a similar situation wanted to get the service at the local CBOC, wasn't able to do that, but instead of driving all the way to Fargo and doing what the first veteran did, the second individual just went into the local clinic or hospital in Williston and got the service that afternoon. Unfortunately, the second veteran is still trying to get reimbursement out of the VA for that procedure.

The individual in the second case did not have to take 3 days off from work, which is smart and, frankly, saved the VA a lot of money because it was not a case where you had to drive down, get reimbursed for that stay with over two

nights in a hotel, and then drive back. So it actually saved the VA money. But still they have not gotten a reimbursement for the cost of that medical treatment because the VA does provide that service in Fargo. But again, in that situation, unless that veteran is reimbursed, you are not truly serving the veteran and, frankly, not doing the sensible thing to save the taxpayer money.

That is why the Veterans Choice Act that I am cosponsoring with others, again, is the solution because we provide choice, we provide access. If the veteran cannot get that service in a timely way in the local community, then the veteran can access another health care facility. That is why the legislation works.

So what I have offered—and, of course, now we are working on bringing two bills together: the Veterans Choice Act, but then also legislation offered by Senator BERNIE SANDERS; and that legislation is the Ensuring Veterans Access to Care Act.

I think we can bring them together, and I think we can get a good solution that serves everybody, most importantly that serves our veterans. But we need to serve all of our veterans—all of our veterans—regardless of where they live. That is why I have offered simple, clarifying language—this is a technical fix—that would clarify and ensure that if a veteran cannot get service in a CBOC, then that veteran can go to a local health care provider on the same basis as an individual who lives more than 40 miles away from the walk-in clinic.

This legislation, this clarification is important to ensure that a veteran is not in any way actually disadvantaged by having a walk-in clinic in the local community, and that all vets can access services on the same basis. Again, it is because of the way this legislation is coming together that requires that if you are within 40 miles of a walk-in clinic or you have to wait more than 14 days, then you can go to another health care provider. But if either one of those criteria apply—you are within the 40-mile radius and you can get an appointment within 14 days to see a doctor—then you have to go to the VA. That works, and that is consistent only if you applied both criteria to the same clinic, to the same health care center.

What I mean is this. Remember the example I gave just a minute ago: Williston, ND, and Fargo, ND. In Williston you have a walk-in clinic. In Fargo you have a full hospital—a full VA medical center. Take the test we are applying in this legislation: If you are within 40 miles, you have to go to the VA facility, as long as you can get in within 14 days. But that 14 days has to also apply to the facility that is within that 40-mile radius; otherwise, you get an inconsistent, unfair result and actually disadvantage somebody who is within 40 miles of a walk-in clinic versus somebody who is outside that radius.

Let me give two examples to illuminate what I am saying.

You have a vet. He lives in Williston, ND. He is within 40 miles of that facility. He goes in, and he gets his shots or whatever it is in that facility—no problem. But what happens if he cannot, if that walk-in clinic does not supply the service? What does he do? Well, if the 14-day rule applies to the Fargo VA hospital, even though he is within 40 miles of the CBOC, if the CBOC—the walk-in clinic—does not provide that service, he still has to drive 800 miles roundtrip for that shot I just talked about a minute ago or that service—the two veterans I described a minute ago. So he still has to travel 800 miles to get service.

Take another individual. He lives 41 miles from that walk-in clinic. Even if the Fargo VA can take him within 14 days, he can still go get local service in Williston, can't he? Why? Because he is 41 miles away. So ask yourself, the veteran who lives within 39 miles of that walk-in clinic, he might have to drive 800 miles roundtrip to get a service that the individual who is 41 miles from that facility can go get in the local community.

Does that make sense? That is the kind of thing we have to make sure we get right so that all veterans, regardless of where they live, get the same fair and consistent treatment. That is why I am saying, as we put this legislation together, we have to be careful to make sure we get that kind of fair and consistent result so this legislation serves all of our veterans and takes care of all of our veterans, and they truly all have that access. Whether the problem is a wait list or long distances, let's make sure this works for all of them.

Believe me, they are out there. Every one of them has put their life on the line and stepped up. All of them have done that for us. Let's make sure, as we work through and file this legislation—something I know we can do; on a bipartisan basis we can get this done—let's make sure it works for all of our veterans and it works well and it works consistently and it truly solves the problem; that is, we make sure they get the health care they deserve.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The Senator from Georgia.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for up to 3 minutes and that immediately following my remarks the Senator from Iowa, Mr. HARKIN, be recognized for as much time as he might consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. I thank the distinguished Senator from Iowa for relinquishing a little time to let me step in. I am very grateful.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALL DAVISON

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, on the evening of June 8, this past Sunday, in Gainesville, GA, CAPT William Hall Davison, U.S. Navy retired, passed away.

It was a significant day in our family for many reasons. He is my wife's father. He is my children's grandfather. He is my grandchildren's great-grandfather. His wife Gay, 97 years old, survives him.

Bill Davison was 99 years old. He was a pilot in World War II in the South Pacific, tracking submarines of the Japanese Navy and cargo ships of the Japanese Navy to make sure our intelligence was the best it could be.

Like so many of America's greatest generation, he sacrificed 4½ years of his life in defense of our country. He made a career of the U.S. Navy. He never talked about it, and only rarely did he say anything about it. But when he did, he talked about how proud he was to be able to wear the uniform of the United States of America.

So while it was a tragic night for my wife, a tragic loss for our family, it is a reminder to all of us as Americans that our greatest generation is passing at a very rapid rate. Soon none will be here with us who stormed the beaches at Normandy, flew the skies of the Pacific or fought on the ground at the Battle of the Bulge.

But we are all here today—you and I, Madam President—because of the sacrifice of those people—the greatest sacrifice in the history of mankind. In fact, the most unselfish act of humanity I have ever read about or heard about or was ever taught about was by that generation that landed on Normandy Beach on June 6, 1944, and freed America and freed the rest of the world from the totalitarian government of Adolph Hitler.

So as my family pauses to mourn the loss of a father-in-law for me, a grandfather for my children, a great-grandfather for my grandchildren, and a father for my wife, we take joy in knowing that one member of our family was a part of a generation that saved all of humanity for democracy and for freedom and for liberty.

To his wife Gay, who is in morning today, at age 97, we wish her a continued, prosperous life, and we thank her for her sacrifice, because like so many women—the wives of the soldiers during World War II—she kept the home fires burning. They worked in the factories. They made sure that America worked while their husbands were off to defend us.

So while we had a tragic loss of life in our family on Sunday night, June 8, we had a positive remembrance of all that has been done for our family by the brave men and women who fought for the United States of America.

May God bless William Hall Davison for his life and may God bless the United States of America.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I want to speak for just a few minutes in favor of the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, which is the measure before the Senate now, also referred to as the Fair Shot for College Affordability.

We have been calling this agenda a fair shot, but let's be honest about it. It is just plain common sense. I do not want to go any further without thanking the present occupant of the chair, the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts, for her dynamic and great leadership on this issue and on these kinds of issues that affect college affordability, and especially this overburdensome student debt that is hanging not only over students but over our entire country.

There are some things, as I said, that are just plain common sense. Raising the minimum wage is good for American workers. It increases aggregate demand, and it will increase GDP. It is common sense. Equal pay for equal work is the right thing to do for women. It is common sense. And this bill that lets struggling student loan borrowers refinance their loans is not only good for them but also good for our country and good for our economy.

Families across the country are struggling with student loan debt. It is not only holding them back personally, it is holding us back as a nation. It is holding them back from buying homes and starting families. It is holding back doctors from practicing primary care. It is hurting people trying to save for retirement. It is hurting rural communities that are working to attract doctors or lawyers or veterinarians or whatever.

But you need not take my word for it. Some of the Nation's most prominent economic officials have raised concerns over this student debt issue. Members of the Federal Reserve Board's Federal Open Market Committee, in March 2013—over a year ago—expressed concern that ''the high level of student debt'' is a risk to aggregate household spending over the next 3 years. The Treasury Department's Office of Financial Research has stated that student debt ''could significantly depress demand for mortgage credit and dampen consumption''—again, a drag on our economy. New York Fed president William Dudley told reporters in November of last year: ''People can have trouble with the student loan debt burden—unable to buy cars, unable to buy homes. . . .''

So I am pleased to see that President Obama has taken action to ease the burden of Federal student loan debt for some struggling borrowers. I am also pleased to see the administration is taking critical steps to ensure that servicemembers are getting the benefits they have earned through their service to our country. But it is very clear that much more needs to be done. That is why this bill before us is so important. It will provide relief to student borrowers who took out loans several years ago only to see the rates for student loans have since gone down.

Some Senators may remember this issue presented itself last year. So as the chair of the authorizing committee, I worked with Members on both sides of the aisle and with the administration—we had meetings in the White House—to pass the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act, which lowered interest rates and also authorized the interest rates at 3.86 percent last year for undergraduates, 5.41 percent for Stafford loans for graduate students, and 6.41 percent for parent and graduate PLUS loan borrowers. We want borrowers who may have taken out loans in the past with higher rates to take advantage of these lower rates.

The Department of Education estimates that 25 million borrowers would likely refinance their existing student loans under this legislation. It will save them money. It will give them money in their pockets where they can now go out and start buying things and increase what we need to have done in our country, which is aggregate demand.

The legislation also allows student loan borrowers to refinance their private loans into the Federal program—very important.

The bill provides those who meet certain eligibility requirements and who are in good standing have the option of refinancing their high-interest private loans down to rates offered to new Federal student loan borrowers this year. Those who refinance will also have access to the benefits and protections of the Federal student loan program.

As I said, this bill is just common sense. American consumers have been able to take advantage of historically low interest rates on their homes, their cars. I have heard a number of speakers who have come out here and said: If you had a high-interest loan on your 25-year or 30-year house mortgage, and you could come in and refinance down to 5 percent, sometimes even less than that, you would be foolish not to do it. You can do it. We should not let students do the same thing? It is good for them and good for the economy.

Again, I want to say that while this issue of student debt is critically important, by no means is it the only issue that deserves our attention in higher education policy. Right now I think maybe the most critical, simply because of the huge debt burden overhanging our students—I should say our former students and their families, but there are some other things we have to pay attention to.

In the coming days I plan to release from our committee, release from the chairman's mark, the issue we should be attacking in a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Our committee over the last several months has held more than 10 hearings on issues ranging from teacher preparation to accreditation. These hearings have been bipartisan. I want to thank Senator ALEXANDER for his partnership in making sure we had good hearings.

As we move forward, our committee is committed to remaining on a bipartisan path for us taking up a Higher Education Act reauthorization. What I plan to put forward is consistent with that bipartisan approach. It simply provides clear guidelines based on the work we have done already. The Higher Education Act we will be coming forward with in the next few weeks will cover basically four topics: 1, affordability; 2, student debt; 3, accountability; and, 4, transparency. As it relates to affordability, we hope to increase affordability and reduce college costs on the front end by entering into a partnership with States, incentivizing States that make strong investments in their systems of higher education.

The one thing that came through in our hearings on why tuition has gone up so much and college costs have gone up so much for students and their families over the last 20 to 30 years—well, there are a lot of indices of why that has happened, but the single largest factor has been over the last 20 to 30 years the decrease in States investing in higher education.

What has happened is State legislatures figured it out. They quit putting more money into higher education. The schools raised their tuition, and the students come to the Federal Government or the private sector and borrow the money to go to school. States have abdicated their responsibility in higher education. We plan to offer incentives for States that step up to the bar and then provide more vigorous funding for higher education, that they will get better support from the Federal Government.

With student debt, we plan to help student borrowers better manage their loan debt through measures such as better upfront and exit counseling on their loans. Again, I hope that tomorrow we would pass our bill, the bill Senator WARREN has worked so hard on and championed. I hope we would pass it and get it behind us. But I fully intend to take the measures in that bill and incorporate them into our broader bill on student debt.

On accountability, we plan to hold schools more accountable to both students and taxpayers by ensuring that no Federal money that goes to students who then go to the schools is used for things such as marketing, advertising. They use it to drive up enrollments. No. If schools want to do that, under our proposal they would not do that with taxpayers' money.

On transparency, we hope to empower students and families by giving them better information from the beginning of the college process in how

they select the school all the way through making sure they know all of their repayment options when they graduate and can make the right choice for their particular circumstances.

What we need is a good comparison. If a student wants to go to college A, they can go online, they can find out what the costs are for a credit hour, what the tuition is, other forms of information on what they can expect from that school—graduation rates, time to graduate, all kinds of things such as that.

They can hit the compare button, then go to college B. They can ask the same questions of college B, hit the compare button, go to college C. Then you can bring up and compare all of these schools. I think students and their families would make wiser decisions if they could compare one school to another. That is hard to do today, almost impossible to do today. But that is the kind of transparency parents and children and families need to have.

I look forward to sharing that proposal, as I said, in the next few weeks. I state publicly: Anyone who has ideas on this and would like to have them incorporated in our bill, please come to our staff or see me. We will try to work it through. As I said, I do want to approach this on a bipartisan basis and work this out. Higher education is too important to our society, to our future as a country, to be a partisan type of approach. It has to be bipartisan.

College affordability, skyrocketing student debt, accountability, transparency, all are very high-stakes issues for our students and their families and for our future as a country. Certainly in today's difficult economy, with young Americans in particular struggling to find good employment and a foothold in life, it is unacceptable to ask students, graduates, and their families to shoulder unnecessarily high student loan interest payments.

That is why this bill is so important for us to pass tomorrow, I guess, when it comes up for a vote. I hope we can pass this, and then I hope we can move on with the rest of what we need to do in higher education, as I said, on accountability, on transparency, and affordability. If we can get a good vote and pass this student debt bill so we can start lowering interest rates, that would be the first step toward addressing the issues confronting us in higher education. I hope we can get bipartisan support for this measure tomorrow and then move on to the other issues we have to address in higher education.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, before I address the issue of college affordability, I want to send my condolences to the families in Oregon, another community ravaged by a school shooting, the 37th of 2014, the 74th school shooting since Sandy Hook. Those are pretty stunning numbers: 37 school shootings this year alone, more than 1 a week; 74 school shootings since Sandy Hook.

I will make the comment one more time, that we are becoming accomplices in these mass murders. We are becoming complicit in this murder of children all across our country. When we do nothing, when we sit on our hands idly as children are gunned down all across our country, we send a message of acceptance that we can do practical things that will lessen the chance that people will be killed in our schools and in our homes and in our neighborhoods.

I will not go through the list right now, but we also can send a message that enough is enough. That message, frankly at this point, is probably just as important as the practical effects of the laws we would change.

I thank the Presiding Officer for her great work on bringing the issue of college affordability to the point where we have reached a national debate around what we can do to try to relieve families of the crippling debt sitting on top of them today. As the youngest Member of this body, I perhaps know in as personal terms as anyone else about what this burden means for my wife and myself who continue to owe money on our student loans, and for our neighbors and friends who are in similar positions.

I want to tell you a story today of one such family, a namesake of mine, the Murphys from Killingworth—no relation. Dennis Murphy recently wrote me about his family's story. Dennis is 52 years old and has five kids. His parents emigrated here from County Kerry, Ireland, and he was born in New York. His family lived in a small apartment in the Bronx. While Dennis was still a boy, his family moved to a house in East Haven, CT, which his father called the promised land.

His father died at the age of 50, when Dennis was 14 years old. Since the family was poor and the father did not have life insurance, Dennis could not afford to go to college himself, so he went straight to work. He was lucky enough to find a job working for the railroad, working as a locomotive engineer for Metro North. He still works at that job, Dennis does, making a good living and earning a solid upper middle-class salary.

Dennis wanted to provide a better life for his own family. So he worked as much as he could, took as many hours as he could, he took as many extra shifts as possible, he worked on holidays, and he was eventually able to make his life better, make his family's life a little bit better. They bought a house in Killingworth. He hoped his kids would get to go to college. One of his daughters has a learning disability and needs extra support, so that took up a decent amount of the family's income, but his oldest son Dennis Murphy, Jr., was a good student in high school, made the honor roll.

When Dennis junior was accepted to the University of Albany, Dennis was so proud that his son would receive the college degree that he never did. Dennis junior worked since the age of 16 to do his part to be able to afford college. He continued working all throughout college. Dennis junior seldom asked his dad for any money. Unlike many of his friends, Dennis junior actually graduated within 4 years.

But the family still had to contribute to Dennis junior's education. So without any money saved away, with money going to pay for the house and for raising five kids and for their daughter's learning disabilities, Dennis had to take out PLUS loans that ultimately totaled over $100,000. Because the interest rate on the loans is fixed at 8.5 percent, the minimum monthly payments were around $700 to $800 a month. With their mortgage payments and the rest of their living expenses, Dennis cannot afford to pay this amount, even with his good salary. Frankly, like a lot of Americans, he did not realize when he first took the loans how the interest would add up over 4 years, nor did he understand how much the monthly payments would be.

The stress of wondering how they are ever going to pay back this huge debt has caused a lot of tension in the family, a lot of arguments within his formerly close family. Sometimes Dennis says he wonders whether he should have let his son go to college at all. Even though Dennis junior has a new good job earning $20 an hour because of his degree, it is not enough for him to be able to contribute significantly to paying off these loans either.

Dennis's family came to America, got that little apartment in the Bronx for reasons that are familiar to nearly every one of us in this Chamber, this idea that if you came to the United States, you had a shot to move and move quickly, a fair shot at economic mobility. My family came from Ireland about two generations before Dennis's, but it was the same reason that brought them here to the United States. It was education that was the vehicle for advancement.

You know, it was not a myth. It was not a story that they told in places such as Ireland and Italy and Poland. It was true that if you came here and did your work and played by the rules and saved a little bit of money you could go to college and you could do significantly better than your parents did. But the reality is that idea, that truism of America being the home of the greatest level of economic mobility in the world is becoming a myth. The odds today that a young person will go to college if their parents did not is 29 percent.

That is one of the lowest rates in the industrialized world. Think of it the other way. Seventy percent of kids whose parents didn't go to college will never go to college. Seventy percent of kids who didn't go to college will essentially be destined to live the same

life and take in the same income level their parents did. That is a stunning lack of economic mobility.

The truth is that it is getting worse specifically for a particular group of Americans. For African Americans, the gap between those with a college degree in the African-American community and in the White community has gone from 13 points 20 years ago to 20 points today. The gap for Latinos was 18 points 20 years ago, and it is 25 points today. So for African Americans and Latinos, that dream of economic mobility is getting even further away than for other folks.

America used to be No. 1 in the world with respect to the amount of young adults with college degrees. We are 12th in the world today. In a very short period of time we have gone from leading the world in college graduates to becoming rather middling.

You don't, frankly, need a college degree for one thing: You don't need a college degree to figure out why fewer people have college degrees. Here it is: Since 1989 the cost of college has gone up by 307 percent and income for the average family has gone up by 72 percent. You don't need a degree in mathematics or a graduate degree in rocket science to understand that when you have this disparity between the growth in income and the growth in the cost of college, you are going to leave millions of families on the outside when it comes to accessing the apparatus of opportunity that has historically made this country the place where economic mobility was more real than anywhere else.

That is why this piece of legislation this week matters so much—because to Dennis the numbers are not going to lie. Dennis is going to go from paying 8.5 percent to about 6.4 percent. You think that is only about 2 percentage points. That is thousands of dollars in savings for the Murphys—thousands of dollars that today they don't have. That story can be multiplied hundreds of thousands of times. We think there are about 300,000 families just in the State of Connecticut who are going to be able to access a lower rate of interest based on the legislation we are going to pass this week. These numbers are pretty stunning, but the fact is that there are stories like Dennis's all across my State and all across this country, and we can do something about it this week.

As Senator HARKIN said—and let me finish with the thought that this is the beginning of the work we have to do—the reality is that it is very important to give students access to lower cost loans, as we will hopefully do this week. It is very important to lower the borrowing burden for families who have already taken out loans, but we actually have to get serious about this number. We actually have to get serious about bending this curve so that college isn't 307 percent more expensive another 20 years from today.

So I hope that in the reauthorization bill our committee, the HELP Committee, is going to undertake, an idea that has been put forward by myself, Senator SCHATZ, Senator SANDERS, and Senator MURRAY will get a fair airing; that is, the idea that we should start expecting some accountability when it comes to these schools that are getting billions of dollars in Federal aid. We send out $140 billion in Federal aid every year, and we really have very loose standards when it comes to affordability and outcome.

A group of schools is under the for-profit umbrella of a company called Corinthian in California. It has 50 percent of its students dropping out after 1 year and 36 percent of its students defaulting on their student loans. They charge $41,000 for a paralegal degree, and the local community college charges $2,500. That is a miserable set of outcomes. That is a total lack of affordability. Yet they collect $1.6 billion every year in Federal aid—$1.6 billion in Federal aid every year. Federal aid means you and me. Our taxpayer dollars are going to a school that is doing nothing about affordability and is delivering very bad outcomes.

So this bill is very important for the Murphys and hundreds of thousands of families like them. But our work is not done. It is time for us to agree that in addition to making it easier for students and families to afford college, it is finally time for Congress to put some real pressure on these schools to do something about the cost of tuition and the quality of degrees they provide. I am going to be very excited to cast my vote for this week's legislation, for the Murphys—no relation—and thousands of families like them in Connecticut.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. I rise today because we need a fair shot for the middle class. To join and stay in the middle class today, a college degree is more important than ever. In Hawaii, by 2018 about two of every three jobs will need some training or a degree past high school. But students are struggling to get ahead. We all know college costs have gone up way beyond inflation and students are borrowing more and more to pay for college.

Last week I joined several of the women in the Senate. We pointed out that student loan debt affects women more. Why? Because it takes longer to repay a student loan if, as a woman, you are making only 77 cents for every $1 a man makes.

I have heard from both men and women in Hawaii who are struggling under the burden of student loan debt, people such as Dawn from Honolulu, who told me, ''I've been teaching for over 3 years and can barely survive on my paycheck after paying student loans and rent,'' and Karen from Hilo, who said, ''Two of my three kids have loans that are almost non-repayable, given their size. They have a master's and almost-completed a PhD and one is home already using her expertise on our community. The other is coming this fall. Our prices are prohibitive enough without excessively high loans hanging over their heads.''

Their stories are not unique. Last year over 20,000 Hawaii undergraduates used Federal loans to pay for school. In Hawaii the average graduate with a bachelor's degree has over $23,000 in student loan debt.

Nationwide, overall student loan debt has skyrocketed to over $1.2 trillion. I know previous speakers have talked about that, but it bears repeating—$1.2 trillion nationwide in student loan debt. That is more than credit card debt or auto debt. The burden of student loan debt makes it very difficult to buy a home or start a family. Older Federal student loans are stuck at high rates of interest, and there is no option to refinance. Private loans often have even fewer consumer protections and higher rates.

In 2007 I was on the House-Senate conference committee for the bill that created the income-based loan repayment program signed into law by President Bush.

This week President Obama took Executive action to help more borrowers cap their student loan payments at 10 percent of their income. The administration will also extend partnerships with private companies, departments, and nonprofits to increase consumer protections and get the word out on existing programs. These are positive steps and ones that I have urged the President to take. But the President can only do so much on his own to help with student loan debt. Congress needs to do its part.

The bill we are discussing on the floor today would allow student loans to be refinanced down to today's low rate for new borrowers. Think about it. Just as homeowners can refinance a mortgage, we should allow student loans to be refinanced. Last year there was overwhelming bipartisan support for a bill keeping the student loan rates low for new loans.

I ask my Republican colleagues to join Democrats once again in voting for today's refinancing bill.

In addition to today's bill, I wish to point out another way we can combat student loan debt. A big reason students are taking on so much debt to go to college is the decline in State and Federal grants. Fewer college grants means more reliance on loans, resulting in more student debt.

In recent years State support for higher education has dropped. From 2008 to 2012 State higher education spending per student plummeted by 28 percent. That is a cut of over $2,000 per student on average.

At the Federal level, the Pell grant was once our main commitment to our students. Pell grants were the primary form of student aid to help low- and moderate-income students join and stay in the middle class.

Like the GI bill after World War II, which invested in our veterans, investing in low-income and moderate-income students pays off. From a strictly economic standpoint, we know these students get degrees, get better jobs, and pay taxes.

In the 1970s the Federal Pell grant covered nearly 80 percent of the cost of attendance at a 4-year instate public university. Today the Pell grant covers less than one-third.

To make matters worse, Congress chipped away at Pell grant eligibility and completely cut off the year-round Pell grant. In 2011, before this year-round program was eliminated, over 1,600 highly motivated Hawaii college students used year-round Pell grants to get a degree sooner. They are among 1.2 million students nationwide who used year-round Pell grants in that year alone.

One of those Hawaii students works in my office now—my University of Hawaii law school fellow, Janna Wehilani Ahu, who is on the floor with me. Her family is from a small fishing village in rural Hawaii Island. She graduated from Kamehameha Schools, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and now attends the university's William S. Richardson School of Law. She used a summer Pell grant in 2010, and without it she says she wouldn't have been able to attend summer school and move more quickly toward a degree.

Wehi is one of many Hawaii students who have told me how Pell grants helped them. Another student, Lehua from Waianae, wrote:

> I would like to thank you for supporting the Pell Grant program. Pell Grants have allowed me to increase my education and [have] provided me with a higher paying job. Who would ever think that a country girl from Wai'anae—who grew up with society telling me that we had the lowest reading and math scores in the state of Hawaii, the highest of everything such as welfare, crime, teen pregnancy and substance abuse in the state—can get a college degree.
>
> Today, I . . . want to help people from Wai'anae to achieve their dreams.

Pell grants have made it possible for this Native Hawaiian, single mother, and country girl—as she calls herself—to be graduating with an associate's degree in early childhood education and transferring to the University of Hawaii West Oahu.

With ever-increasing college costs, we should be strengthening Pell grants, not cutting back on them. That is why I introduced the Pell Grant Protection Act with several my colleagues. Recognizing the importance of Pell grants, Congress has been providing discretionary funds for this program for over 40 years. It is time to put this program on the strong footing our students deserve by making this a mandatory funded program with a cost-of-living adjustment. The bill would also include an updated, clearer version of the year-round Pell grant.

The bill has the support of 25 national organizations representing students, professors, financial aid administrators, college presidents, and advocates for the middle class. The Associated Students of the University of Hawaii passed a resolution of support, and several University of Hawaii campus chancellors have also come out in support.

I also worked with my colleague, Senator MARY LANDRIEU of Louisiana, on a related Pell grant bill—her Middle Class CHANCE Act. Senator LANDRIEU's bill would restore year-round Pell grants, increase the Pell award to keep up with college costs, and let students use Pell grants for more semesters.

I look forward to working with Chairman HARKIN on these and other bills to make college more affordable. These efforts are investments in our young people and in our collective future. Today is a start, and I urge my colleagues to vote for Senator WARREN's refinancing bill.

Mahalo.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD Hawaii stories of student loan debt.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HAWAII STORIES OF STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Dawn from Honolulu wrote me to say:

''I've been teaching for over 3 years and can barely survive on my paycheck, after paying student loans and rent.''

Karen from Hilo wrote me to say:

''Two of my three kids have loans that are almost non-repayable, given their size. They have a masters and almost-completed PhD and one is home already using her expertise on our community. The other is coming this fall. Our prices are prohibitive enough without excessively high loans hanging over their heads.''

Jennifer from Kailua wrote:

''My mortgage is 3.25% but my $133,000 federal student loan . . . is stuck at 7.25%. Please . . . allow me to consolidate [or] refinance my loan.

''It is totally unfair that the federal government made more profit in 2013 off student loans than Apple made off its 2013 sales.''

Janna Wehilani Ahu's family is from a small fishing village in rural Hawaii Island, and she made it to Kamehameha Schools, UH Manoa, and UN Richardson School of Law. She used a summer Pell Grant in 2010, and without it, she says she wouldn't have been able to take summer school and move quicker toward a degree. This outstanding student works in my office right now—she's our UN Law School Patsy Mink fellow.

Ariana Ursua, who just finished her sophomore year at UH Manoa wrote me to say:

''As a 19-year-old paying for her own education, it's been stressful having to take out loans to receive a higher education. Thankfully, the Pell Grant decreases the amount of money I have to borrow. I am so grateful every time I complete my FAFSA and see that my Estimated Family Contribution is zero because I know that I'm granted the full Pell Grant amount. I have received about $10,000 from the Pell Grant for the past two years, which means less money I have to worry about paying back. If I didn't receive financial aid, such as the Pell Grant, I would be a lot more discouraged to further my education due to finances. Fortunately, the Pell Grant helps me sleep a little easier and study a little harder, and I am forever thankful.''

Lehua from Waianae wrote me to say:

''I would like to thank you for supporting the Pell Grant program. Pell Grants have allowed me to increase my education and [have] provided me with a higher paying job. Who would ever think that a country girl from Wai'anae—who grew up with society telling me that we had the lowest reading and math scores in the state of Hawaii, the highest of everything such as welfare, crime, teen pregnancy and substance abuse in the state—can get a college degree. Today, I . . . want to help people from Wai'anae to achieve their dreams. Pell Grants have made it possible for this Native Hawaiian, single mother and country girl to be graduating with my AS in Early Childhood Education and transferring to UH West Oahu.''

Tom Robinson is the former president of the Graduate Student Organization at the University of Hawaii in the meteorology department. He wrote me:

''If it wasn't for the Pell Grant, I wouldn't have gone to college. In fact, when I graduated from high school, I went to a bartending school because I didn't think my family could afford to send me to college. Now I am going for my PhD, so the Pell Grant was pretty important for my path in life.

''Between the federal Pell Grant and the state grant, my tuition, books, and transportation costs were covered so I didn't have to take out any loans at that time. It was pretty amazing and really helped my focus. I was able to graduate Cum Laude. When I transferred to The College of New Jersey, I ended up getting a job and I had to take out [over $20,000 in] loans for the rest of my undergraduate experience. My grades were not as good when I was at TCNJ.

Cristina from Kaimuki wrote:

''I am writing because I know you are committed to education and I have a concern to bring to your attention.

I . . . have accrued over $30,000 of student loan debt after 1998 receiving my undergraduate and graduate degrees. I teach in a critical shortage area, science. . . . Student loan debt is a major issue and taking action on my concern is a small step in the right direction.''

Edwyna from Honolulu wrote:

''Even President Obama and Michele JUST finished paying off their student loans 9 years ago. I struggled with high interest rates on student loans and it was crippling.''

David from Pahoa wrote:

''I'm hoping you already support Elizabeth Warren's Student Loan Plan. I made it through on the VA and a bunch of student loans that I wouldn't have taken otherwise, but I know these kids nowadays can't afford this indentured servitude, which is exactly what student loans have become.''

Ms. HIRONO. I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

ARMY-McCARTHY HEARINGS ANNIVERSARY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I had the pleasure of speaking yesterday while the Presiding Officer was in the chair on the 242nd anniversary of the burning and sinking of the Gaspee by Rhode Island patriots. I am here today to mark the 60th anniversary of a different event which also occurred on the same day—June 9—60 years ago. It was a pivotal moment in the history of the Senate and, indeed, of the country. It was the 1954 Army-McCarthy hearings and the exchange

between Joseph Welch and Joseph McCarthy that changed this city and the world.

Six decades ago, America's national mood was marked by anxiety over the looming threat of communism. The victory of World War II had given way to the gripping tension of the Cold War. Communist power was on the rise in Eastern Europe and in China. American forces were at war in Korea.

Here in Congress the House Committee on Un-American Activities worked to sniff out Communist subversion within our borders, including the infamous Hollywood black list. One man in the Senate set out to exploit the fears of that time, and he came to symbolize the fearmongering of that fretful era.

Joseph McCarthy was a relatively unknown junior Senator from Wisconsin when, in February of 1950, he delivered a speech accusing Secretary of State Dean Acheson of harboring 205 known members of the American Communist Party within the State Department.

The charge was questionable and ill-supported. But the brazen accusation struck a nerve with an anxious American public, and Senator McCarthy rocketed to fame. Thus began a chilling crusade to flush out Communist subversion—real or contrived—from every corner of American society.

McCarthy's anticommunist witch hunt seemingly knew no bounds, as he launched investigations or often just allegations of disloyalty on the part of private citizens, public employees, entire government agencies, as well as the broadcasting and defense industries, universities—even the United Nations.

In 1953, the Republican Party gained a majority in the Senate, and McCarthy ascended to the chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Government Operations and its Subcommittee on Investigations. From those chairmanships, he dragged hundreds of witnesses before scores of hearings, publicly shaming and berating his targets. His fiery rhetoric and his remorseless mendacity intimidated critics and challengers. His accusations carried the power to destroy reputations, careers, and lives.

The effect of McCarthyism on 20th century American society was toxic. Prudent citizens shied from civic engagement. Meaningful political dissent withered. Criticism of American foreign policy evaporated. Even college campuses, our cradles of intellectual curiosity, were cowed by McCarthyism.

Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas called it ''the black silence of fear.'' Intimidated colleagues in this Chamber gave Joe McCarthy broad leeway to abuse Congress's constitutional powers of investigation and oversight. Harvard Law Dean Erwin Griswold described Chairman McCarthy's role as ''judge, jury, prosecutor, castigator, and press agent, all in one.''

This was the regime 60 years ago, in 1954, when U.S. Army officials accused McCarthy of exerting improper pressure to win preferential treatment for a subcommittee aide serving as an Army private. McCarthy countered that the Army accusation was retaliation for his investigations of them. The stage was set. The countercharges would be adjudicated, of course, in McCarthy's Subcommittee on Investigations.

The so-called Army-McCarthy hearings, held in a packed, smoke-filled Russell caucus room, would last 36 days and be aired on live broadcast television. Twenty million Americans tuned in during gavel-to-gavel coverage of our Nation's first great TV political spectacle—the precursor to the Watergate hearings, the Iran-Contra hearings, and the Thomas-Hill hearings.

Special counsel to the Army in those hearings was an avuncular Boston lawyer named Joseph Welch of the law firm then called Hale & Dorr. Here, in Washington, Joseph Welch was a nobody. He had no office, he had no position, he had no clout. But he was a good lawyer with a dry wit and unflappable demeanor. He also had a sense of fairness—a sense of fairness that was soon to become famously provoked by McCarthy's bullying. And he had that greatest virtue—courage—the virtue that makes all other virtues possible.

On June 9, 1954, Joseph Welch challenged Senator McCarthy's aide, Roy Cohn, to actually produce McCarthy's supposed secret list of subversives working at defense facilities. Since there likely was no such list, McCarthy needed a distraction. So he lit into an accusatory attack in a traditional McCarthyite way on a lawyer in Welch's firm, a young lawyer—indeed, an associate within the firm, Fred Fisher, a young man who was not even in the hearing room to defend himself—accusing him of various Communist associations and inclinations.

Welch responded:

> Until this moment, Senator, I think I never really gauged your cruelty or your recklessness.

Had Senator McCarthy been a smarter man, he would have sensed the warning in those words. But he didn't. He pressed his attack and refused to let up on young Fred Fisher. Welch angrily cut Senator McCarthy short.

> Let us not assassinate the lad any further, Senator. You have done enough. Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?

Thirty words. If you count them, it is just 30 words. But with those 30 words, suddenly something happened, something changed. The emperor suddenly had no clothes.

There had been such an avalanche of words from McCarthy over the years—of lies, of accusations, of hyperbole. And these 30 words—these few short sentences—stopped all of that roughshod hypocrisy in its tracks.

Welch declared an end to McCarthy's questioning, and the gallery of onlookers, on behalf of a nation, burst into applause. The black-and-white footage shows McCarthy asking Roy Cohn, ''What happened?'' What happened was that a spell was broken. The web of fear woven by McCarthy over Washington, DC, began unraveling.

Near the end of the hearing, Senator Stuart Symington of Missouri faced McCarthy down. After an angry exchange, he rose and walked out to come here to vote. As Chairman Karl Mundt of South Dakota gaveled the hearing into recess, Joe McCarthy kept on railing about Communist conspiracies. As he railed on, Senators, reporters, and members of the gathered audience steadily filed out of the room, leaving him shouting. The spell was broken.

Six months later the Senate voted 67 to 22 to censure Senator Joseph McCarthy. Four years later, he was dead at the age of 48. Historians agree he drank himself to death. His fall from grace and demise were nearly as rapid as his rise was meteoric, consistent with the ancient principle: Climb ugly; fall hard.

Very often—indeed, too often—political outcomes in Washington are determined by the political weight and the wealth of contesting forces vying for power. It is brute force against brute force. It makes us wonder, is that all there is to this? Is this just an arena of combat, where huge special interests lean against each other trying to shove each other around, each for their own greed and benefit?

This incident 60 years ago is an eternal lesson of what a difference one person can make. A regular American, a nobody in Washington, good at his craft, good in his character, and in the right place at the right time, a man who knew what was right, broke the fever of virulent political frenzy that had captured Washington; one private lawyer's sincere, direct outrage at a cruel attack on his young associate, a few words from a Boston lawyer who had just had enough turned the tide of history. May we never forget in this world of vast and often corrupt political forces the power of one person to make a difference.

I yield the floor.

Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I was the first in my family to go to college. I drove an ice cream truck to work my way through Boston College as a commuter. I did the same thing to go to law school. I lived at home all the

way through college and law school in order to be able to afford to go to college. As a result, I had to take out Federal loans like so many millions of American students have to do today. But here is the thing. If the owner of the ice cream truck company I worked for wanted to refinance the loan he had for the trucking fleet, he could do that. If my parents wanted to refinance the mortgage on their house, they could do that. But if I wanted to refinance my student loans as would every single student today, I was out of luck, and that is not right, that is not fair, and that needs to change.

In Massachusetts, as the Presiding Officer knows better than anyone, we recognize that education is a ladder of opportunity that allows every child to maximize their God-given abilities. It is the best path to middle class success and economic opportunity. The big dreams of college should never be thwarted by the small print of student loan agreements. The economic opportunities that students have because they graduate should not be accompanied by the hopelessness from overwhelming debt—almost like the mythical Sisyphus with a boulder on his shoulders, trying to go up the side of a mountain. That is how students feel with their student debt as they graduate from colleges and universities across this country. So in the same way that mortgage refinancing helps mortgage holders who are underwater, students drowning in debt should benefit from refinancing their student loans at a lower rate.

Today more than 70 percent of America's students borrow money to attend college. The average student graduates from college owing nearly $30,000. Americans today owe almost $1.2 trillion in student loans, more than is owed on credit cards. Almost 1 million people in Massachusetts currently owe more than $24 billion in student debt. Thirty percent of young borrowers nationwide are unable to keep up with their payments and are in default, forbearance or deferment. That kind of debt makes it difficult to start a family, buy a home or save for retirement. Reports show that high student loan debt deters our promising minds from enrolling in graduate programs. That means fewer highly skilled workers, which harms our economy now and makes us less competitive in the world economy in the future.

There is a way to make it easier for those of us who have student loan debts and to put more money in their pockets every single month. That is to listen to the wisdom of our Presiding Officer, to make sure that people here in this Chamber and across our country listen to this guiding light that you are creating for our country to be able to move from this present world where debt so saddles young people that they really cannot ever plan to realize all of their dreams, to a new vision of what might be possible in lowering this burden on young people across our country.

Last year the Congress passed legislation that lowered Federal student loan interest rates for new borrowers but did nothing for existing borrowers. So today interest rates for new borrowers are just under 4 percent while rates for older borrowers are around 7 percent for recent undergraduates and even higher for some older borrowers. The bill which you have introduced as the senior Senator from Massachusetts simply allows 25 million eligible student loan borrowers the option of refinancing down to the rates offered to new Federal student loan borrowers this year.

The bill allows eligible student loan borrowers to refinance their private loans into the Federal program. Many parents cosigned the private loans for their children and are on the hook if their children default on these loans. Your legislation will save existing student loan borrowers thousands of dollars to help them get ahead, not fall behind. This money can be used to help pay for the downpayment on a new home, to start a new business or to start a family. This is one more way to give Americans a fair shot at the American dream. So we thank you for your leadership on this issue. We thank you for laying out a pathway to make it a slightly easier place for young people to be as they leave college, as they have this debt on their shoulders.

When I was in school the interest rate was 3 percent. Those loans were called national defense student loans. Emblazoned over the Boston Public Library it reads: ''The education of its people is the best defense of a nation.'' That is what it says across the Boston Public Library. That is what we have to once again understand, that the first generation that was the beneficiary had 3 percent loans. This generation—in a much more wealthy country—has loans at 6, 7, 8, 9 percent and more, and that just makes it very difficult for them to maximize their God-given abilities in the same way that the Members of the Senate were able to maximize theirs.

We have a responsibility to this generation to go back to that original message, to go back to that incredible plan that was put together after World War II to finally democratize access to education for every family, for every child who wanted to work towards improving themselves. Those national defense student loans understood that the best defense of a Nation is the education of its people. That is how we preserve order and liberty within our society, and that is what your proposal does.

By using the Buffett rule, by using the offset which says to billionaires and millionaires in our country that you are just going to pay the same taxes as the middle class, well, then we finance something that is really critical. We finance the dreams and the hopes of young people in our country, so that the debt they have to shoulder after they leave college is not so burdensome that they never really can fully realize their dreams.

So I ask all my colleagues to support Senator WARREN's legislation. I think it is going to be without question at the top of the list of the most important work we do in this Chamber this year, and I call upon my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to respond in the kind of bipartisan way that the American people want, those 40 million families that need relief from this oppressive burden of student loan debt.

With that, I thank the Presiding Officer for her leadership.

I yield back the remainder of my time, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, tomorrow the Senate has a historic and magnificent opportunity to increase everybody's fair shot at the American dream—everyone's fair shot at a college education that enables and opens the American dream to people who come from families where college was an unachievable aspiration. I know about those families because I come from one of them. I am the first man in my family to have a college education, not to mention the opportunity to go to law school.

There are a couple of hard, practical facts, apart from all the rhetoric about the American dream. The fact is today college education is a major—maybe the most important determinant—of income. It is one of the major determinants of employment. The employment rate for college graduates is much higher than for those who lack it. In fact, the unemployment rates for college graduates are half or less than what they are for those who lack that education.

College education—in fact, education in general—is the single most important instrument of social mobility in this country. It is a way for people to reach the middle class or for families to stay in the middle class. Right now, the middle class is squeezed in every direction by so many different economic factors and pressures, and the cost of a college education is one of the most pressing of them.

So we have the opportunity tomorrow to enable countless people to take advantage of the American dream in a very hardheaded, practical way by enabling all college graduates or others who have student loans to reduce the charges—the interest rates—on those loans to a lower rate that is the lowest rate acceptable.

I thank the Presiding Officer for her leadership in championing this cause before it reached the Senate floor—way before it became the fashionable and

popular issue it has become. I thank also the President of the United States who, by Executive action, has helped to ease the burden of those college loans to thousands of current student debtholders. He has recognized the importance of reducing that burden by expanding a program that was passed by Congress in 2010, tying monthly student debt payments to a portion of the debtholder's discretionary income. He has expanded that program to include many of those debtholders before the date that it is currently operative, and I thank him for that step, but it is a minor step compared to what we have the opportunity to do tomorrow in realizing an opening to the American dream for many students who have already been through education and now carry interest rates on their debt of 8, 10, 11 percent. It is an opportunity not only for them to reduce that interest rate but also for the economy to take advantage of their purchasing power that will be unleashed—consumer demands that will be enlarged—because people are more likely to buy homes, start families, begin businesses, become entrepreneurs, be innovators and inventors, who right now are making career choices because they are saddled with debt that forces them to pay interest rates much higher than current students do.

It is not a forgiveness program. They will continue to pay the principal on that debt. It is not a free ride or a handout. They simply get the benefit of the interest rates that our friends across the aisle thought was absolutely right, just months ago, when applied to the existing program.

So this opportunity is a commonsense, simple measure to provide some relief to people struggling under a debt load that is suffocating to them, their futures, their families, and our economy's future.

I believe sincerely there are equally important measures that eventually we need to take in this body, in this Congress, in this Nation, to make college more affordable. The costs of tuition and college expenses need to be brought down. The grants we provide—so-called Pell grants—and scholarships that come from other sources need to be expanded and increased. The opportunities for people who incur debt to work down or work off that debt through public service can be dramatically and drastically enhanced for their benefit and for the benefit of our communities and country that will stand to be forthcoming by their policing, their teaching, their firefighting, their public service that can be, in effect, rewarded and incentivized by enabling them to work down or work off those debts.

These programs are a moral imperative, as is affording the opportunity of students to discharge in bankruptcy those debts when they simply cannot fulfill them, but this idea of giving everybody the benefit of the lowest possible interest rates that will be part of the bill we vote on tomorrow is a solid and sound and vitally important beginning.

We enable homeowners to refinance and car buyers to refinance and many other kinds of debtholders to refinance but not student loans. That is a discrimination, maybe not unlawful but still a distinction that makes no sense either from the standpoint of our economy or the interests of the debtors. So I hope we will give them a fair shot but also impose a basic and fundamental tenet, an ethos of fairness: If it is good enough for home loans and car loans, why not for student loans?

We should not be adopting policies that encourage people to give up on their dreams. In fact, we ought to be doing just the opposite, making young people feel their dreams are within reach.

I will close by saying to my colleagues that in the last months I have been listening around the State of Connecticut—at roundtables and meetings—to both high school students and college students about this issue of college affordability. What is so inspiring to me, in the meetings I have had—in places such as Ansonia, Windham, and Bridgeport—is the drive and determination of our students to embark on a college education. They know its value, its realistic value, its cost, and they want to do it because they know it is a way up. They are gaining and they are giving back.

But many of them have to make compromises. They have been admitted to schools. Their first choice is a first-rate school, but they cannot put together the package financially that will enable them to go. It is beyond reach financially, even as it is within their grasp intellectually. So they may compromise—maybe the first of other compromises that they will make throughout their lives, as they pursue careers, as they have to make hard choices. But at that age, those compromises should not be driven simply by financial imperatives. They should have the best education that is possible for them, and this country should make it available, not just for their sake but for all of ours.

I have been listening to college students who are leaving—at the commencement addresses I have given at law schools, as well as colleges—listening to students talk about their futures as well, futures that will be compromised because of the debt they have, an average of $27,000 to $30,000 in the State of Connecticut alone, and it is similar in many States around the country and the reason we have $1.2 trillion in debt overall today.

They will compromise in doing a job that may be more lucrative but less rewarding, less so to them and less so to our economy, less so to our society—a lesser way of earning a living in terms of its impact in contributing to our social fabric, qualify of life. They may not be teaching, they may not be policing, they may not be doing things that give back to our society because they need the income, the higher income to pay back that debt.

So those compromises affect all of us as well. They are done because they simply cannot afford either to go to the school of their first choice or the career of their first choice, but the government can afford to give them a lower interest rate. We know the government can do so because right now it is profiting off the backs of students in billions and billions of dollars. The estimates range, over a 5-year period, from $66 billion to other amounts. We know the government will continue to profit even at lower interest rates from the Student Loan Program.

So let's have less profit to the government, better well-being in our communities, and fairer treatment for our students—a fair shot for them and their families and for all who have as their objective simply to better their lives and gain a fair shot at the American dream.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise to speak about a challenge that is confronting our middle-class families all across my home State of Pennsylvania and across the country. The Presiding Officer knows this issue well and has worked tirelessly to enact measures of public policy to confront this problem. We have an opportunity now with her leadership, as well as other leaders in the Senate, to work together on what I think is the kind of legislation that will help those middle-income families.

The Bank on Students Emergency Refinancing Act, of which I am a proud cosponsor, is an opportunity for the Senate, folks in both parties who hear from middle-class families all the time about a range of issues. I doubt there is any issue we hear about more often than the cost of higher education. So I wish—as I am sure many other Members of this body do—to ensure that every student in our States, and for me every student in Pennsylvania, gets something very fundamental, a fair shot to attend college and reach their full potential.

The bill we are considering would help students who have private and public loans in good standing from before July 1 of 2013. It allows them the chance to refinance those loans at a 3.6 percent interest level, the level that was agreed to in last summer's bipartisan student loan compromise. This compromise, as we might remember, passed the Senate overwhelmingly, 81 to 18.

With interest rates near record lows, homeowners, businesses, and even local

governments with good credit regularly can refinance their debts, but few if any students have that same option. Why should more Americans not be helped by the opportunity to pay a lower interest rate?

That is a question I think we all ask tonight and in the days we are debating this issue. More than 40 million Americans owe almost $1.2 trillion in student loan debt, much more than is owed, for example, on credit cards. According to the Institute for College Access & Success, as of the year 2012 Pennsylvania ranked third in the Nation in the highest average student debt indicated—nearly $32,000 per student is the number in Pennsylvania—and 70 percent of graduates in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania leave college with debt, the fourth highest of any State in the Union. Too many young Americans cannot get ahead because they cannot get out from under the burden of student debt.

Because of their debt, many Americans are unable to buy a home, save for retirement, start a business or even start a family. This hurts the economy terribly and it makes the American dream so much harder for young Americans to reach. At an 18-year low, the rate of home ownership among young people has been cut in half since 2001. A recordbreaking number of young adults are still living in their parents' homes.

This high level of student debt makes it harder for entrepreneurs to start new businesses and create jobs. Entrepreneurial activity among 20- to 34-year-olds is at the lowest level in 20 years. We know this bill can help at least 1.2 million Pennsylvanians and more than 25 million across the Nation, according to the Department of Education.

Based on calculations from the Congressional Research Service, a typical Pennsylvanian who owed the State average, nearly $32,000 in student debt, would be able to save more than $4,000 over the life of their loan. This bill would not only save millions for Americans, but the bill itself would save the Federal Government more than $14 billion over 10 years, based on figures from the Congressional Budget Office.

A college education, we all know, is the surest path to middle-class success and is still the best investment a student can make. Getting a college degree opens the door to job opportunities for the average worker. That means $1 million more in earnings over a lifetime compared to those who only go as high as a high school diploma.

So college education is indeed tied directly to the economic success of young people across the country. This bill is a step in the right direction and would do much to tackle the problem of student loan debt. However, Congress and the Nation still have a lot of work to do to make college affordable for all of our children. What we are talking about is something very fundamental. All we are asking is that the House and the Senate, both parties, come together to give students and their families just a fair shot.

That is all they are asking for. They are basically saying to us, especially middle-class families are saying to us: You folks in Washington talk all the time about the middle class, but you need to act on our behalf. Unfortunately, they do not see enough action coming out of Washington that directly impacts their lives, that directly has an impact on their economic fortune, their economic future.

This is one of those rare opportunities with one vote, with one bill we can have a substantial positive impact on the lives of literally millions of Americans as soon as the bill is enacted into law.

I would venture to say that when you talk to any middle-class family, if student loans and the cost of college is not the No. 1 issue they mention, it is certainly in the top two or three. For most middle-class families it is No. 1. Yet they have not seen much in the way of direct action that we can take in Washington to provide a measure of relief—not a magic wand, not eliminating all the pressure and all the worries that people have when it comes to affording college.

This is one bill that can provide some relief, some needed relief, especially when young people are trying to buy a home, invest in their families, start a business, and begin their life after higher education. I ask that we all come together on this legislation and provide a measure of relief to middle-class families and, by virtue of doing that, a badly needed injection into our economy.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, tomorrow, the Senate will vote to proceed to a bill that I am proud to cosponsor, to allow students to refinance their student loans at lower interest rates. We must take this commonsense approach to allow those with student loans to take advantage of historically low interest rates.

It should go without saying that student loan costs should not rise so high that students cannot repay. Yet in recent years, average college tuition rates have climbed faster than inflation, far outpacing student financial aid. Since 1985, the cost of attending college has risen by 559 percent, and last school year alone, instate tuition and fees at public 4-year institutions were on average 8.3 percent higher than in the previous year.

Debt caused by student loans has surpassed the level of credit card debt in the United States. In Vermont, there are 99,000 people with Federal student loans representing more than $2 billion in debt. This not only affects those borrowers and their families, but it has a devastating effect on the economy as a whole—particularly in the housing market. Student loan debt is preventing many would-be first-time home buyers from saving enough to afford a down payment. High student loan debt, combined with the housing lending climate, has left many unable to secure a mortgage. Experts are worried that the high level of student loan debt is one of the reasons the housing market has been slow to recover.

This bill would help those suffering with the burden of student loan debt by offering them the opportunity to refinance at lower interest rates. We offer refinancing options to businesses, homeowners, and even local governments. These options should be available to students, too. The legislation would help roughly 25 million borrowers keep up with their student loan payments by allowing them to refinance at the same rates that new borrowers receive. Combined with the Executive action announced this week by President Obama to give more students the ability to cap monthly payments, this bill is an important step toward relieving the student debt burden so many Americans face.

I regularly hear from Vermonters about their struggles to afford a college education, and their concerns about student loan debt after they graduate. Many students are forced to take on significant debt, and too often are not able to complete college because of soaring costs. For those students who do go on to graduate, record student loan debt has made getting ahead in today's job market an insurmountable challenge for some students. Students who might otherwise choose to work in the public sector or other historically lower paying jobs like primary health care or teaching professions must make professional choices based solely on their level of debt. Unfortunately, along with the pressure from student loan debt has come an increase in default rates among borrowers, which will affect a student's financial stability for decades.

I have always firmly believed in the importance of a college education. I was the first Leahy in my family to graduate from college. Every young person should have the chance to pursue higher education. Education is a path out of poverty, a road to personal growth, and an access ramp to professional accomplishment and economic security. Everyone wins when access to education expands.

Each opportunity for a young American to earn a college education is also an opportunity for the Nation's future. Our country's ability to compete in the global marketplace in the future depends on our children's ability to finance their education. This does not need to be a partisan issue and should be one where we can find widespread agreement.

I urge every Senator to help us move ahead to support our students, their futures, and our country's future. This issue deserves to be debated in the Senate.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO GREGORY SANFORD

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, when Vermonters contemplate the history of our great State, many think fondly of our former State archivist, Gregory Sanford. With his flowing gray beard and quick wit, Gregory is a noted scholar on all things relating to Vermont's history and culture. Gregory retired from his post as the Vermont State archivist in 2012. The appreciation of the extent of Gregory's intellect and influence is not limited to Vermonters. His impressive career was recently chronicled in Archival Outlook, a publication of the Society of American Archivists.

Throughout his career, Gregory Sanford served as a critical resource for journalists, legislators, town moderators, and anyone else searching to put today's events into historical context. He brought excitement to the daunting but essential task of preserving State records. It was his vision, passion, and ability to anticipate the myriad of ways that technology would alter the job of State archivist that set Gregory Sanford apart. As the Archival Outlook piece notes, Gregory spent his career imagining innovative solutions to difficult problems with limited resources.

During his years as State archivist, Gregory was also an ambitious author who worked to explain how our laws affect the lives of everyday Vermonters, often invoking colorful analogies to do so. His regular column, ''Voices from the Vault,'' never lacked for detail or readership. In short, Gregory brought history to life, and worked tirelessly to preserve it, which is precisely why this profile of Gregory Sanford is entitled, ''The Sense of Wonder.'' My State of Vermont is so fortunate for his many contributions, and I ask unanimous consent that the Archival Outlook article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Archival Outlook]

THE SENSE OF WONDER

VERMONT STATE ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING NAMED FOR GREGORY SANFORD

(By Terry Cook and Helen Samuels)

Most archivists work in buildings devoted, in whole or part, to preserving historical archives or managing dormant institutional records. Over the course of their careers, some get the opportunity to participate in the design of new buildings for these purposes. A mere handful are privileged to lead teams to conceptualize, design, build, and occupy a combined historical archives and records center. But only rare—and very special—archivists do all that and then have such multipurpose buildings named in their honor—in fact, only one to our knowledge in the United States. Our colleague and friend, Gregory Sanford, is that rarest of archivists. This is his story, or at least the story of why he achieved this signal and singular honor.[1]

Professional innovator and leader on many fronts, our Gregory is modest to a fault. Part of this is his genuine belief that he is just working away, trying the best he could to make a difference, in a small state in a far corner of the country, neither looking for nor expecting recognition from practicing a profession that he loves so well. Many people in life who are modest have much to be modest about, but not Gregory, for he has envisioned, thought, and accomplished much, and in so doing set some valuable models for our profession.

One marvels over the scope of his publications, both formal and scholarly, and much more pervasively and influential, his hundreds of newspaper columns and lively speeches given all across his state, in schools, before local societies, in the broader New England region, and beyond, as well as before hundreds of meetings of legislative committees, all extolling the merits of archives and good records management, demonstrating through story and character, wild analogies and moving metaphors (more on that later!) The power of archives to inform, educate, transform, and amuse—and (as the official building plaque notes) create a ''sense of wonder'' about the past and its impact on all Vermont citizens.

He transformed a state papers office of one person located in a tiny office, with shared records storage in the basement of the executive office building, into a dynamic institution, the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA), currently with fourteen staff members, an updated archives and records law (that he authored), and a newly renovated and expanded archival and records center building. In accomplishing this, Gregory has worked tirelessly with legislators, bureaucrats, educators, media, and anyone who would listen, to give records management, and especially for digital records, both visibility and strategic direction for his state in the information world. The result is a resuscitated records management service now exists under the control of the state archivist, rather than languishing in the state's general services department.

His highly innovative use of the archives and its collections to frame and give context to current issues of debate in the state, so citizens and legislators do not ignore the wisdom of past, is especially admirable. This ''continuing issues'' approach to archival public programming makes the relevance of archives very apparent to citizens and sponsors, legislators and media personnel, beyond the well-known uses of archives for history, genealogy, and general support to government. In effect, and not without some political risk to himself, Gregory has championed the fundamental principle of archives being arsenals for democracy through an informed citizenry. For controversial issues facing the state and its legislators, he repeatedly uncovered past precedents where denials flourished that such existed; outlined forgotten past examples of workable government processes where chaos now reigned until his intervention; showed that sacred cows of state policy assumed to be sacrosanct since time immemorial had in fact changed many times, and could thus be readily changed again. In his column, Voices from the Vault, appearing in the Secretary of State's monthly publication, as well as on the VSARA web site, Gregory applied his vast knowledge of state records and Vermont history, its constitution and laws, and his own wide reading and sense of wonder. Gregory thus for many years kept ''continuing issues'' burning, showing the relevance of archives and records to living life now. So much so that legislators and media turned to him for ''backgrounders'' on many public issues, and those he gave them in his interviews and in his Voices from the Vault columns—always with flare, good humor, and self-deprecation, but also with dedication, passion, and keen intelligence.

Despite his tiny resource base in the state archives and many pressing home and family responsibilities, Gregory has, as a committed professional, applied for and received several NHPRC grants. He wanted to push the frontiers of archival and records management research, strategy, and best practice, to try to understand, codify, and share more widely the lessons he was learning in Vermont with his wider profession. The most noted of these, in our opinion, was the Vermont State Information Strategy Plan (VISP), in which we both had marginal roles as consultants, but enough to observe the project first hand.

VISP was a gubernatorial initiative embracing executive agencies. Though the archives was not originally envisioned as a VISP participant, Gregory succeeded in getting it a place at the table. He had been impressed by some of the appraisal thinking occurring in the archival profession in the late 1980s centered around functional analysis and macroappraisal. Instead of appraising records by their subject and informational-value content, which is impossible for modern records given their huge extent in paper, their interconnectedness across many creating institutions in our complex world, and their transient digital formats, archival theorists like Hans Booms in Germany, Helen Samuels in the United States, and Terry Cook in Canada shifted the focus for appraisal to the functional context of creation: which functions, programs, and activities within which structural entities would be most likely to produce the best records, including evidence of citizen's interaction with the state, rather than which of the billions of modern records themselves might have potential research value.

Gregory was impressed by these ideas, but he took functional analysis a step further, and built it back into the information system planning of the state. Based on research into the mandates, structures, and especially functions, programs, and activities of every state agency, he automated the results to produce a grid that matched functional activity with the several (sometimes many) offices performing aspects of that activity. He demonstrated that promotion and control of tourism, for example, was spread around nine separate agencies that did not talk to each other, or that a single mother with dependent children at school, when seeking benefits, would have to contact and then fill in similar information on application forms for each of the twelve agencies. By revealing this overlap and duplication, VISP permitted consolidation, in a virtual sense, of these programs through information systems that talked to each other for greater effectiveness, reduced duplication and inefficiency, made things easier for clients of the government to get service (applying once, not twelve times), helped the state promote itself (tourists now got one effective consolidated message when they wrote, rather than

perhaps a few of nine partial ones). And of course archival appraisal could now be focussed functionally on the location of the best records in the VISP matrix to document the state's activities with its citizens, because the state's functions had finally been mapped and understood.

Though support for VISP waned with changing gubernatorial administrations, the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, through the collaborative work of Gregory and his deputy (and now successor) Tanya Marshall, used VISP insights to model and then encourage state agencies to move to a functions-based, multiple-access-point, facet-designed file-classification system for its records management programs.

Our Gregory achieved innovative results with minimal resources and much imagination. He is one of those effective facilitators working with ''power'' behind the scenes, as well as frequently and openly in the public and media, to make things happen. He is not just a dreamer and thinker, orator and writer, thorough researcher and master storyteller, though he does all that with considerable aplomb. He is also a roll-up-the-sleeves practical archival administrator who builds buildings, writes laws, plans and carries out ambitious programs, and lobbies effectively for his profession with panache and passion.

But what of ''the sense of wonder''? While the dedication plaque on Gregory's building recognizes his ''devoted service'' to archives and public records, which we trust the foregoing account justifies, what state formally memorializes ''the sense of wonder'' of any of its public servants? Indeed, what government anywhere celebrates ''the sense of wonder'' through a building dedication? To understand that, we need to turn from what he did for historical archives and managing public records to how he did it, to that sense of panache and passion just mentioned, to ''the sense of wonder'' he so often felt himself and shared so effectively with others.

While the sense of wonder most especially describes Gregory's endless curiosity and voracious reading, to say nothing of his being a mountain of a man with a huge improbable beard, what made that sense of wonder as state archivist so special was his endless commitment to inform Vermont citizens about the value and relevance of public records, but always in the most engaging fashion. In this way he passed on to those readers his own sense of wonder.

During Vermont's bicentennial celebration in 1991, for example, Gregory organized a series of debates to engage Vermont citizens around issues of current importance, such as the death penalty and term limits. These debates were held in each of the several cities that served over time as the state's capital. While Gregory explored current issues, he was always able to provide historical context, through stories and examples drawn from his deep historical understanding of the records. Citizens were empowered to feel at the center of their government, working through contemporary issues themselves with rich historical context to temper and inform debate.

Gregory used his many speaking engagements to offer wry perspectives on record and information management. Regularly invited to address freshmen legislators as part of their orientation, Gregory once introduced the importance of the ''big picture'' of records management through an analysis of the impact of dog urine on trees in New York City! Two dogs at one fire hydrant that you see at brief glance, is one thing; almost seven million gallons of urine squirted annually on expensive (and now dying) city trees is quite another picture. Similarly, one shelving bay of records in the corner office is one thing; millions of documents across scores of agencies, if not well managed in a statewide integrated recordskeeping system, is quite another. We suspect those legislators went home and never quite forgot that image, records management, or Gregory. Nor would they have forgotten the man who appeared before them, based on a daughter's dare, with his huge beard newly dyed a bright fuchsia color!

But Voices from the Vault was his regular forum to demonstrate the relevance of records to current debates, but always incorporating that special touch of Gregory's humor and his own sense of wonder. Here is a fine example from his January 2011 Voices from the Vault column that, additionally, provides insight into his goal for his columns:

''Most people, alas, don't find records/archival management a particularly titillating topic. Therefore I usually start my column with some misdirection, attempting to ensnare readers before they realize they are reading about records. This month I appeal to the reader's prurient interests and offer a sex column. Female dragonflies, according to those who study such things, possess 'sperm storage organs.' These are special sites which incubate sperm, keeping it alive for months until the female is ready for fertilization. Male dragonflies, however, are only concerned with passing along their own genes. To them, the thought of the females cheerfully flying about, slowly incubating the genes of rivals is not a happy one. So, over time, the sexual organ of the male dragonfly evolved to include a little scoop. This allows the male to empty out the female's storage organ before filling it with his own seed.

''Government is like that. New administrations, secretaries, and commissioners arrive in Montpelier and immediately clear out the records of the previous occupants. They then refill the various storage organs of government with records of their own programs and initiatives. I confess that the analogy is not exact since in many cases those leaving government clean out their own record storage units before departing.

''The news media comment on these transitions often speculating on the legacy of the departing administration. This impulse to quickly define a particular administration's legacy raises numerous interesting issues, notably the tension between continuity and change inherent to our democratic system of government. In other words, to what degree are we documenting the continuities of government and to what degree are we documenting the initiatives and actions of specific administrations or state officers? Obviously these are not mutually exclusive efforts, but they require decisions over what files should be left in situ for continuity of operations; what records should be sent to the state archives to ensure long term access; and what records can be disposed of without violence to statute or administrative need?''

In 2009 Gregory introduced a column dealing with the history of Vermont Special Session in the following way: ''Traditional marriage is at risk in Vermont. No, no not that one; it appears to be doing fine. I am talking about the long standing union between car fenders and duct tape. Duct tape is no longer good enough to get your car inspected. I am currently organizing a Tape Back Vermont campaign. I thought of imploring the governor to convene a special session of the general assembly to address this unprecedented attack upon the customs and usage of home auto body repair. This required some preliminary investigation on the history of special sessions,'' which Gregory then traces from 1777 forward.

One of Gregory's 2012 columns was entitled ''Sexing Chicks and the Appraisal of Public Records.'' The column begins with a brief introduction about how in the 1920s the Japanese discovered ''that by squeezing a day-old chick's intestines it was possible to see slight anatomical differences . . . and thus males could quickly be culled and feed expenses reduced.'' After this anatomical lesson, Gregory admits that though the analogy is not precise, ''Sexing chicks is not unlike appraising public records. [Archivists] don't want to pay upkeep for records that don't have value. We need ways to recognize the variations in public records so we can correctly determine their ''gender'' with high accuracy. Good records analysts, like good chick sexers, handle large volumes, quickly, and have sufficient training and experience to develop contexts for accurately interpreting what they see.''

His gift to inform, amuse, and educate while promoting the archives was truly amazing. To further appreciate his delightful skill in writing about archives and documents, readers are encouraged to discover more of these wonderful columns at http://vermont-archives.org/publications/voice/.[2]

That we all who feel the wonder of archives could so imaginatively translate that into workplace reality as did Gregory, and could have such enlightened employers as the State of Vermont to recognize the merit of ''wonder'' so publicly!

NOTES

[1] One of the buildings of the Illinois State Archives, but not its records center, is named for long-time State Archivist and pioneering records theorist, Margaret Cross Norton. And a new wing of the Alabama Department of History and Archives (the state archives) has recently been named for that institution's long-time director, Edwin C. Bridges. A few archives may have reading rooms or public areas named after famous archivists, but these are hard to verify. Examples (with stories) would, we are sure, be welcome for mention in future issues of Archival Outlook. We thank Teresa Brinati and Richard J. Cox for their helpful advice. In Canada, one Dominion Archivist (Sir Arthur Doughty) has an official historic plaque, and even a statue, raised in his honor, and all the Dominion and National Archivists are recognized by a sculpture inside LAC's Gatineau Preservation Centre, but none have their ''own'' buildings!

[2] Sanford's final article for this publication was printed in the July/August 2012 issue. Since then, Sanford's successor, Tanya Marshall, has continued contributing to the publication.

TRIBUTE TO THE BORINQUENEERS

Mr. DURBIN. I would like to recognize the remarkable service of the 65th Infantry Regiment, also known as the Borinqueneers, a unit composed primarily of soldiers from the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico and recruits from other Latino backgrounds.

Today, President Obama has signed into law a bill honoring the Borinqueneers with a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor our Nation can bestow. The Gold Medal is awarded as a national expression of gratitude to men and women who perform outstanding acts of service that advance the security, prosperity, and national interest of the United States of America.

American minorities have a proud history of serving their country with honor and distinction even in the face

of racism and exclusion. As the largest and longest standing segregated unit in our military's history, the 65th Infantry Regiment is no different. In the face of segregation and discrimination, the Borinqueneers demonstrated valiant service to our Nation. From World War I to Korea, the Borinqueneers represented the United States and Puerto Rico proudly. They were often among the first into battle and have been the recipients of numerous awards and commendations.

The 65th Infantry Regiment was originally formed as a battalion of volunteer infantry in Puerto Rico in 1899 and first saw combat in World War I. The unit fired the first shot of the war by U.S. regular Armed Forces while defending the harbor of San Juan against a ship flying the colors of the Central Powers. Members of the Regiment also served in World War II and, with particular distinction, in the Korean war, where they earned 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, 256 Silver Stars, 606 Bronze Stars, and 2,771 Purple Hearts by war's end.

The Borinqueneers now join the ranks of the Tuskegee Airmen, the Navajo Code Talkers and other distinguished minority units who have received the prestigious Gold Medal. This day is long overdue but well deserved.

I congratulate the Borinqueneers on their honor. These brave men deserve recognition befitting their contributions to our Armed Forces. The unit's story is one of service and honor beyond even the usual highest standards to which we hold our men and women in uniform.

Of the surviving Borinqueneers I would like to recognize and give special thanks to those who have made their home in Illinois: Diego A. Figueroa Reyes, Santiago Perez, David Ramirez-Granado, Ramon Rodriguez, Juan Vasquez, and Onil G. Velez. I commend you and all of the Borinqueneers for your steadfast service to our country and wish you and your families all the best.

SENIOR SAFETY INITIATIVE

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the need to protect the safety and health of older Americans from hazards posed by consumer products. Since its inception in 1972, the Consumer Product Safety Commission CPSC has been tasked with protecting the public from unreasonable hazards posed by consumer products. Historically, the CPSC has not focused explicitly on seniors despite the aging population's vulnerability to these hazards. For example, a 2012 CPSC report found that Americans age 65 and older are nearly three times more likely to suffer a product-related injury that results in a visit to the emergency room than Americans between the ages of 25 and 64.

On May 19, 2014, the CPSC introduced the Senior Safety Initiative. I commend the CPSC for taking on this important and timely project. The Senior Safety Initiative aims to reduce both the incidences of product-related deaths, nearly 65 percent of which are suffered by seniors and the estimated 5 million injuries suffered by older adults. This initiative includes the creation of a mechanical and senior hazards team to monitor hazards associated with products intended for seniors, publication of a hazard screening report focused exclusively on seniors, and continues the CPSC's partnership with other agencies to reduce the death and injury associated with consumer products. In addition, the CPSC will join the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics to work with other Federal agencies to improve the availability of aging-related data.

In particular, the initiative aims to reduce hazards associated with adult portable bed rails. Between 2003 and 2012, the CPSC received reports of 174 deaths, 80 percent of which involved seniors over age 60, and nearly 110,000 medically attended injuries involving adult portable bed rails. The collective costs associated with these injuries totaled around $250 million annually. The CPSC recently partnered with manufacturers, the Food and Drug Administration, and the voluntary standards community to develop the first-ever standard for adult portable bed rails. As the senior Senator of the State with the largest proportion of people above the age of 65, I welcome the CPSC's efforts to reduce injuries and deaths involving consumer products, particularly adult portable bed rails.

Last month, in conjunction with the publication of the Senior Safety Initiative, the CPSC participated in Older Americans Month by partnering with the Administration for Community Living and other participating organizations to promote educational resources for seniors and their families about preventing hazards associated with household products often used by seniors and their caregivers.

As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I know how important it is to protect the well-being of older Americans from unreasonable risks in their retirement years. As our aging population grows exponentially over the coming decades, it is imperative that we support initiatives like the CPSC's to enhance the safety, independence, and well-being of our older Americans.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KAINE. Mr President, during today's session of the Senate, six rollcall votes were taken. I was necessarily absent and missed five of these votes, due to attending funeral services in Richmond for Ray Boone.

While I missed votes on the confirmation of Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts and Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, I did vote to invoke cloture on these two nominees on Monday, June 9, 2014.

I also missed three cloture votes on nominations for the Federal Reserve: Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors. However, I do intend to vote to confirm these three Fed nominees on Thursday, June 12, 2014.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISIT

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the outstanding military service of a group of incredible Coloradans. At a critical time in our Nation's history, these veterans each played a role in defending the world from tyranny, truly earning their reputation as guardians of peace and democracy through their service and sacrifice. Now, thanks to Honor Flight, these combat veterans came to Washington, DC, to visit the national memorials built to honor those who served and those who fell. They have also come to share their experiences with later generations and to pay tribute to those who gave their lives. I am proud to welcome them here, and I join with all Coloradans in thanking them for all they have done for us.

I also want to thank the volunteers from Honor Flight of Southern Colorado who made this trip possible. These volunteers are great Coloradans in their own right, and their mission to bring our veterans to Washington, DC, is truly commendable.

I wish to publicly recognize the veterans who visited our Nation's capital, many seeing for the first time the memorials built as a tribute to their selfless service. Today, I honor these Colorado veterans on their visit to Washington, DC, and I join them in paying tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of liberty.

These veterans from World War II include Charles Barnett, James Hubbard, John Lee, Donald Joiner, John Cotton, Anthon Aragon, Sedley Hall, Fred Radestock, Carl Davidson, Clarence Norris, Gordon Ashwood, Gerald McCann, Charles Tomsick, Timothy Churchill, John Ross, Richard Gottlieb, Gene Noel, Clifford Hibpshman, Eldon Price, Lester McLaughlin, Samuel Stephens, Albert Cordova, and Barlow Westcott.

Our Nation asked a great deal of these individuals—to leave their families to fight in unknown lands and put their lives on the line. Each one of these brave Coloradans bravely answered the call. They served our country with courage, and in return, let us ensure they are shown the honor and appreciation they deserve. Please join me in thanking these Colorado veterans and the volunteers of Honor

Flight of Southern Colorado for their tremendous service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING THE ARKANSAS TORNADO VICTIMS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to offer my thoughts and prayers to the victims of the April 27, 2014, tornadoes that devastated a number of communities in central Arkansas.

The tornadoes that spawned from the storm system that left a trail of destruction across the south took the lives of 16 Arkansans in Pulaski, White and Faulkner Counties.

The Arkansas victims include an Iraq veteran who died while protecting his 5-year-old daughter, two children who had just started school in Vilonia, and an unborn child who died as a result of the injuries to the baby's mother.

While others escaped the tornadoes with their lives, many lost everything else they had. From homes to businesses, entire communities were wiped out leaving many residents homeless and without livelihood.

However, our actions in a time of crisis are a reflection of us as a society and despite the tragic stories we saw many uplifting acts before, during, and after the tornadoes hit. As the storm approached, Christian Gunther acted to save ten disabled veterans from a long-term care facility by making sure they reached safety before the tornado hit. During the storm, MSG Daniel Wassom, gave his life using his body to shield his daughter from a falling beam. And, in the immediate aftermath of the storm, Arkansas's first responders rushed to the hardest hit communities, saving lives in the aftermath of the tornadoes.

During this time where many have to sift through the rubble and rebuild their lives, we are grateful for those who have reached out to their neighbors and provided assistance. Volunteers from all across the State have come to ravaged areas to help. This disaster serves as a testament to the compassionate character of the people of Arkansas. Rebuilding is never easy, but I know that Arkansans do not give up.

I am pleased the President quickly responded to the situation by designating four Arkansas counties as major disaster areas, making Federal funding available to people in these counties impacted by the storm. However, more work remains to be done. I am committed to ensuring that relief comes to the families and communities affected by this disaster.

Again, our thoughts and prayers go out to those who endured the storms, who need to rebuild, and especially to those who have lost relatives and loved ones. I ask that my colleagues continue to keep them in their thoughts and prayers.•

RECOGNIZING THOMAS HOLLAND

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the life and career of Dr. Thomas Holland who has spent the past 22 years finding and identifying the remains of American servicemen. His efforts have helped bring peace and closure to the families of our fallen soldiers.

With over 83,000 American servicemen who have been listed as missing in action, Dr. Holland's vision and insights have helped find and identify the remains of soldiers who would otherwise be unaccounted for and unknown. He has led recovery missions to numerous countries such as North and South Korea, China, Iraq, and Cambodia. Most notably in 1995, Dr. Holland led the classified mission in Iraq to recover the only serviceman missing from the First Gulf War.

Originally from Fort Smith, AR, Dr. Holland received his bachelor's degree in fine art from the University of Missouri-Columbia where he continued his post graduate studies and earned his master's degree and his doctorate degree in anthropology. Currently, Dr. Holland serves on the graduate faculty at the University of Hawaii. As a world renowned expert, he has been published in many journals and has presented papers at numerous national and international meetings. During his tenure at the Central Identification Laboratory and Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, he held positions as an anthropologist, senior anthropologist, and scientific director.

While his academic and professional achievements are outstanding, his most admirable accomplishment has been his great service that honors American prisoners of war and those missing in action. Since 1992, Dr. Holland has diligently performed the solemn task of finding and identifying lost soldiers, sailors, and airmen using the science of human identification.

Dr. Holland has displayed dedication, perseverance, and commitment to excellence. I am grateful for his years of service and efforts devoted to those who fought and died for our freedom.

RECOGNIZING FRANK BROYLES

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a friend to all Arkansans, Frank Broyles, an icon in Arkansas athletics, the former head coach of the Arkansas Razorbacks football team and former Athletic Director who is retiring from the University of Arkansas at the end of June.

This legendary football coach spent his life serving Arkansas and laying the foundation and building the dynamic athletic department at the University of Arkansas. His hard work, dedication and commitment to Arkansas and its athletes is clear. As an offensive tackle for the Razorbacks in the late 1960s, I played under Coach Broyles. He had a great influence on my life and I know that to be true for many other Arkansas athletes.

Coach Broyles' influence extends well beyond Arkansas into college athletics. The Broyles Award was established in 1996 to honor the work of assistant football coaches. Honoring Coach Broyles, the award recognizes his history of producing some of the most successful assistant coaches in college football.

He has been successful on and off the field. After his wife Barbara lost her battle with Alzheimer's, Coach Broyles made it his life's mission to advocate for a cure and educate Americans on caring for loved ones suffering with Alzheimer's. He wrote the Alzheimer's Playbook based on his family's experience caring for Barbara which is a great resource for all caregivers.

Despite retiring as the Arkansas Athletic Director in 2007 he continued his service to Arkansas on the Razorback Foundation. This will truly be the end of an era when he leaves at the end of the month.

The Arkansas Razorbacks are blessed to have the leadership of Coach Broyles in the many roles he assumed for the university. His vision for the Razorbacks is what we recognize today and support today. I am honored to have had the opportunity to play for Coach Broyles and call him a friend and wish him the best of luck in retirement.•

TRIBUTE TO JIM ANDERSON

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to honor Jim Anderson, who has been the president of the Springfield, Missouri, Area Chamber of Commerce since 1988. Later this month, Jim will leave that position to pursue other opportunities. Jim has played a role in nearly every major development that has shaped Springfield over the last 25-plus years. Over that time he has been a great friend and an important advisor on all things Springfield—my hometown and Missouri's third largest city.

Jim Anderson was lured back to Springfield from Jefferson City, MO, to run Springfield's Chamber of Commerce, a role he had already played in Jefferson City for nearly a decade. With his background as teacher and administrator, his quick smile and sharp mind for details, and a wealth of contacts and government know-how, Anderson has been a spirited leader at the Springfield Chamber. His knowledge and experience have helped as he has devoted his efforts to economic development, job creation, civic involvement, and advocacy efforts at both the local and state levels.

Jim Anderson is a leader who knows what it takes to make his community an attractive place for businesses and consumers. From 2001 until 2009 Anderson served on the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission and rose to the chairmanship in 2007 and was vice chairman the following year. During that period Jim became a supporter of infrastructure programs to fix bridges, expand capacities, and grow a safer transportation network to promote economic development. Jim's

keen intellect on economic development issues earned him an appointment in 1993 by Gov. Mel Carnahan to the Missouri Business Council and to the Total Transportation Commission in 1996.

In 2005 Jim's peers honored him with the Springfieldian Award, a recognition given to the person whose contributions leave a lasting mark on Springfield. Jim has certainly left his mark. That same year Anderson was a recipient of the Missourian Award. In 2007 he was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement in Business Award from the Springfield Business Journal. And last year Anderson received the Career Service in Economic Development Award at the Governor's Conference on Economic Development. These awards only scratch the surface of Jim's impact on the region.

Jim has amassed many awards and accolades from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. But Jim is also grounded in his local community—Springfield. He served as chairman of United Way of the Ozarks and president of Urban Districts Alliance. He is a member of the Springfield Rotary Club and has been recognized for his work with the Boy Scouts. Jim is a past chairman of the board of directors of Springfield Innovation, Inc., at the Roy Blunt Jordan Valley Innovation Center. Anderson is an active member of First & Calvary Presbyterian Church.

Jim's contributions to the Springfield area have strengthened the fabric of the community. I know he will be glad to have more time with his wife Janet and their daughters Rachel and Rebecca. I wish him well in his next opportunity and thank him for his years of service in Springfield.●

BENTON COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Benton County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $56 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together has been working to designate Vinton as the site for the Americorps National Civilian Community Corps, NCCC, facility, and securing $2.5 million to create the residential campus. I have also appreciated working with Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired on one of my biggest priorities—eliminating barriers in our society for people with disabilities. Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf, but I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly one-quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Benton County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Benton County has received $600,000 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Benton County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $142,900.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Benton County has received over $14.2 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a Member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Benton County has received more than $25 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Benton County's fire departments have received over $1.9 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Benton County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Benton County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives, and, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

LEE COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Lee County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Lee County worth over $28.8 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $35.3 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together include the terrific work that Keokuk and Fort Madison have done to improve their downtowns through Main Street Iowa, my long standing support work to make sure the Avenue of the Saints construction benefits the area and is funded, and working to improve river navigation on the Mississippi River, in part through funding reconstruction of Lock and Dam 19 at Keokuk.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Southeast Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Lee County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Lee County, I have fought for more than $23 million for the restoration of Lock and Dam 19 as well as overall navigation and environmental improvements on the Mississippi River, as well as more than $118 million for work on the Avenue of the Saints, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities in the region.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Fort Madison and Keokuk to use that money to leverage other investments to jump-start change and renewal. I am so pleased that Lee County has earned $78,500 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Lee County has received more than $4.1 million in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Lee County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $288,457.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Lee County has received over $5.1 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Lee County's fire departments have received over $1.4 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment, and more than $564,187 in Byrne justice assistance grants.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Lee County has recognized this important issue by securing $389,563 for community wellness activities.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf but I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly one quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Lee County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Lee County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Lee County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiative and, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire

from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

REMEMBERING ROBERT MILLER III

● Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I speak in memory of the life of Robert Jackson Miller III, an accomplished architect and a man who, above all else, was a devoted husband and a loving, generous father. Bob passed away on March 10, 2014, at the age of 48, leaving behind a wife and four daughters who loved him dearly.

Bob held within him a brilliant capacity to design buildings that drew out the full potential and imagination of those who entered their doors. Throughout his career—from his early years at Robert A.M. Stern Architects and his role as partner-in-charge at Michael Graves and Associates in New York, to his co-founding of Miller & Wright Architects in New York City—he was a diligent designer who cherished the ability he had to provide unique shared space for individuals across the United States. He often spoke of his proudest work, the St. Coletta School in Washington, DC, a place where children and adults with intellectual disabilities were afforded the opportunity to learn and grow as a community.

Yet all of Bob's architectural accomplishments pale in comparison to the passion that defined his life: the love he felt for his wife Grace and his daughters Eve, Margot, Lily B. and Poppy. To say that Bob was an utterly devoted family man would merely scratch the surface of his complete dedication to the lives of his wife and daughters. If you were to ask Bob, he would prefer nothing in the world more than simply sharing a Friday night at home with his family, watching movies or relaxing on the beach in their company. He was content to spend as much time as he possibly could with them; nothing brought him more joy. If you were ever to go to the Miller household, you would invariably find Bob hard at work teaching the girls new lacrosse techniques, helping them practice for their plays, or helping construct an elaborate Halloween costume. His faithfulness as a father and a husband were characteristic of the kind soul Bob possessed. When he was diagnosed with melanoma, Bob placed even more emphasis on profoundly treasuring each moment he was allowed with Grace, Eve, Margot, Lily B. and Poppy. He never lost sight of the gift he had been given to spend his life with them.

This will be the first Father's Day the girls spend without their father. To lose a valuable, vibrant, compassionate spirit like their father's at such a tender age is an incomprehensible tragedy. There are moments of pain in this life when we can see the sadness of others and desire only to lessen their hurt, knowing full well that our words and our sympathies are insufficient. This is such a moment.

I hope that Grace and the girls understand the bright loveliness their father brought into the world, and will continue to carry that light forward in his absence. The world is a better place for Bob having traveled through it. He is continuing his journey now, but we will remember him here, and his family will remember him for the rest of their lives. His memory will serve as an example of how to love completely, how to dedicate yourself to your family entirely, and how to treasure the moments you are given in the brief time we have.●

SIDNEY, MONTANA

● Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a town in eastern Montana with a story that reflects the American dream. In the 19th century, pioneers settled in Sidney, MT, chasing prosperity along the banks of the Yellowstone River.

Throughout the years Sidney has seen booms in agriculture and energy development, but through it all one thing has remained constant; the people who call Sidney home share the core values of service, honesty, and the willingness to help a neighbor in need.

Today, Sidney, Montana celebrates its 100th anniversary—100 years of ingenuity, 100 years of prosperity, and 100 years of history.

When pioneers first settled in eastern Montana they were not guaranteed prosperity, but they brought with them a strong work ethic. Before Sidney was even incorporated, the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project canal was dug and with their new access to water, the dry land farmers were given a lifeline to irrigate crops and develop the plains. The pioneer farmers were taming an area of the country many thought couldn't be tamed.

Today, agriculture producers from Richland County continue to grow the crops and raise the cattle that feed the world—working the land the same way those before them did.

In the 1970s Sidney went through period of change. The world was now hungry for oil and Sidney, MT, was there to answer that call. Through the decade to follow Sidney boomed with energy through a period of prosperity.

With the recent increase in hydraulic fracturing, Sidney once again is at the center of an unmatched energy boom. With the development of the Bakken Formation, Sidney enters the newest chapter of its story.

Agriculture and energy has affected many families in Sidney, but one thing has remained the same. The people of Sidney remain good neighbors and they continue to stabilize a region that has grown accustomed to change.

I congratulate Sidney for its contributions to our State, our Nation, and the world. We look forward to the next century being as exciting as the last.●

MANAGEMENT EDUCATION ANNIVERSARY

● Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I want to recognize the 100th anniversary of management education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Management education began at MIT in 1914 with the introduction of Course XV, then known as ''Engineering Administration.'' Over the past century, MIT's business program has grown from a single course to a world-class school that provides our Nation's leaders and entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge they need for success, while also producing cutting-edge research.

Today, the MIT Sloan School of Management stands as one of the world leaders in management education. MIT Sloan has jump started the careers of some of our foremost innovators, thinkers and business leaders. From launching successful Massachusetts-based companies like Zipcar and HubSpot to making revolutionary intellectual contributions to the fields of organizational behavior and system dynamics, Sloan alumni have made a huge positive difference in the world. According to a Sloan study, in 2006, there were 25,800 active companies founded by MIT alumni, which combined to employ 3.3 million workers.

MIT's motto is ''mens et manus,'' which translates to ''mind and hand,'' and its school seal displays two men—one with a book, and another with an anvil. This connection between thought and action, between intellectual pursuits and practical applications, has helped define MIT's mission and has made the school the unique institution that it is today. For 100 years, MIT's management education programs have perfectly embodied this spirit.

I am proud to join with the MIT community in recognizing the enduring contributions that a century of management education programs at MIT have given us, and we all look forward to MIT Sloan's leadership in the next century of its work.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13405 OF JUNE 16, 2006, WITH RESPECT TO BELARUS—PM 43

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2014.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions, to commit human rights abuses related to political repression, and to engage in public corruption continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 10, 2014*.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1254. An act to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1679. An act to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

H.R. 2072. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 3211. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction.

H.R. 4228. An act to require the Department of Homeland Security to improve discipline, accountability, and transparency in acquisition program management.

H.R. 4412. An act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 36. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 100. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. SLAUGHTER of New York, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. DEFAZIO of Oregon.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4(b) of the World War I Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 112–272), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the World War I Centennial Commission to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Ms. Monique Seefried of Atlanta, Georgia.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1679. An act to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4228. An act to require the Department of Homeland Security to improve discipline, accountability, and transparency in acquisition program management; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4412. An act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2450. A bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4660. An act 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.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–6039. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Implementation of Tier 1/Tier 2 Framework'' (RIN3052–AC81) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6040. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Cemeteries, Demonstration, Special Event'' (RIN1024–AE01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–6041. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Azerbaijan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6042. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense assigning women to previously closed positions in the Marine Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6043. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Defense Environmental Programs Annual Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6044. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; SOCATA Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0031)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6045. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0864)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6046. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2008–0616)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6047. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2010–1160)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6048. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Eagle Grove, IA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0589)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6049. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Amery, WI'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0591)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6050. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Kuparuk, AK'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0996)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6051. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Dalhart, TX'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0918)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6052. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Albion, NE'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0595)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6053. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (296); Amdt. No. 3590'' (RIN2120–AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6054. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (80); Amdt. No. 3589'' (RIN2120–AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6055. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Agusta Westland S.p.A Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0943)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6056. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D Airspace; St. Paul, MN'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0954)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6057. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Grand Forks, ND'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–201–0135)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6058. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Bois Blanc Island, MI'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0986)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6059. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Blairsville, GA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0731)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6060. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Akutan, AK'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0032)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6061. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Grand Forks, ND'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0806)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6062. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Restricted Areas R–5001A and R–5001B, Fort Dix, NJ'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0260)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6063. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Restricted Areas R–5304C; Camp Lejeune, NC'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0272)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6064. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification and Establishment of Restricted Areas; Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0729)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6065. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implementation of the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation (CALM) Act'' ((MB Docket No. 11–93) (FCC 14–71)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6066. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; North Central United States'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1062)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6067. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of the Philadelphia, PA, Class B Airspace Area'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0922)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6068. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2008–0618)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6069. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2012–1103)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6070. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate previously held by Eurocopter France) Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0306)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6071. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Vulcanair S.p.A. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0602)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6072. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0869)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6073. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0686)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6074. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; PIAGGIO AERO INDUSTRIES S.p.A Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0967)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6075. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; GROB–WERKE Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0092)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6076. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Regulations, Definition of Indian Tribe'' (RIN1024–AD98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–6077. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits'' (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 9, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6078. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Limitations on Guaranteed Benefits; Shutdown and Similar Benefits'' ((RIN1212–AB18) (29 CFR Part 4022)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 9, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6079. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Maximum Civil Money Penalty Amounts; Civil Money Penalty Complaints; Confirmation of Effective Date'' (Docket No. FDA–2014–N–0113) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 9, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6080. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishing a List of Qualifying Pathogens Under the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act'' (Docket No. FDA–2012–N–1037) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 9, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6081. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Federal Agency Drug-Free Workplace Programs''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6082. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6083. A communication from the Inspector General, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6084. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6085. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Transportation's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 2452. An original bill to support early learning.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2451. A bill to support the local decision-making functions of local educational agencies by limiting the authority of the Secretary of Education to issue regulations, rules, grant conditions, and guidance materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2452. An original bill to support early learning; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; placed on the calendar.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2453. A bill to reinstate the 10-year statute of limitations period applicable to collection of amounts paid to Social Security beneficiaries by administrative offset, and prevent recovery of overpayments from individuals under 18 years of age; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2454. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2455. A bill to enhance Social Security benefits for children, divorced spouses, and widows and widowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2456. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide protections for active duty military consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 2457. A bill to require States to establish highway stormwater management programs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WALSH:

S. 2458. A bill to provide student loan forgiveness for American Indian educators teaching in local educational agencies with a high percentage of American Indian students; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2459. A bill to revise counseling requirements for certain borrowers of student loans and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2460. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional disclosures and protections for students and cosigners with respect to student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 822

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 822, a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the

DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2076

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2076, a bill to amend the provisions of title 46, United States Code, related to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and for other purposes.

S. 2182

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2182, a bill to expand and improve care provided to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with mental health disorders or at risk of suicide, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2307

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2307, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 2324

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2324, a bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to prohibit certain waivers and exemptions from emergency preparedness and response and security regulations.

S. 2328

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2328, a bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to preclude law firms and licensed attorneys from the definition of a debt collector when taking certain actions, and for other purposes.

S. 2340

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2340, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary to provide for the use of data from the second preceding tax year to carry out the simplification of applications for the estimation and determination of financial aid eligibility, to increase the income threshold to qualify for zero expected family contribution, and for other purposes.

S. 2359

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2359, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas to health care providers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2363

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2395, a bill to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002.

S. 2430

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2430, a bill to establish the Office of the Special Inspector General for Monitoring the Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2432

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

S. 2435

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2435, a bill to amend section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that any hours worked by Federal firefighters under a qualified trade-of-time arrangement shall be excluded for purposes of determinations relating to overtime pay.

S. 2440

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2440, a bill to expand and extend the program to improve permit coordination by the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes.

S. 2441

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2441, a bill to extend the same Federal benefits to law enforcement officers serving private institutions of higher education and rail carriers that apply to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local government.

S. 2450

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2450, a bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2450, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2451. A bill to support the local decisionmaking functions of local educational agencies by limiting the authority of the Secretary of Education to issue regulations, rules, grant conditions, and guidance materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, with 20 kids and grandkids, I understand the importance and value of quality education. For many years my wife dedicated her life to teaching and mentoring young students, never knowing that in the years to come, two of our children would follow in their mother's footsteps, building classrooms of their own and impacting the lives of so many young people.

Through my family's unique educational experiences, and my time in State and local government, I have learned that with teaching comes the great responsibility of not only working with students, but also parents, employers and many in the local community to ensure our children are well equipped for the road ahead.

Nationwide, 96 percent of local school board members are elected, making those members accountable to the many students, parents and taxpayers they represent. But in recent years, the voice of this local authority is being eroded through inhibitive policies and requirements established by Federal agencies, like the Department of Education.

Education has historically been a State and local issue. By strengthening the process for meaningful input by impacted stakeholders, our local communities can remain active in the education policy decision-making process.

This is why I have introduced the Local School Board Governance and Flexibility Act. With this legislation, the goal is to bring control of our education policy back to where it belongs—with our local communities—giving State and local school boards the necessary flexibility to achieve their educational goals. S. 2451 would wrestle away control from the Department of Education by prohibiting the agency from issuing any regulations, rules, guidance materials, or grant conditions that would result in a conflict of authority with any State or local educational agencies.

This bill would also streamline reporting requirements and would require the Department to provide Congress with an annual report on how the agency's policies impact local school districts. As we have seen, many of the overreaching education policy changes declared by Washington bureaucrats have resulted in negative effects on local schools, not only in terms of policy, but also financially. This bill requires the Department of Education to seek input on costs and assistance needs from State and local school agencies before issuing or implementing regulations, rules, guidance materials, or grant conditions.

The Local School Board Governance and Flexibility Act will give State and local school boards a voice in how the Federal Government issues regulations and guidelines for education. It is time for the Department of Education to be accountable to the parents, teachers, and local elected officials who work first-hand with our Nation's children. Education needs are unique to each community, and in order to give the next generation of Americans a better future and wealth of opportunities, my legislation will give State and local school boards the authority they need to carry out the education goals that are best suited for their children.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2454. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I join today with Senator GRASSLEY to introduce legislation to reauthorize for another 5 years expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act, STELA. This law provides satellite television carriers with the necessary rights to retransmit distant broadcast television programming to households that are otherwise unable to receive local signal over-the-air. If Congress does not act by the end of the year to reauthorize the distant signal license, approximately 1.5 million consumers will lose access to the broadcast television programming that they are currently receiving.

The compulsory copyright license system for satellite television has been successful in promoting competition in the video marketplace. Consumers across the country benefit from having nationwide competitors to cable. Rural consumers, including many in Vermont, rely on a healthy satellite industry that is able to provide service to customers where cable is unable to reach. Congress has helped to facilitate the growth of the satellite industry by providing it with a mechanism to clear the rights to broadcast television content, which remains among the most popular.

Senator GRASSLEY and I are continuing what has always been a bipartisan partnership on satellite television legislation. I worked with Senator HATCH in 1999 to establish a permanent license allowing satellite carriers to retransmit local television content to consumers. That license has had an important impact on competition in the video market. In 2010, I worked with Senator SESSIONS on STELA. Satellite television legislation should never be partisan—it should be an opportunity for Democrats and Republicans to come together and demonstrate to the American people that we can act responsibly and prevent serious disruption to consumers.

The bill we are introducing today is a narrow approach. We are extending the current system for another 5 years, while also making some minor technical corrections to the existing statutes. This bill may not please all stakeholders. Some would like Congress to use this legislation as a vehicle to enact significant changes to the current system that governs the relationship between broadcast television stations and distributors. Others would prefer that Congress not act at all and simply allow this license to expire. My focus is on the consumers who stand to lose access to broadcast television content in the event that Congress is unable to pass a bill by the end of the year. This bill will ensure that they are not left in the dark come December 31.

Our legislation is one half of what the Senate will have to do in order to ensure that 1.5 million consumers are able to maintain the broadcast television signals that they are currently receiving. I look forward to working with Chairman ROCKEFELLER as we work to fit the necessary Copyright and Communications Act provisions of this bill together. I also look forward to working with our counterparts in the House in order to protect the consumers relying on this license.

I urge the Senate to support extending STELA for another 5 years.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2454

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 ''Satellite Television Access Reauthorization Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Chapter 1 of title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 111(d)(3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''clause'' and inserting ''paragraph''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''clause'' and inserting ''paragraph''; and

(2) in section 119—

(A) in subsection (a)(6)(E), in the undesignated matter following clause (iii), by striking ''clause (i)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (B)(i)'';

(B) in subsection (c)(1)(E), by striking ''2014'' and inserting ''2019'';

(C) in subsection (e), by striking ''2014'' and inserting ''2019''; and

(D) in subsection (g)(7)(C), by inserting ''the'' before ''Communications''.

SEC. 3. TERMINATION OF LICENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 119 of title 17, United States Code, as amended in section 2, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) TERMINATION OF LICENSE.—This section shall cease to be effective on December 31, 2019.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 107(a) of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (17 U.S.C. 119 note) is repealed.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2455. A bill to enhance Social Security benefits for children, divorced spouses, and widows and widowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I am pleased to be here today with my friend and colleague, Senator MURRAY, to talk about Social Security. I am going to spend a few moments discussing a bill we are introducing today and then turn it over to Senator MURRAY.

As you know, Social Security is one of the most important programs ever established in this country. After 75 years, Social Security continues to deliver as intended. It is a promise to Americans. The promise is simple. If you work hard all your life and contribute to the system, then Social Security will be there to help make ends meet when you retire or help out the family if a worker dies or is disabled.

Let me be clear. Despite the naysayers, Social Security is not a handout. Social Security benefits are linked directly to the amount that retirees pay into the system through a lifetime of hard work. But times have

changed and we need to make sure the promise of Social Security continues in a meaningful way. That is why Senator MURRAY and I introduced the Retirement and Income Security Act yesterday, which we like to call the RAISE Act. It is a commonsense bill to update, enhance, and protect Social Security in a fiscally responsible way.

When it comes to fairness, this bill is a small but important step for seniors, for older women, and for the families of deceased or disabled workers. It makes sure that the modest benefits of Social Security will go to everyone who deserves them.

The RAISE Act has three major components.

It will, first, improve Social Security benefits for divorced spouses. Under current law, the divorced spouse only gets benefits from a former spouse's earnings if they were married for at least 10 years. Under our bill, eligibility rules would be phased in beginning at 5 years of marriage. The spouse would be entitled to 60 percent of the benefits after 6 years of marriage, 70 percent after 7 years, and so on.

Second, our bill will enhance benefits for widows and widowers. It establishes a new enhanced benefit for widows and widowers where both spouses have retired. An alternative calculation in the bill will use both spouses' benefits—deceased and surviving—rather than just the survivor's benefit. The surviving spouse will receive either their current benefit or the new alternative, whichever is greater.

The third component of the RAISE Act extends eligibility for children of retired, disabled or deceased workers. This provision would apply if the child is still in high school, college or vocational or career school. Under current law, minors and high school students under the age of 19 can get Social Security benefits if their parent is a retired, disabled or deceased worker. Beginning in 2016, this provision extends benefits for full-time students up to the age of 23.

Even though Social Security continues to fully pay for itself and has never added a dime to the deficit, I know some of our colleagues will complain that we cannot afford these small enhancements. That is why our bill asks those Americans who can most afford it to pay their fair share towards the strengthening of the Social Security trust fund.

Beginning in 2015, the RAISE Act would apply a 2-percent payroll tax on annual earnings over $400,000. This means that, for future generations, Social Security will continue to be fully funded. In future years, that threshold will increase under an indexing formula built into the bill.

I am a proud sponsor of this bill with Senator MURRAY. It was an easy decision for me, since my commitment to bolstering Social Security started from day one in the Senate. I have already introduced two other bills on Social Security, and I want to just mention them briefly before I turn it over to Senator MURRAY.

The first bill is my Protecting and Preserving Social Security Act. It would extend the solvency of Social Security by lifting the cap on high-income contributions, which this year is $117,000. Not everyone knows this, but once your annual income hits that threshold, you no longer have to contribute to Social Security for the rest of the calendar year. This seems unfair to me. My bill would lift the cap and phase out what effectively has become a tax loophole. Higher income Americans would pay into Social Security all year long—just like everyone else. This provision would add generations of financial certainty to Social Security.

The bill would also improve benefits for seniors and others by establishing new cost-of-living adjustments based on reality. The formula would better reflect seniors' financial needs by basing the adjustments on items such as prescription drugs and housing, which seniors pay for, instead of electronics and new cars.

My second bill is the Social Security Fairness Act. It would repeal unfair reductions to Social Security benefits for people who have worked part of their career in noncovered jobs—often State or local government or other civil service jobs.

Congress passed the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset in the 1980s because of fears workers who retire under other pensions would be double covered and Social Security could not afford it. But in effect those old laws are punishing people by reducing benefits they rightfully have earned.

Today, these provisions affect more than 2 million people nationwide, and the number is growing. It is not just about getting back what you paid into the system. Removing these penalties would also encourage people willing to work in public service as a second career—such as police officers or teachers. If you are considering such a move today but know your Social Security benefit would be reduced or penalized because you had stepped forward and worked in public service, why would you do it?

Let's remember one thing about all of these bills—the two I introduced earlier and the RAISE Act we are discussing today. Social Security benefits are vitally important but also are very modest. Nationally, they average $13,500 a year for recipients. It is very important to my State. More than 71,000 people in my State of Alaska rely on Social Security. That is roughly 1 out of 10 Alaskans. Social Security lifts tens of thousands of Alaskans out of poverty—the elderly and especially elderly women—and it pumps more than $1 billion into our economy every single year.

No one is getting rich off of Social Security, but it does provide an important foundation, and it does so in a truly American way: You work, you contribute, and you get something back. As long as I am in Congress, I will fight to make sure Social Security is solvent and there for not only this generation but for generations to come.

Senator MURRAY has been a longtime champion for Social Security, and I am proud to stand with her on the floor today. Our RAISE Act is another modest improvement. I hope our colleagues will join us in standing up for this critically important program.

Our Social Security system reflects the best of America: hard work, personal responsibility, human dignity, and caring for our parents, our children, our spouses, and our neighbors and ourselves.

Let's come together in this Chamber and do all we can to make sure Social Security is working for all Americans.

With that, I yield the floor for my colleague, Senator MURRAY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Alaska, Mr. BEGICH, for coming and joining me today because I know he is deeply committed to strengthening and protecting Social Security for current and future seniors. So I was very pleased to join him today in introducing the RAISE Act, which will be a very critical step forward in this effort.

Over the last several decades, middle class families have been increasingly squeezed by rising prices for everything from college tuition to health care. Wages have stayed flat—or even declined for some people—and fewer companies today are offering the kinds of generous pension plans that used to help so many workers stay financially secure.

With all that in mind, it is not surprising that, as families have struggled to stretch their dollars further and further in order to get the bills paid and raise their children, it has become harder and harder to save for retirement.

In fact, a recent study showed that more than a third of today's workers have been unable to save even a dollar for retirement, and even those who do have savings do not have very much. The same study found that 60 percent of respondents had less than $25,000 in total assets and investments, excluding their home.

The numbers are even more pronounced when you look at women in the workforce. Because women, on average, earn less than men, they accumulate less in savings, they receive smaller pensions, and nearly 3 in 10 women over 65 depend only on Social Security for income in their later years.

It is clear that now more than ever Social Security is a lifeline for millions of seniors. So it is especially important for us to make sure this critical system is meeting the needs of today's beneficiaries.

For 75 years our Social Security system has offered millions of seniors and

their families a foundation of financial security. But a lot has changed in those 75 years. Today, most families have two earners. Because Social Security was actually designed for single-earner families, surviving spouses in families where both adults worked may receive less in benefits than they deserve.

Social Security also supports children whose parents retired, became disabled or passed away—but those benefits end at the age 18 or 19. That is right. When young adults should be thinking about continuing their education—a necessity in today's economy—they are worried about having nowhere to go.

At a time when Social Security is an increasingly critical source of support for so many, the RAISE Act would make some commonsense updates to ensure our Social Security system is doing everything possible to help today's seniors and their families.

As the Senator from Alaska described, the RAISE Act would establish a new alternative benefit to make sure widows and widowers from two-earner families do not receive less in survivor benefits than those from single-earner families.

The RAISE Act would enable spouses who were married for less than 10 years to receive spousal and survivor benefits. It would extend benefits for young adults under 23 who are enrolled in school full time.

Crucially, to help ensure Social Security is there for future generations, the RAISE Act would shore up the Social Security trust fund in a fiscally responsible way that protects middle-class families. I believe strengthening and protecting Social Security benefits through the RAISE Act would do an enormous amount of help to our workers and families and their ability to stay financially secure.

But I also want to note there is a much broader challenge. There is not just one solution. We should absolutely make these critical changes to help make sure our Social Security system is meeting the needs of today's workers and families, but we also have to look at ways for workers to save for retirement and encourage companies to offer higher retirement plans.

That is not all. We need to make sure women get equal pay for equal work so they will have the same shot at a secure retirement as their male coworkers.

We do need to invest in education and training and get college costs down so our workers are prepared to compete for high-wage, high-skilled jobs.

We need to continue to fight to strengthen and protect programs such as Medicare which senior women and men rely on.

Democrats care deeply about taking these steps and many others to make sure our workers have the secure, dignified retirement they deserve. There is absolutely no reason why, after working hard all of her life, a retiree should have to worry about how she and her family will make ends meet.

I believe we can do better. I know Senator BEGICH does as well. I urge our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take a close look at our RAISE Act. I hope we can pass it to offer seniors and their families some additional relief. Then I hope we can build on this with other policies to create more opportunity and more financial security for our workers.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 2457. A bill to require States to establish highway stormwater management programs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I come to the floor to discuss the introduction of my latest legislative proposal to better control the harmful and volumes of polluted stormwater that is generated from our Nation's Federal aid highways. Highway stormwater is a growing threat to water quality, aquatic ecosystems and the fish and wildlife that depend on the health of these ecosystems. Moreover, the high volumes and rapid flow of stormwater runoff from highways and roads poses a very serious threat to the condition of our Nation's water and transportation infrastructure as well as personal property particularly in urban and suburban communities.

The Environmental Protection Agency has recognized that pollution from point-sources have been steadily declining since the enactment of the Clean Water Act. Likewise, we have seen reductions in pollution from certain non-point sources like agriculture which are attributable in part to the success of a wide variety of USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Programs and farming innovations in soil conservation and nutrient pollution management.

One non-point source sector where we are unfortunately seeing an increasing impact on water quality is from impervious surface that create rapidly moving high volumes of untreated polluted stormwater that rush off of road surfaces, erode unnatural channels next to and ultimately underneath roadways comprising the integrity of roadway infrastructure, and increases the stress on storm sewer systems shortening the useful life of this infrastructure and ultimately lead to the discharge of untreated pollution that is carried off roadways and into our lakes, rivers, streams, and coastal waters.

Impervious surfaces include most buildings and structures, parking lots and of course the nearly 9 million lane miles of roads across our country. The total coverage of impervious surfaces in an area is usually expressed as a percentage of the total land area.

The coverage increases with rising urbanization. In rural areas, impervious cover may only be 1 percent or 2 percent, however road surfaces comprise 80 percent to 90 percent of a rural area's total impervious surfaces. In residential areas, impervious surface coverage ranges between 10 percent in low-density subdivisions to over 50 percent in more densely developed communities, where the composition of the impervious surface area coverage works out to be 50 percent roads. In dense urban areas, the impervious surface area is often over 90 percent of the total land area, with roads comprising 60 percent to 70 percent of that coverage.

According to EPA, urban impervious cover, not just roads, in the lower 48 adds up to 43,000 square miles—an area roughly the size of Ohio. Continuing development adds another quarter of a million acres each year. Typically two-thirds of the cover is pavement, roads and parking lots, and 1/3 is buildings.

According to the Chesapeake Bay Program, impervious surfaces compose roughly 17 percent of all urban and suburban lands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The greatest concentration of impervious surfaces in the Bay watershed is in the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Areas of DC, Maryland and Virginia. The Virginia Tidewater area, Philadelphia's western suburbs, and Lancaster, PA, are also regions in the watershed where impervious surfaces are greater than 10 percent of the total land area.

Rainfall on hard surfaces like roads and highways has a very destructive and turbulent affect on nearby waterways and infrastructure. For example, the rain events that occur over a week long period at the end of April brought nearly 8 eight inches of rain to the Baltimore-Washington region. The urban runoff from roads in Baltimore caused an embankment above the CSX railroad track along East 26th Street, between St. Paul and Charles Street, to collapse. Fortunately no one was injured though homes had to be evacuated for more than a month, nearly a dozen parked cars were destroyed and moreover movement of freight along CSX railroad was disrupted for more than a week. This event shows just how destructive and disruptive poorly managed stormwater from transportation infrastructure can be.

Some may chalk this up to a freak storm of unusually large proportion. It's true this storm was unusual, but so were the polar vortexes and all of the snow we had in the mid-Atlantic and Southeast, and last year's 3-mile wide tornado in Alabama, and the California drought and wildfires, and baseball sized hail in Nebraska just last week. ''Unusual'' weather seems to becoming a lot more usual. As extreme weather events triggered by our changing climate become more frequent it is imperative that we incorporate better designs into our infrastructure to be better handle these types of events.

Under the Clean Water Act, stormwater is considered a non-point source and there are no requirements that stormwater be collected or treated. The exception being for localities where in order to meet the standards

set in an MS4, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, permit a region may include its transportation infrastructure in its MS4 permit.

However, in most cases stormwater that falls on roadways washes oil, grease, asbestos brake-dust, nitrogen deposits from tailpipe emissions, trash, road salt and de-icing agents, and sediment into nearby waterways. Highway stormwater runoff is most often not treated or adequately managed.

While these organic and inorganic contaminants are legitimate threats to water quality, the greater concern with roadway runoff is the sheer volume and rapid flow rate in which stormwater leaves these hard surfaces and enters our waterways. Flows and volumes that cause roads to collapse in Baltimore.

Roads are designed for stormwater to flow off of the driving surface quickly, for safety reasons. When stormwater rushes off of road surfaces into storm drains it is usually piped straight into the nearest river or stream without removing contaminants, detaining any of the volume, or slowing down the flow. This creates an enormously destructive set of circumstances for our waterways.

Another example of the destructive force that persistent unmitigated and poorly managed highway runoff can have on the condition and safety of highway infrastructure is in Mobile Alabama along Highway 131 in the Joe's Branch Watershed. The Mobile Bay Estuary Program, part of the National Estuaries Program, in coordination with Alabama Department of Transportation is having to spent millions of dollars to reinforce a highway embankment to keep the highway from slipping down a hill and into the Joe's Branch Creek, restore the hydrology of the river, and help protect private property from the dangerous erosion that's been caused by poorly managed stormwater from Highway 131.

The Mobile Bay Estuary Program described the problem this way: ''In the Joe's Branch watershed, on the property of Westminster Village adjacent and parallel to Highway 131, a head cut stream is eroding at an accelerating rate, an ominous condition as ALDOT prepares to undertake improvements to the highway. Identified as a high priority stabilization area in the D'Olive Creek, Tiawasee Creek and Joe's Branch Watershed Management Plan, MBNEP has submitted a funding request to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management on behalf of its partners in Spanish Fort, Daphne, ALDOT and Westminster Village to undertake restoration of the stream using a cutting-edge technology called Regenerative Step Pool Storm Conveyance.''

The four entities involved are spending large amount money to repair a problem caused by stormwater damage that could have been prevented at a lower cost by incorporating better stormwater mitigation facilities into the design of the highway.

These high-volume/high-speed flows also hasten the deterioration of water infrastructure. A 2001 study on the erosive power of urban stormwater flows examined how excessive stormwater volumes and flow rates off of urban surface infrastructure caused more than $1 million in roadway and water infrastructure damage in the Cincinnati metropolitan areas in Ohio and Kentucky in a single year.

While there are serious water quality concerns with not adequately controlling roadway infrastructure runoff, there are serious infrastructure costs, that are ultimately passed on to taxpayers and ratepayers, that can be avoided if transportation authorities do more to control and manage stormwater runoff with the infrastructure assets they manage and build.

The increased incidence of flash flooding events that occur even during seemingly mild and routine storm events is a direct result of the growing percentage of impervious land cover in urban and suburban communities. Replacement of the ''greenscapes'' that are lost to pavement is essential to restoring hydrological balance to our urban and suburban communities and impaired watersheds.

According to USGS: an inch of rain on one square foot of pavement produces 1.87 gallons of stormwater, Scaled up, 1 inch of rain on one acre would produce 27,150 gallons of stormwater. Using FHWA design standards for interstate highway lane and shoulder widths, 12 feet per lane, 10 foot right shoulder, 4 foot left shoulder, 10 miles of a four lane interstate highway generates nearly 2.5 million gallons of polluted stormwater for every inch of rain. To put that into perspective for the Potomac and Anacostia River Watersheds: The Capital Beltway, not including its 48 interchanges, generates nearly 30 million gallons of polluted stormwater for every inch of rain that falls on the 64 mile 8 to 12 lane interstate highway loop. It is volumes of stormwater like that which cause dangerous streambank erosion.

Gillies Creek is an urban waterway located East of Downtown Richmond. It is a tributary of the James River which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Gillies Creek is surrounded by industrial and residential development and also receives stormwater from State highway 33, Interstate 64, US 60, and hundreds of city streets including Stony Run Parkway which directly adjacent to the creek for several miles. The banks and bed of this creek have eroded so badly as urban development around the creek has added more impervious surfaces to the watershed that streambed sheering has created cliffs more than ten feet tall at spots along the creek. Trees supporting the bank continually fall into the creek and nearby roadways and other infrastructure as well as homes and business are at risk. Reducing the impacts of the storms by mitigating the flow and volume of stormwater in this watershed will protect against further erosion and save the cost of repair and eventual replacement of the assets located along this endangered creek.

The aim of this legislation is to improve highway designs to better manage stormwater to avoid the costly damage that poorly managed stormwater causes to infrastructure and nearby streams, rivers and coastal waters.

I held a hearing on this issue in the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee on May 13. I heard many ideas from both the minority and majority witnesses that were invited to present testimony at this hearing. I listened to the concerns of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and I have incorporated provisions into this bill that should alleviate concerns they may have had with previous attempts to better control highway stormwater.

My bill's approach to highway runoff management is one that I hope my colleagues of both parties can support. First of all it puts states in the driver's seat for developing hydrological analysis and implementation of best management practices to control highway runoff. The objective of the legislation is to control and manage flow and volume of stormwater from highways not to treat runoff in order to meet water quality standards. By taking this sort of approach we avoid EPA's involvement in the process. Lastly, States would only need to apply these procedures to new construction on major reconfiguration projects that significantly increases the amount of impervious surface in the project area.

Title 23 of the U.S. Code states: ''transportation should play a significant role in promoting economic growth, improving the environment, and sustaining the quality of life'' through the use of ''context sensitive solutions.'' In 2008, the Government Accountability Office issued a report examining key issues and challenges that needed to be addressed in the next reauthorization of the transportation bill. That report highlighted the clear link between transportation policy and the environment. With 985,139 miles of Federal aid highways stretching from every corner of the US, polluted highway runoff is no small problem facing our Nation's waters. I would urge my colleagues to join me trying to address this problem facing America's waterways and infrastructure.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2457

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 ''Highway Runoff Management Act''.

SEC. 2. FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY RUNOFF MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 330. Federal-aid highway runoff management program

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

''(1) COVERED PROJECT.—The term 'covered project' means a reconstruction, rehabilitation, reconfiguration, renovation, major resurfacing, or new construction project on a Federal-aid highway carried out under this title that results in—

''(A) a 10-percent or greater increase in impervious surface of the aerial extent within the right-of-way of the project limit on a Federal-aid highway or associated facility; or

''(B) an increase of 1 acre or more in impervious surface coverage.

''(2) EROSIVE FORCE.—The term 'erosive force' means the flowrate within a stream or channel in which channel bed or bank material becomes detached, which in most cases is less than or equal to the flowrate produced by the 2-year storm event.

''(3) HIGHWAY RUNOFF.—The term 'highway runoff ', with respect to a Federal-aid highway, associated facility, or management measure retrofit project, means a discharge of peak flow rate or volume of runoff that exceeds flows generated under preproject conditions.

''(4) IMPACTED HYDROLOGY.—The term 'impacted hydrology' means stormwater runoff generated from all areas within the site limits of a covered project.

''(5) MANAGEMENT MEASURE.—The term 'management measure' means a program, structural or nonstructural management practice, operational procedure, or policy on or off the project site that is intended to prevent, reduce, or control highway runoff.

''(b) STATE HIGHWAY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, each State shall—

''(A) develop a process for analyzing the erosive force of highway runoff generated from covered projects; and

''(B) apply management measures to maintain or restore impacted hydrology associated with highway runoff from covered projects.

''(2) INCLUSIONS.—The management measures established under paragraph (1) may include, as the State determines to be appropriate, management measures that—

''(A) minimize the erosive force of highway runoff from a covered project on a channel bed or bank of receiving water by managing highway runoff within the area of the covered project;

''(B) manage impacted hydrology in such a manner that the highway runoff generated by a covered project is below the erosive force flow and volume;

''(C) to the maximum extent practicable, seek to address the impact of the erosive force of hydrologic events that have the potential to create or exacerbate downstream channel erosion, including excess pier and abutment scour at bridges and channel downcutting and bank failure of streams adjacent to highway embankments;

''(D) ensure that the highway runoff from the post-construction condition does not increase the risk of channel erosion relative to the preproject condition; and

''(E) employ simplified approaches to determining the erosive force of highway runoff generated from covered projects, such as a regionalized analysis of streams within a State.

''(c) GUIDANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall publish guidance to assist States in carrying out this section.

''(2) CONTENTS OF GUIDANCE.—The guidance shall include guidelines and technical assistance for the establishment of State management measures that will be used to assist in avoiding, minimizing, and managing highway runoff from covered projects, including guidelines to help States integrate the planning, selection, design, and long-term operation and maintenance of management measures consistent with the design standards in the overall project planning process.

''(3) APPROVAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall—

''(A) review the management measures program of each State; and

''(B) approve such a program, if the program meets the requirements of subsection (b).

''(4) UPDATES.—Not later than 5 years after the date of publication of the guidance under this subsection, and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter—

''(A) the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall update the guidance, as applicable; and

''(B) each State, as applicable, shall update the management measures program of the State in accordance with the updated guidance.

''(d) REPORTING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2)(A), each State shall submit to the Secretary an annual report that describes the activities carried out under the highway stormwater management program of the State, including a description of any reductions of stormwater runoff achieved as a result of covered projects carried out by the State after the date of enactment of this section.

''(2) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER PERMIT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A State shall not be required to submit an annual report described in paragraph (1) if the State—

''(i) is operating Federal-aid highways in the State in a post-construction condition in accordance with a permit issued under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

''(ii) is subject to an annual reporting requirement under such a permit (regardless of whether the permitting authority is a Federal or State agency); and

''(iii) carries out a covered project with respect to a Federal-aid highway in the State described in clause (i).

''(B) TRANSMISSION OF REPORT.—A Federal or State permitting authority that receives an annual report described in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall, on receipt of such a report, transmit a copy of the report to the Secretary.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''330. Federal-aid highway runoff management program.''.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3232. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2432, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans , and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3232. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2432, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE IV—NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN DATA SYSTEM

SEC. 401. NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN DATA SYSTEM.

(a) AMENDMENT TO THE TRUTH IN LENDING ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 128(e) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(12) NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN DATA SYSTEM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each private educational lender shall—

''(i) submit to the Secretary of Education for inclusion in the National Student Loan Data System established under section 485B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092b) information regarding each private education loan made by such lender that will allow for the electronic exchange of data between borrowers of private education loans and the System; and

''(ii) in carrying out clause (i), ensure the privacy of private education loan borrowers.

''(B) INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED.—The information regarding private education loans required under subparagraph (A) to be included in the National Student Loan Data System shall include the following if determined appropriate by the Secretary of Education:

''(i) The total amount and type of each such loan made, including outstanding interest and outstanding principal on such loan.

''(ii) The interest rate of each such loan made.

''(iii) Information regarding the borrower that the Secretary of Education determines is necessary to ensure the electronic exchange of data between borrowers of private education loans and the System.

''(iv) Information, including contact information, regarding the lender that owns the loan.

''(v) Information, including contact information, regarding the servicer that is handling the loan.

''(vi) Information concerning the date of any default on the loan and the collection of the loan, including any information concerning the repayment status of any defaulted loan.

''(vii) Information regarding any deferment or forbearance granted on the loan.

''(viii) The date of the completion of repayment by the borrower of the loan.

''(ix) Any other information determined by the Secretary of Education to be necessary for the operation of the National Student Loan Data System.

''(C) UPDATE.—Each private educational lender shall update the information regarding private education loans required under subparagraph (A) to be included in the National Student Loan Data System on the same schedule as information is updated under the System under section 485B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092b).''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to private education loans that were made for the 2011–2012 academic year or later.

(b) AMENDMENT TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.—Section 485B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) PRIVATE EDUCATION LOANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Student Loan Data System established pursuant to subsection (a) shall contain the information required to be included under section 128(e)(12) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(12)).

''(2) COSIGNER.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall ensure that any cosigner of a private education loan for which information is included in the National Student Loan Data System—

''(A) is able to access the information in such System with respect to such private education loan; and

''(B) does not have access to any information in such System with respect to any loan for which the cosigner has not cosigned.

''(3) PRIVACY.—The Secretary shall ensure that a private educational lender—

''(A) has access to the National Student Loan Data System only to submit information for such System regarding the private education loans of such lender; and

''(B) may not see information in the System regarding the loans of any other lender.

''(j) REPAYMENT OPTIONS.—The Secretary shall establish a functionality within the National Student Loan Data System established pursuant to subsection (a) that enables a student borrower of a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under this title to input information necessary for the estimation of repayment amounts under the various repayment plans available to the borrower of such loan to compare such repayment plans.''.

NOTICE OF HEARING

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has scheduled a hearing entitled, ''Conflicts of Interest, Investor Loss of Confidence, and High Speed Trading in U.S. Stock Markets.'' The Subcommittee hearing will examine conflicts of interest in the U.S. stock markets and the impact of such conflicts on consumer confidence, including in the context of high frequency trading. In particular, the hearing will focus on the conflicts of interest that arise between the obligation of brokers to provide their customers with best execution of their orders to buy or sell securities, and the brokers' receipt of payments from other brokers for order flow and rebates from some trading venues for placing those orders directly. Witnesses will include representatives of stock exchanges, brokerage firms, and institutional investors, as well as a securities market expert. A witness list will be available Friday, June 13, 2014.

The Subcommittee hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at 224–9505.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 10, 2014, at 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 10, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Semi-Annual Report to Congress.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 10, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 10, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, ''A More Efficient and Effective Government: Examining Federal IT Initiatives and the IT Workforce.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITEE ON OVERSIGHT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Oversight of the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 10, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Protecting Taxpayers and Ensuring Accountability: Faster Superfund Cleanups for Healthier Communities.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ray Li, Jacklyn Vasquez, and James Gulbranson, interns with my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff, Janna Wehilani Ahu, during the pendency of the 113th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE ROTUNDA

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 100, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 100) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 100) was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2014

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, we resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2432, the college affordability bill, and the time until 10 a.m. be divided as follows: Senator ALEXANDER controlling up to 15 minutes and the remaining time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees prior to the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, there will be a rollcall vote at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:15 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:09 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 11, 2014, at 9:15 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

ROBERT H. MCCARTHY III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

BURTON C. GLOVER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

CLARENCE E. DINGMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

PAUL A. THOMAS

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 10, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

M. HANNAH LAUCK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA.

LEO T. SOROKIN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS.

RICHARD FRANKLIN BOULWARE II, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PEDRO IRIARTE BORJA

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Pedro Iriarte Borja, the former mayor of the municipality of Chalan Pago-Ordot in Guam. Mayor Borja passed away on May 31, 2014 at the age of 85.

Pedro Iriarte Borja was born on July 1, 1928 to Francisco Borja Borja and Ana Benavente Iriarte Borja. Affectionately known as ''Pete,'' he married Maria Crisostomo Arceo, his wife of 62 years, on July 7, 1951 and together they had seven children.

Pedro Borja was elected mayor of Chalan Pago-Ordot in November of 2004 and served from 2005 to 2009. During his term, Mayor Borja made significant improvements in the community. He oversaw the restoration of the Jose Atoigue Park and erected monuments to honor fallen servicemembers from Chalan Pago-Ordot.

Prior to his term as mayor, Pete Borja attended the Territorial College of Guam, which subsequently became the University of Guam, where he served as Student Body President. He then joined the United States Navy and served in the Korean War. He was honorably discharged in 1956, and subsequently returned to Guam.

After his service in the Navy, Pete worked at the Navy Public Works Center (PWC), Ship Repair Facility (SRF), U.S. Post Office, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In 1967, he joined the Military Sealift Merchant Marines. He retired as a civil servant after 30 years.

Following his civil service, Mayor Borja remained an active member of our community. He was instrumental to developing and supporting activities for senior citizens of Ordot. His advocacy was key to developing the Ordot Community Advancement Association (OCAA) Bingo operations, which helped to raise funds for the San Juan Bautista Catholic Church. He was also the Director of Tita's Day Care, his wife's daycare business.

Mayor Borja served as the President of the Korean War Veterans Association and was recognized as Veteran of the Year in 2011. He was also an active member of the Guam Caregiver's Association and served as the organization's treasurer.

Mayor Borja was a dedicated public servant and leader who worked to help others in our community. I am deeply saddened by his passing, and I join the people of Guam in mourning a great veteran and public servant. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. Though he will be missed, his legacy will live on in the memories of the people of Guam.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, while I extend my appreciation to Chairman LATHAM and Ranking Member PASTOR for their hard work on the FY15 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill, unfortunately, it is another example of the inadequacy of the FY15 budget allocation, and I regretfully rise in opposition.

The bill before us fails to address our nation's growing infrastructure and transportation needs, and the critical housing needs of the most vulnerable among us.

On paper, it looks like the THUD allocation is nearly $1.2 billion higher than last year. But as we've heard, due to a discrepancy in FHA receipt estimates, this bill is actually $1.8 billion lower than the FY 2014 bill.

This means that funding for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance grants falls $20 million short of what is required to prevent vulnerable residents from being evicted from their current housing. It also means federal efforts to end chronic homelessness by 2016 will be stalled, despite evidence homeless assistance grants have contributed to a significant drop in the number of homeless people with serious disabilities and mental illness.

In addition, this bill does nothing to restore the 40,000 Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers eliminated by sequester cuts. Yet the demand for affordable housing is acute. In Los Angeles County alone, at least 490,340 more affordable housing units are needed to ease the housing burden on the county's poorest residents.

Furthermore, this bill cuts funding for the public housing capital fund by $100 million to $1.775 billion, which is a level not seen since the 1980s. These cuts add to the already chronic capital underfunding of deteriorating public housing and the living conditions of the more than one million families who live in public housing.

Unfortunately, the FY15 THUD bill also significantly underfunds critical transportation and infrastructure programs.

The bill cuts the funding for the TIGER Grant Program by 83 percent. That's a $500 million cut to a crucial tool for investing in our nation's deteriorating transportation infrastructure. Without robust funding for Tiger Grants, many critical transportation projects will go unfunded and infrastructure needs will be unmet.

The Federal Transit Authority's Capital Investment Grant Program is cut by $252 million. The program funds projects that create jobs and encourages future growth and sustainability for my district and for cities across the country. Unfortunately these cuts will severely limit investments in new projects and have a detrimental effect on current projects and jobs.

Amtrak's capital grants program is cut by $200 million. This will impact both current and future projects. People rely on Amtrak to commute to work, shop, visit family and friends and travel to other cities. These cuts to critical infrastructure investments will leave my constituents and thousands of transit dependent Americans with limited and unreliable transportation.

Transit research is cut by $28 million, or 65 percent. This is unacceptable and must be fixed. We have now learned that there has been a significant human contribution to climate change, and without more reliable and accessible public transportation, we will never be able to combat this very real and very serious problem which will negatively affect many generations to come.

Mr. Chair, this bill is grossly underfunded in almost every regard. The programs that meet the most critical needs in our country have been stripped to unacceptably low levels. I urge my colleagues to support the people and communities who need these programs the most, and vote no on the FY15 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill.

HONORING AYRIS EVANS GRANBY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, few professions are as rewarding, or demanding, as nursing. Ayris Evans Granby knew that this was her calling from a young age, and has worked diligently to establish herself as one of the leading practitioners in her community.

Ayris, the third of nine children, was born and raised in New York. Her dream finally came true, when she was accepted into the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing. Her passion later led her to teach nursing, including as an instructor and the chair of the Central School of Practical Nursing where she was instrumental in developing a curriculum that trained nurses' aides to be practical nurses. She later became the Assistant Director of Nursing at her alma mater, the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing.

Ayris has also served as the Associate Director of Nursing, Acting Director, before rising to Associate Executive Director for Hospital Administration. As the Associate Executive Director for Hospital Administration, Ayris was responsible for the development and implementation of key programs at Harlem Hospital,

such as credentialing for all professional nurses working in enhanced roles.

Ayris was appointed as a nursing consultant for the New York State Department of Health after she left Harlem Hospital. She served for five years before returning to the private sector as the Director of Nursing for a nursing home. In addition, Ayris has assisted a number of undergraduate students from several colleges and universities secure field placements throughout the years. The Division of Health Care Administration and Planning, Meharry Medical College, Fisk University, Herbert H. Lehman College, Rutgers University, and Livingstone College are among the colleges and governmental agencies that have recognized her for her work. She also won the ''Pierre Toussaint Medallion'' from the New York Archdiocese for Community Service.

Ayris is married to her high school sweetheart, Samuel Granby, Jr., and the pair is blessed with two children. Ayris and Samuel founded Granby's Funeral Service, Inc., together, and as their business grew, so did their commitment to the community. The pair developed a scholarship program to provide financial assistance to college-bound students and those seeking to attend a vocational school.

The Friends of the United Negro College Fund Choir, the Board of Directors of the Crawford Community Day Care Center are among the groups where Ayris so generously and selflessly donates her time. She's also volunteered as a workshop leader and instructor for the Community Service Society of New York, where she advised community residents of their rights and responsibilities in Medicaid health programs.

Ayris Evans Granby is truly a remarkable woman who has done much to enrich the lives of others. It is my sincere wish that her legacy continues to inspires others.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF ROSS CHADWICK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated service of Chief Ross Chadwick of the Denton Fire Department. After more than 40 years in public service, Chief Chadwick's illustrious career is coming to an end.

Ross Chadwick started his 43-year fire service career in southern California, where he rose through the ranks to Fire Chief. After 25 years in California, including 12 as chief, he relocated to Texas and took the helm as Fire Chief in Denton, Texas where he has served for the last 18 years. His commitment to excellence has led him to attain bachelor's degrees in Fire Science and Public Administration, and a Masters in Public Administration. He served as a Firefighter Association President for several years as well as their lead negotiator in collective bargaining.

The Denton Fire Department's fine reputation is a reflection of the dedicated, ethical supervision of Chief Chadwick. His professional legacy will continue to benefit the citizens and businesses of Denton for years to come. I join his colleagues and the community in commending Denton Fire Chief Ross Chadwick for his sterling record and extend best wishes upon his retirement. It is my privilege to represent the City of Denton in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA CORKER FOR HER SERVICE AS THE NEW YORK DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Corker in recognition of her year of service as the New York Department President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Barbara Corker is a truly remarkable person. Barbara has been a member of the Throggs Neck Memorial Unit #1456, Bronx County for 35 years through the eligibility of her late father, George Farrell who served in the United States Army during WWII. Over these many years, she has worked tirelessly on behalf of veterans and their families throughout New York State. She served as First District President three times before serving as Department First, Second and Third Vice President. In 2009, as a member of the Throggs Neck Memorial Unit #1456, she was awarded the National Award for National Security for Best Overall National Security Program activities in the Eastern Division. In 2011, Barbara was awarded the National Award for Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation for Best Overall VA&R Program in the Eastern Division.

This past year, Barbara has focused her energy on Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW). OCW is a program dedicated to meeting the needs of wounded, injured or ill military personnel by providing them with comfort items not usually supplied by the government. Like President Corker's personal motto, OCW was built on Love, Loyalty and Friendship. Under her guidance, Operation Comfort Warriors has raised $50,000 so far, and is expected to continue growing.

Barbara truly exemplifies the American Legion Auxiliary's motto of ''Service, Not Self''. She has served as Department Chairman for Cancer Awareness, Children & Youth and Membership. Barbara is a Certified Leadership Instructor. She has served as a housemother for the Empire Girls State Program and has been an instructor at the American Legion Auxiliary College. Her lifelong commitment to improve and support the lives of others, particularly those who have served our great country, reflects the best of our citizenry.

Mr. Speaker, I join with her family, friends and Auxiliary members in celebrating Barbara Corker for her selfless contributions, leadership and accomplishments serving our veterans.

HONORING MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING NATIONAL PRESIDENT JAN WITHERS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent and the National President of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Jan Withers, who this December will complete a three and a half year term as President of MADD, the Nation's leading voice against drunk driving.

Ms. Withers joined MADD in 1992, after her 15-year-old daughter, Alisa Joy, was killed by an underage drinker who chose to drive after consuming numerous alcoholic beverages. She first volunteered by sharing her story and lobbying for tougher legislation to help stop this preventable violent crime. In Maryland and across the country, Withers actively campaigned to lower the legal limit of blood alcohol content for drivers from 0.10 BAC to 0.08 BAC, and had the privilege to be present in the Oval Office when President Clinton signed that change into law in 2000.

With all of the work she has done at the State and national level, her passion remains providing support for other victims and survivors of this violent crime. Before becoming National President in July 2011, Ms. Withers served as a victim's advocate for MADD Maryland, facilitating a support group for victims and participating in the MADD Maryland Operations Council. She joined the MADD National Board of Directors in 2005 and has served on numerous committees, including Communications and Branding, Public Policy, and Victim Services.

During her tenure as National President, Ms. Withers has traveled the country and walked the halls of Congress speaking to lawmakers about MADD's Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving, supporting the survivors of this violent crime, and preventing underage drinking. In large part because of her efforts, the recent highway reauthorization bill fully codified MADD's campaign by funding DUI crackdowns, creating an ignition interlock incentive grant program, and authorizing the Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety—or DADSS program. We are all hopeful that these three initiatives will lead to a reduction and the eventual elimination of drunk driving in America.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Ms. Withers, thousands of lives have been saved and countless victims of this crime assisted. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of MADD National President Jan Withers.

RECOGNIZING MR. SCOTT McKENZIE

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize a Central Floridian, Mr. Scott McKenzie, an Advanced Placement teacher at East Ridge High School, for being selected as a member of the inaugural class of AP Advocacy Fellows.

The AP Advocacy Fellowship Program engages exceptional AP teachers who ensure that every student is provided access to opportunity. As part of the program, fellows participate in professional development training that focuses on media communication, government relations, and relevant state and federal legislation.

In this global economy, our economic prosperity depends on our ability to train a high-wage, high-tech workforce able to compete with countries around the world. In order to achieve these goals, we must build an education system that not only works to solve today's problems but also focuses on our nation's long term competitiveness.

It is a privilege to recognize Mr. McKenzie for his demonstrated excellence in education, and I thank him for his commitment to the students of Central Florida.

HONORING THE MANOR CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, for 100 years The Manor Club in Pelham Manor, has fostered friendship among women in Pelham and its surrounding communities. Originally formed as a men's social club in 1882, The Manor Club has since become a women's club and is now the oldest one in Westchester County.

When new members enter the front door, they are not welcomed by strangers, but by women who will become their friends.

The spirit of friendship is at the core of The Manor Club's mission. The Manor Club has over 300 members from all walks of life, and prides itself as a place where new friendships are formed, and old ones are renewed.

The Manor Club has hosted many famous artists, writers, political leaders and leading experts in their respective fields to present their work at The Manor Club. Many of the Club's programs are open to the public.

The Manor Club is truly a venue for all. I congratulate them on their 100 years of friendship and service in the Pelham Manor community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Manor Club of Pelham Manor for their legacy of camaraderie, and their many contributions to their members and community.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the House FY15 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill. Today's bill lands with the same sound as its abbreviation . . . THUD.

While I appreciate the hard work of Chairman LATHAM, Ranking Member PASTOR, and their dedicated Appropriations staff, our insufficient 302(b) allocation, made worse with lower than expected FHA and Ginnie Mae receipts, makes this bill's funding levels unacceptable. Simply put, the House bill would make sustaining and improving our nation's infrastructure impossible, a task made more difficult by years and years of deferred maintenance.

On the transportation side, the bill makes deep cuts to the capital programs and job creating infrastructure investments. Amtrak is cut by $200 million despite record ridership; the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program is cut by $252 million, stifling the shovel-ready projects; and the TIGER program is cut by more than 80 percent, despite the program's popularity and success at advancing critical surface transportation projects across the country, with thousands of meritorious proposals still unfunded. And, once again, the bill includes no funding for progress towards a high speed rail system.

Funding for community development and housing safety-net programs is even worse. The bill would cut funding for the HOME program by 30 percent to $700 million, the lowest level in the program's history. The bill would also limit the ability for our country to maintain and improve our nation's public housing stock by funding the Public Housing Capital Fund below the sequester level and would only provide a paltry $25 million for the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, the successor program of Hope VI program and our only comprehensive public housing revitalization program.

Additionally, the bill would force public housing agencies to turn needy families away from shelter by significantly underfunding the administrative fees needed to run the housing voucher program, the best hope of thousands of America's poorest families for safe and decent housing.

Another program that provides housing to vulnerable Americans in my district and many others is the Housing for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program. Despite benefiting from an amendment in the Appropriations Committee, the bill before us today would cut HOPWA by more than $24 million below last year's funding level.

Perhaps the most disappointing and regrettable fact about this bill is that the cuts it imposes could have been avoided, had the Republican leadership understood that we cannot cut our way into fiscal balance. House leaders could reconsider their refusal to talk with the President and work with him to address the real drivers of the deficit—tax expenditures and mandatory spending. Instead, they have again and again slashed critical domestic investments.

We must rid ourselves of unworkable budget caps and sequestration, lifting the drag they represent on our economy and the mockery they make of the appropriations process. The bill before us today is Exhibit A of this travesty, and I urge my colleagues to raise their voices and their votes against it.

REMEMBERING NORTH CAROLINA SENATOR HARRIS BLAKE

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn yesterday of the passing of former North Carolina State Senator Harris Blake. Sen. Blake served the people of Moore, Lee and Harnett Counties with honor and distinction for 10 years before being elected to the position of deputy president pro tempore for his final term in the North Carolina Senate. He was a loyal public servant who served in three different levels of government during his career, including the federal, state and local levels.

Harris was a friend to me during my early years in office, always willing to lend a helping hand or pass along knowledge about the counties we served. He was awarded the Order of the Longleaf Pine by Governor Pat McCrory in 2013—North Carolina's highest honor for those who have gone above and beyond in public service. Sen. Blake was a loving father, an honorable statesman and a trustworthy friend. We were fortunate to have him as a leader of our great state and the voice for Moore, Lee and Harnett Counties.

HONORING ELAINE KATZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, communities are built on the strength of its people and its institutions. Riverdale is such a strong community because of the service and dedication of residents like Elaine Katz. Elaine is a quintessential member of the community who should serve as a role model for us all.

The Riverdale community has enjoyed the gift of Elaine's service since she moved there 15 years ago. Her commitment to the Riverdale Temple is particularly noteworthy. Elaine strives to place the needs of others before her own, and often shies away from the spotlight. Instead, she chooses to be a guiding light for others. Her wisdom and foresight have enriched the Riverdale Temple in numerous ways.

Elaine is a member of the Board of Trustees and Assistant Financial Secretary. She's organized many outreach community programs for the Riverdale Temple, and serves as President of the Women of Reform Judaism.

Elaine's service to the community extends beyond the Bronx borders. She currently serves as the Vice President of the Lower Eastside Service Center in Manhattan, a nonprofit organization that assists New Yorkers with mental health and chemical dependency issues. Elaine's commitment to the Lower Eastside Service Center began over 29 years ago.

She is blessed with four loving grandchildren and three children. Elaine was married for 54 years before her husband passed away.

The Riverdale Temple is honoring Elaine Katz at their Student Sponsorship Breakfast. It

is my pleasure to congratulate her on her recognition at the event. Both the Riverdale community and I appreciate her exemplary service. The Riverdale community and the lives of the people she has touched would not be the same without her selfless devotion.

RECOGNITION OF ''LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE'' WINNER

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Prakviti Mehta, an outstanding student and constituent from Memphis, Tennessee. Miss Mehta was selected as a winner of ''Letters About Literature'' for her composition written in response to Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr.

I commend Miss Mehta for her academic achievement and commitment to high standards. The ''Letters About Literature'' program is a nationwide competition sponsored by the Library of Congress that challenges students in grades 4–12 to write to the author of a poem, book, or speech. The competition is judged by a panel of authors, editors, publishers, librarians, teachers and state officials.

On behalf of Tennessee's 8th Congressional District, I congratulate Miss Mehta and wish her the best of luck for all future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL VICTOR STREIT

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lieutenant Colonel Victor Streit who passed away on April 22, 2014. He was a Blue Diamond Veteran who served 13 years in the United States Marine Corps.

Lt. Col. Streit joined the Marine Corps in 1937 while still in college. In August of 1940 he was commissioned as an officer. He served with the First Marine Division throughout the Pacific during World War II. When he was stationed on Wallis Island he was the only soldier in his unit who could speak French, so he played a vital role in the transfer of power between Vichy and Free French authorities who held the Island. During his service Lt. Col. Streit was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Guantanamo Bay, Fort Benning, and Camp Lejeune and deployed to Wallis Island, Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester, and Peleliu. He retired in 1949 receiving a citation from Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Presidential Unit Citation, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, a WWII Victory Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Upon his retirement from the Corps, he worked as an administrator at Jonas Salk Junior High School in Levittown, New York. His devotion to education led him to help found Wesley College, a secondary school in St. George's Grenada, W.I. In addition to his work in Public Education, he was also extremely involved with the missionary work of his church. He moved to Tequesta, Florida in 1983 and then to Jupiter in 2012 where he had been an active member of the Treasure Coast community as well as the Military Officers Association of America Palm Beach/Martin County Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Mary, four sons, his daughter, and his ten grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Col. Streit dedicated his life to this country. It is truly humbling to recognize his life and his great service to our country here today.

HONORING TEMPLE ISRAEL OF NEW ROCHELLE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, New Rochelle, a community in my Congressional district, celebrates a wonderful blend of cultures. It is a symbol of our nation's cultural past and bright future, a nation that when united we can overcome incredible challenges in the service of others. However, such a future would not be possible without the support of religious institutions which work tirelessly in the service of individuals who experience hardships, and to bridge the divides that sometimes exist within our communities.

Temple Israel of New Rochelle lives by the motto, ''Building our home, together,'' and it is clear the community embodies this notion. Temple Israel is at the forefront of the New Rochelle community. Its proud tradition of unifying many people of various backgrounds, working together to develop an inclusive environment, is their hallmark.

Temple Israel draws upon the faith and leadership of its clergy to support civil rights causes and fundraise for those in need, while also helping families within the community who are experiencing difficulties. Temple Israel is a congregation that relishes the opportunity to serve. Temple Israel of New Rochelle recognizes the broad spectrum of beliefs, ideals and cultures within our community, by celebrating this diversity within the programs it runs to aid our community. The synagogue recognizes a comprehensive understanding of beliefs, customs and traditions within Reform Judaism. This shared approach, of social and religious inclusion, ensures that Temple Israel remains a leader within our municipality, proactively working to unite the community, searching for our commonalities, rather than our differences.

Leading by example is central to Temple Israel, whose early childhood and adult education programs have led the way for the growth and development of our youth, and created further opportunities for members of the community to deepen their understanding of faith. These programs are crucial to providing a safe and secure environment in our communities.

I commend Temple Israel of New Rochelle, Rabbi Scott Weiner, the Temple Israel leadership and its members for their service to the community and legacy of religious inclusion. Together, they are the deserving recipients of Mary Lou McNaney Founder's Award from Hope Community Services.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent the week of May 27, 2014. If I were present, I would have voted on the following: rollcall vote No. 241: H. Res. 599—''yea''; rollcall vote No. 242: H.R. 503—''yea''; rollcall vote No. 243: Pompeo Amendment—''no''; rollcall vote No. 244: McNerney Amendment—''aye''; rollcall vote No. 245: Bridenstine Amendment—''aye''; rollcall vote No. 246: King (IA) Amendment—''no''; rollcall vote No. 247: Cohen Amendment No. 1—''no''; rollcall vote No. 248: Cohen Amendment No. 2—''no''; rollcall vote No. 249: Thompson (CA) Amendment—''aye''; rollcall vote No. 250: Polis Amendment—''no.''

Rollcall vote No. 251: Cicilline Amendment—''aye''; rollcall vote No. 252: Smith (TX) Amendment—''no''; rollcall vote No. 253: Austin Scott Amendment—''no''; rollcall vote No. 254: Moran Amendment—''yes''; rollcall vote No. 255: Blackburn Amendment No. 14—''no''; rollcall vote No. 256: Blackburn Amendment No. 15—''no''; rollcall vote No. 257: Bonamici Amendment—''aye''; rollcall vote No. 258: Rohrabacher Amendment—''aye''; rollcall vote No. 259: Holding Amendment—''no''; rollcall vote No. 260: Massie Amendment—''aye.''

Rollcall vote No. 261: Southerland Amendment—''aye''; rollcall vote No. 262: Ellison Amendment—''aye''; rollcall vote No. 263: Grayson Amendment—''aye''; rollcall vote No. 264: Duffy Amendment—''no''; rollcall vote No. 265: Garrett Amendment—''no''; rollcall vote No. 266: King (IA) Amendment—''no''; rollcall vote No. 267: Meadows Amendment—''no''; rollcall vote No. 268: Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4660—''aye''; rollcall vote No. 269: Final Passage of H.R. 4660—''yea''; rollcall vote No. 270: Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4681—''yea''; rollcall vote No. 271: Passage of H.R. 4681—''aye.''

INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE RESOLUTION DISAGREEING WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RATINGS SYSTEM

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the diversity within our Nation's postsecondary education system is the envy of the world. Colleges and universities across the United States of America are preparing individuals to become doctors, teachers, scientists, counselors, entrepreneurs, artists, musicians, and hundreds of other occupations. While each student chooses a specific field of study, there is no doubt that postsecondary education has many benefits outside of training in a specified field. Institutions are cultivating individuals who are civically engaged and who are going into public service, the military, ministry, non-profit work, or are staying at home to care for family. We cannot measure the benefits associated with these types of life-long lessons, and

yet that is what the Administration's proposed Postsecondary Institutions Ratings System will attempt to do.

On December 17, 2013 the Department of Education solicited in the Federal Register a Request for Information on the Postsecondary Institution Ratings System (PIRS), suggesting that the Federal Government knows better than students and their families what makes a college or university valuable and appropriate for each individual. A rating system, administered by the Federal Government and potentially tied to Federal student aid, will drive postsecondary institutions to standardization, thereby decreasing choice, diversity, and innovation.

I rise today in opposition to this proposal and instead stand in support of students and their families—they know best what will meet their educational needs. The House Resolution I offered today with my friend, Congressman CAPUANO, strongly supports the quality and value of diversity in our higher education system and strongly disagrees with the Administration's proposal to rate our Nation's colleges and universities.

It is true that all taxpayer dollars, including those spent on Federal student aid, should be spent efficiently; however, it is also important that we trust students' free choices and allow for postsecondary institutions to be evaluated, not only by their accreditation and Federal eligibility for federal aid, but also by the free market choices of the students they are competing for.

Our Nation's colleges and universities are as diverse as our students. Historically black colleges, women's colleges, faith-based colleges, research universities, career training schools, work colleges, land grant universities, institutes for the arts, and other specialized institutions all offer a world of opportunity and innovation in postsecondary education. We must protect this American tradition and reject any proposal that will intentionally, or unintentionally, destroy it.

HONORING FRED WILFORD

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Fred Wilford on his retirement after thirty-six years of service to his community as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Sagaponack Common School District in Sagaponack, New York, located in my district. Mr. Wilford has served his community and his country with dedication and distinction, and I am proud to call him a resident of New York's first congressional district. In addition to his long-time work on the school board, he is also a fifty-year veteran of the local volunteer fire department and a veteran of the United States Navy.

First elected to the Sagaponack school board in 1978, Mr. Wilford has served twelve consecutive terms on the board. He is known as a dedicated and caring person who always works for what is best for the school, its students and its teachers. His connection to the school district stretches back to his grandmother, Maebelle Clarke, who taught at the school at the beginning of the Twentieth Century and where she met her future husband, Fred Topping. With its historic little red schoolhouse and one teacher, the Sagaponack school district has one of the few remaining one-room schoolhouses in the country.

Mr. Wilford, who has lived all of his life in Sagaponack except for the four years he served in the Navy, attended the Sagaponack schoolhouse as did his mother, Elmira, his six siblings and his four children. During his tenure on the board, he served as board president, vice president and trustee. His wife Ellen served as a member of the school maintenance support staff, the scholarship committee and the shared decision making committee throughout his tenure on the board.

''I love the job, I love the school, and I love what I do,'' Mr. Wilford, said recently about his plan to retire this month. ''It's been part of my life for so many years that you hate to give it up.''

In addition to his service to the school, Wilford also served for fifty years as a member, past chief and commissioner of the Bridgehampton Fire Department. He worked for the Long Island Lighting Company for over thirty years and currently operates an estate care business.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the school district will miss Fred Wilford's expertise and commitment after he retires. On behalf of New York's first congressional district, I would like to wish him well and thank him for all he has done for our community.

HONORING SAMUEL GRANBY, JR.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, communities are built upon the shared values and good will of neighbors. Samuel Granby, Jr., known to his friends as ''Granby,'' has continually demonstrated his selfless commitment to his community and to enhancing the lives of others. He lives by the principle, ''Service to Mankind.''

Granby was introduced to mortuary science while serving our great nation. He was responsible with transporting deceased personnel to the morgue, even though he had suffered from second and third degree burns as the result of a lightning strike. He received an honorable discharge from the United States Army in 1955, and later graduated from the McAllister School of Embalming.

Granby married his high school sweetheart, Ayris Evans, and the pair is blessed with two children, Ayris and Rev. Lamont. Granby and his wife also have three wonderful grandchildren.

An entrepreneur at heart, Granby dreamed of owning his own funeral service. Granby operated his funeral business out of the Wiley's Funeral Home, before opening Granby's Funeral Service, Inc., on April 27, 1984. Granby's is truly a family enterprise; his wife and children have helped him manage and grow the business.

After 37 years of service, Granby retired as a general supervisor for the United States Postal Service in 1988. He was very popular with his coworkers and would train his staff for other opportunities within the USPS.

Granby has shown the same type of steadfast dedication to his community as he has to his profession. He served as the Chairperson for the Carnegie Hall concert given by the Friends of the United Negro College Fund Choir, which raised money for the United Negro College Fund and helps defray travel costs for the United Negro College Fund Choir.

He is also a member of: Prince Hall, Fidelity Lodge #97 of Free and Accepted Masons; Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Sigma Chapter; 369th Veterans Association, Westchester District; Saint Luke's Episcopal Church's ''Men on a Mission'' and the Williamsbridge Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Granby has been recognized and honored by several organizations for his service. Among his honors, Granby and his wife jointly received the ''Pierre Toussaint Medallion'' from the New York Archdiocese in 2007.

He strongly believes that education is the key to uplifting the community, and in the spirit of his beliefs, Granby's Funeral Service has established a scholarship fund for college-bound students and those seeking to attend vocational school.

Samuel Granby's story illustrates the power of striving for our dreams. I applaud him for his commitment to our nation through his service in the armed forces, to his community and to his family.

RECOGNIZING DR. CORA L.E. CHRISTIAN

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend a medical colleague who has been a trailblazer for over 30 years, in the area of health care in my district of the U.S. Virgin Islands, in the wider Caribbean and in the national arena as well.

Dr. Cora L.E. Christian was the first native female to become a medical doctor in the Virgin Islands and this Saturday, June 14th, she will be honored for a lifetime of dedicated public service, by the Virgin Islands Medical Institute, (VIMI), a group that she founded in 1977 to improve the quality of health care for all territorial residents. Today I join them in paying tribute to a fellow physician, administrator and public servant for her vision, courage and diligence as she worked to make a difference in the lives of the people of our community.

Dr. Christian completed her medical studies at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, her residency in Family Practice at Howard University Medical Center and her Masters in Public Health at Johns Hopkins University.

Upon completion of her studies, she returned to the Virgin Islands to serve the economically depressed area of Frederiksted, St. Croix. There, she served as emergency room physician, and Physician in Charge of the Ingeborg Nesbitt Clinic. In 1977, she became Assistant Commissioner of Health for the Virgin Islands, and served in that capacity for over 15 years, spanning three political administrations. She was in charge of health services on the island of St. Croix as well as having territory wide responsibility for ambulatory

care, chronic diseases, immunization, maternal and child health, public health laboratories, neighborhood health centers, the sexually transmitted disease program, the HIV program and family planning programs. Dr. Cora Christian is credited with the development of the Frederiksted Health Center, both its renovations from the old hospital into a functioning health center and its staffing with qualified professionals. She also spearheaded and managed a regional system of preventive and health promotion activities for the territory.

In 1991, Dr. Cora Christian became the Medical Director of HOVENSA, one of the largest oil refineries in the Western Hemisphere located on St. Croix and served as the Chief Medical Consultant until its closure in 2012. She is board certified in forensic medicine and is President of the V.I. Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. She has been President, Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Virgin Islands Medical Society, past Public Relations Chair of Project Impact—St. Croix, Board Member of the St. Croix chapter of the American Cancer Society and Board Member of the Interfaith Coalition. Dr. Christian chaired the Foundation of the University of the Virgin Islands for 10 years, and is currently still a Board Member. Dr. Christian continues to lead the Virgin Islands Medical Institute, which brings over $3 million to the territory with each contract cycle.

On the national level, Dr. Christian has served as Vice-Speaker and member of the Board of Directors for the American Health Quality Association, the national quality improvement organization. She was consultant to the NY/VI AIDS Education and Training Center and was past Chair of the by-laws committee and member of the Commission on Government Advocacy for the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). She is delegate to the Congress of Delegates of AAFP and Sergeant of Arms for the Congress. In 2013, she received the AAFP Humanitarian Award for outstanding community service. From 2004 to 2010, she served on the National AARP Board overseeing over 36 million members. She was a member of the Health Insurance Trust and numerous committees of the AARP National Board.

Dr. Christian has also served as President of the Caribbean Studies Association, an association of scholars from across the Caribbean, Latin America, the United States, Canada and Europe that studies Caribbean issues. She is well published and a frequent presenter and public speaker.

Dr. Christian has been honored as the Virgin Islands Physician of the Year in 2003, the VIMI Physician for Community Service in 1997, and Best Doctor in American in 1999. She is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Dr. Christian is married to Dr. Simon B. Jones-Hendrickson, Ambassador from St. Kitts & Nevis Federation to CARICOM and Latin America and she has two children, Nesha, a practicing attorney and Marcus, a biologist and entrepreneur.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask the 113th Congress to join me in congratulating Dr. Christian for her tireless work on behalf of the health and well being of the people of the Virgin Islands.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT RECIPIENTS

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate five young men from Dyersburg, Tennessee: Alan Cecil, Daniel Clegg, Peyton Hickman, James D. Johnson III, and Hunter Webster who have achieved the Eagle Scout award, a Boy Scout's highest honor. This recognition is well deserved and represents these young men's commitment to public service.

In order to become an Eagle Scout, each young man had to earn more than twenty-one merit badges as well as serve their fellow troops in a variety of leadership roles. They also had to develop and plan an Eagle Scout project to benefit their local communities.

Achieving the status of Eagle Scout is a huge accomplishment, and I commend these gentlemen for being positive role models to young people across our great state and the nation through their commitment to community service.

Once again, congratulations to these five young men for their outstanding accomplishment. I am very proud of them all and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING JOHN MUSTO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, education is the bedrock of our society. Education teaches our children to dream and allows them to achieve their ambitions. Teachers are thus one of our most valuable assets.

Albert Einstein once noted that, ''it is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.'' Their passion, drive and dedication to their students is inspirational. We entrust them with the responsibility of shaping our leaders, which is why today I must commend one such individual, John Musto.

John is the Assistant Principal for Student Affairs at St. Raymond's High School for Boys. He began his 23-year tenure there as a history teacher and later became Chairman of the department, before becoming an assistant principal.

John is driven by a desire to give back to the community that has afforded him such opportunity and fond memories. He was instilled with the values of service and volunteerism by his father and the deep respect he fostered toward volunteers within Morris Park Community Association, who patrolled the neighborhood to ensure the community was a safe place to grow up. John has continued to demonstrate this sense of commitment through his volunteer service as a basketball coach at St. Francis Xavier for the past three decades.

Along with his wife Liz, John is the proud father of three daughters: Sabrina, Gabriella and Olizia. His family undoubtedly shares in his pride in our community and for his life of commitment to service. Much of what is accomplished within our community by devoted individuals is also a reflection of the strong support they receive from their families.

Mr. Speaker, teaching is not a job, it is a vocation. I join with the Morris Park Community Association in honoring John at their 40th Annual Dinner Dance. I wish John Musto every success in the future, as he continues to work to shape the lives of our nation's youth into tomorrow's leaders.

THE OCCASION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND DOCTOR STEVE BLAND JR. AS PASTOR OF LIBERTY TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Dr. Steve Bland Jr. on the occasion of his Tenth Anniversary as the Senior Pastor of the congregation of Liberty Temple Baptist Church in Detroit, MI.

As the son of the late Reverend Steve Bland Sr., who was pastor to Bethesda Baptist Church, Dr. Bland grew up immersed in the teachings of Christ. It is hardly surprising that, like his father, Dr. Bland would heed the call and desire to serve his community. Dr. Bland entered the ministry full-time after working at a Kansas City accounting firm in the early 1980's. He is also the former Minister of Music, Youth Pastor and Assistant Pastor to the late Rev. Dr. Mac Charles Jones at the St. Stephen Baptist Church of Kansas City, MO. After faithfully serving for over 14 years in Rockford, Illinois as Pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, Dr. Bland was called to serve the congregation at Liberty Temple Baptist Church.

Under his leadership, the congregation at Liberty Temple has flourished with an increase of well over 900 members in a brief time. During his 10 years as Senior Pastor, Dr. Bland has brought a great sense of spiritual revitalization and excitement to Liberty Temple Baptist Church and the city of Detroit. Dr. Bland is a dynamic leader who offers a vibrant worship experience, inspirational teaching, and uplifting preaching, while meeting the holistic needs of the church, his family, and surrounding community.

As a Miles Jones Fellow and doctoral graduate of the Samuel Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, Dr. Bland's intellect and achievements have been sought out leading to appointments on several boards and leadership positions in the BM&E State Convention, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Michigan District Baptist Association, the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit & Vicinity, the Ministers Council of the Michigan Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. of Detroit, Michigan and the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

In every way possible, Dr. Bland finds avenues through which he can further God's kingdom and genuinely pursues them. Dr. Bland's grand efforts have been strengthened by his wife, Phyllis, and his three children, Steven, Brandon, and Sydnie.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the profound impact that

Reverend Dr. Steve Bland Jr. has made on the congregation of Liberty Temple Baptist Church as its pastor for the last ten years and the larger impact he has made on the communities around him. I wish Dr. Bland, his family, and the congregants of Liberty Temple many more blessed years of spiritual fellowship.

HONORING THE OPENING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY PATRIOTS PROJECT

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the opening of the Ulster County Patriots Project in Kingston, New York. The Patriots Project, which will open on July 2, addresses an issue that plagues many of our veterans, including many in my district—homelessness. Once open, the Patriots Project will provide eight clean and safe rooms, two of which will be handicap-accessible, for Ulster County homeless veterans as they work through the many challenges confronting our veteran population.

I also rise today to thank Ulster County Executive Mike Hein and all the leaders from across Ulster County who made the Patriots Project a reality. I was honored to join with leaders from across the region who wrote letters of support and leveraged a variety of governmental programs to fund the program. Moreover, Mike, his team, and volunteers from across my district donated their time, resources, and expertise to ensure that this noble project came to fruition. On behalf of the people of New York's 19th Congressional District, I thank them.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREERS OF ALLAN AND JILL ROSS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the noteworthy careers of Allan and Jill Ross, of the Quad Cities.

The Ross' married in 1973 and both joined the U.S. Army that year. Allan, a veteran of 20 years, retired in 1994 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He served domestically and abroad, ending his military service at the Rock Island Arsenal. Following his career in the Army, Allan worked in commercial real estate, investments, and internet sales, and he has been serving as the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities since 2002, an organization that addresses the needs of its community in a wide range of issues.

Jill, served as an Army Personnel Specialist and Team Leader, and rose to the rank of Sergeant. She later worked for the Army library system in Germany, managing three libraries. Following her time in the military, Jill manages and owns Jill Ross Vintage Clothes, which she has done successfully since 1983. Jill has also been a very active member of the Jewish community, which include volunteer work for the Tri-City Jewish Center, the Beth Israel Sisterhood and the Jewish Federation.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Ross' for their years of dedicated service to our country and community. Allan Ross and his wife Jill have been, and continue to be, invaluable members of the community, and I am again delighted to recognize their achievements and pleased to know that people like them are contributing to our society.

EASTCHESTER 350TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, our young nation includes many communities that are older than America itself. I am pleased to recognize one of those communities, the Town of Eastchester, as it celebrates its 350th Anniversary.

Eastchester is truly a town steeped in history. A number of America's famed daughters and sons have a connection to Eastchester, including Anne Hutchinson, Aaron Burr, and John Adams.

Eastchester's origins can be traced back to Thomas Pell, who sold his land to original ten farm families migrated from Fairfield, Connecticut, in 1664. The Pell Deed, signed on June 24, of that year, verifies the sale and serves as proof of the Town's founding.

The Eastchester Covenant, signed in 1665, outlines a civil code of conduct agreed upon by the first families. The spirit of their Covenant lives today; neighbors help neighbors, friends show their concern for others, and volunteers work together to ensure the community continues to thrive.

Governor Richard Nicolls, acting as the colonial agent on behalf of James, Duke of York, signed the Royal Patent, or Land Grant, of 1666, which established the initial town boundaries. Three of the original ten farmers—Philip Pinckney, James Everts and William Haiden—were named in this document.

Two other documents—the Indian Deed of 1700 and the Long Reach Patent of 1708—enabled the fledgling community to continue to grow. The Long Reach Patent, in particular, transferred over 3,000 acres of land to Eastchester from Queen Anne. Much of that land is included within the borders of modern Eastchester.

Eastchester is now a thriving, suburban community nestled within Westchester County. Residents of Eastchester, along with the incorporated Villages of Tuckahoe and Bronxville, are celebrating the Town's founding with a year-long celebration honoring Eastchester's storied past.

It is my hope that residents will commemorate the Town of Eastchester's 350 year anniversary with much friendship and joy, as they work together to build an even stronger future.

It has been a pleasure to represent this historic Town in Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 MICHIGAN POLICE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of the Michigan law enforcement community who were recently awarded the 2014 Police Officers of the Year award by the Police Officer Association of Michigan (POAM), which represents over 14,000 frontline officers across the state. As part of the 47th annual POAM convention that was held on May 22, 2014 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, five officers were recognized for recent heroic actions and dedication to their work.

I would first like to honor Southfield Police Officer Nicholas Smiscik who, on New Year's Day 2013, bravely pursued an armed carjacker who shot and injured two people in Redford Township.

Officer Smiscik subdued the dangerous suspect and placed him under arrest. During his acceptance speech at the POAM convention Officer Smiscik stated that he was simply "doing his job." I want to thank him for his service and for risking his life to keep our communities safe. I am honored to have him as a constituent in my District.

I would also like to recognize Crawford County Officers Matthew Swope and Michael Jacobi, who were honored as Police Officers of the Year for putting their lives on the line while apprehending a dangerous individual who was deemed a proven threat to the community.

In addition, Grand Blanc Officers Andrea Carlson and Lindsay Witthuhn were honored with the 2014 Police Officers of the Year award for acting with great bravery and discipline when responding to a domestic disturbance and preventing a far more tragic outcome.

Mr. Speaker, as a long-time friend, supporter and ally of the Michigan law enforcement community, I am proud to recognize the commitment of Michigan's police officers and the sacrifices they and their families make each and every day. Like Officer Smiscik, they will say they are just doing their job, but their dedication and bravery in the line of duty make our communities safe and enjoyable places to live.

It is a great honor to represent these heroic men and women and I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating all five Michigan officers on receiving this award.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECALOGUE SOCIETY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate the Decalogue Society of Lawyers, which this year celebrates its 80th anniversary.

Founded in 1934 to fight anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination and intolerance,

the Decalogue Society has a proud record of achievement. It is the oldest Jewish Bar Association in the United States, representing the values and concerns of the Jewish community while working to protect the rights and privileges of all Americans. The Decalogue Society strives to promote justice in society and to advance and improve the law, the administration of justice, and the legal profession.

All of us are proud to be a nation of laws, and we strive to ensure that "equal justice under the law" is not just a motto but a reality. The Decalogue Society recognizes that lawyers play an essential role in maintaining a free society committed to equal justice. It works to ensure that we as a nation understand and value the role of the legal profession in reaching that goal, even as its lawyers participate in social action and cooperate in diverse movements for the public welfare.

The Decalogue Society maintains vigilance against public and private practices which are anti-social, discriminatory, anti-Semitic or oppressive and joins with other groups and minorities to protect legal rights and privileges. The Decalogue Society's active Social Action Committee has organized volunteers for "Mitzvah" projects at soup kitchens, food pantries, and retirement residences. With a strong commitment to public welfare and human rights, the Decalogue Society, in conjunction with other minority bar associations, has raised awareness about special situations in the courts and in the workplace that present challenges for people of various faiths.

Access to competent legal representation is an essential ingredient for making sure that the laws of the land are just and fairly enforced. The Decalogue Society provides free continuing legal education to assist members and non-members alike in becoming better informed lawyers. It extends critical educational and financial support to those lawyers who work to end discrimination and represent the rights of the most vulnerable among us. The Decalogue Foundation was created in the 1960s to provide scholarships for deserving law students. It has established nine endowment funds at the Hebrew University Law School and six Chicago-area law schools. It also has a mentorship program for law students and young lawyers to help them network, hone their interviewing skills, and find jobs.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Decalogue Society for its commitment to the ideals of religious freedom and racial tolerance and for its efforts to encourage and assist those women and men who want to pursue future legal careers in public service. Chicago, Illinois and the United States all benefit from its activities and from its commitment to the principles of law and equality.

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS ENTERING OUR ARMED FORCES

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor high school graduates from the Broome/Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services area who are entering the U.S. Armed Forces. These young men and women have made an admirable decision to defend our country. I join the Conklin Kiwanis Club and Our Community Salutes of Broome County, New York in honoring them.

The Conklin Kiwanis Club and Our Community Salutes of Broome County, New York will hold a special celebration to honor these graduating high school seniors. "The First to Say Thank You" event will take place on Tuesday, June 10th at Windsor Central High School in Windsor, New York.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask you join me in honoring the following students entering the New York State Army National Guard: Ms. Lynn Lyons, Candor; Mr. Victor Beecher, Whitney Point; Mr. Ryan Burch, Susquehanna Valley; Mr. Jordan Little, Binghamton.

Honoring the students entering the U.S. Air Force: Ms. Alisha Hubbard, Afton; Ms. Alexis Delgado, Binghamton; Mr. Zachary Hunt, Harpursville; Mr. John Armitage, Union-Endicott.

Honoring the students entering the U.S. Army: Mr. Gerald Hastings, Binghamton; Mr. Joshua Williams, Chenango Valley; Ms. Sarah Carpinelli, Owego-Apalachin; Mr. Kristofer Colley, Susquehanna Valley; Ms. Leah Fuller, Union-Endicott; Mr. Trevor Hampton, Windsor.

Honoring the students entering the U.S. Marines: Mr. Dylon Chisolm, Binghamton; Mr. Brandon Davis, Binghamton; Mr. David Contento, Cortland; Mr. Scott Gregory, Harpursville; Mr. Jacob Norton, Homer; Mr. Brandon Miller, Homer; Ms. Kayla Lainhart, Johnson City; Mr. Jackson Beukema, Maine-Endwell; Mr. Timothy Lasher, Maine-Endwell; Mr. Gavin Gates, Marathon; Mr. Brett Kunze, Newark Valley; Ms. Victoria Young, Owego-Apalachin; Mr. Damien Travis, Tioga; Mr. Troy Harding, Vestal; Mr. Nicholes Clark, Whitney Point; Mr. Brendan Smith, Windsor; Mr. Vincent Mathers, Windsor; Mr. Austin Orshal, Windsor; Ms. Helen Kilbury, Windsor; Mr. Trevor Hawk, Windsor; Mr. Noah Jones, Windsor.

Honoring the students entering the U.S. Navy: Mr. Logan Dietzman, Harpursville; Mr. Christian Moretz, Harpursville; Mr. Benjamine Shultis, Homer; Mr. Brett Rozelle, Maine-Endwell; Ms. Heather Carpinelli, Owego-Apalachin; Mr. Nathan Garris, Union-Endicott; Mr. Brandon Piech, Whitney Point.

HONORING U.S. SERVICE ACADEMY BOUND STUDENTS—CLASS OF 2018

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a tremendous honor to rise today to recognize the 24 young men and women of the Third District of Texas who have been nominated and appointed to the prestigious United States Service Academies. These brave students will commit to diligently study and rigorously train to become our nation's defenders and protectors. North Texas is home to some of our nation's best and brightest students and I look forward to their future successes.

Throughout high school, these individuals have devoted their time to both athletic and educational ventures, while contributing to their communities. They have excelled both in and out of the classroom. Bottom line is they are the cream of the crop. I have no doubt they will continue this level of excellence as they protect and preserve the freedoms we all hold dear. It is with great pride that I look at these young men and women. It is people like them who give me great hope that our nation's best days are ahead.

I humbly take this opportunity to challenge these exemplary students to uphold the standard of honor, sacrifice, duty, and courage that have been displayed time and time again by our troops and veterans. These students will receive a world-class education and the finest military training available. I'm confident that they are ready to join the premier military force of the world.

May we keep these young students and their families in our hearts and lift them up in prayer for their commitment to America and the sacrifices they are willing to make for our citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and celebrating these individuals as they embark on a lifetime of service. God bless you and God bless America. I salute them.

The name and high school of each student follows:

THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES—CLASS OF 2018

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

Andre Bergstein, Plano East Senior High School
Blake William Box, Plano West Senior High School
Taylor Chambers, Plano Senior High School
Timothy Johnson, McKinney Boyd High School
Jonathan Lara, Plano Senior High School
Kenneth Nead, Centennial High School
*Jesse Palmer, Plano West Senior High School

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Natasha Blaskovich, McKinney North High School
Collin Charles, Heritage High School
Brock Crawford, Legacy Christian Academy
Julie Hodges, Allen High School
Erin Hoppe, McKinney High School
Curtis Ladd, McKinney Boyd High School
Jamie Lewis, Plano West Senior High School
Drew Morgan, Pecan Orchard Academy
Samuel Schell, Plano West Senior High School
*John Carver, Wakeland High School
*Emily Krupka, Plano West Senior High School

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

Brock Dudley, Plano West Senior High School
Jessica Martinez, Ursuline Academy of Dallas
Simic Tuan, Plano East Senior High School
Christopher Turner, Liberty High School
*Connor Doyle, McKinney Christian Academy

U.S. MERCHANT MARINE

Clayton Foster, Canterberry Episcopal School

*Denotes acceptance to one of the academy preparatory schools

HONORING JOSEPH BENARDO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, far too many of our young men and women in the armed services have witnessed the horrors of war. So noble is the sacrifice they have made while serving our country in uniform. Patriots like Joseph Benardo proudly served, so that others would not have to.

Joe was just 22 years old when he was sent to fight in Europe. A first-generation American, he felt compelled to defend his homeland and to fight for the freedom of people everywhere.

Joe was in the first wave of troops who stormed Omaha Beach in the historic invasion on June 6, 1944. He and two other soldiers were hit by a mortar; Joe was severely wounded during the invasion. A medic found Joe and whisked him to a military hospital, where he remained until the war's end.

A very strong history of service runs within the Benardo family. Joe, the oldest of Samuel and Alegra's three children, is a Purple Heart recipient. His brother Jack won a Bronze Star, and the youngest brother Leo served stateside during the Korean War. Ian, Joe's only grandchild, served in the Israeli army.

Joe is equally committed to his country as he is to his family, for he understands both are the very foundations of our society.

A Bronx boy at heart, Joe never left his hometown, save for his service abroad. He and his brothers lived in close proximity to each other, so that their bond would remain strong. Joe and his late wife Lillian raised two sons, Steven and Sheldon, who still call the Bronx home. Like their mother, Steve and Sheldon chose to serve our country by educating Bronx youth.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Omaha Beach invasion, a day that helped alter the course of history. We owe our lives, liberty, and freedom to those who have served honorably in the armed forces. It is a debt that we, as a nation, can never fully repay.

Joseph Benardo has much to be proud of when he celebrates his 95th birthday in September. He has created an enduring legacy of valor, service, and sacrifice that can be felt by the lives of whom he has touched.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF NEWTOWN COMMEMORATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the centennial celebration of Sarasota's African American community of Newtown.

Since its initial development in 1914, Newtown has experienced tremendous challenges and historic triumphs.

In the early 1900s, African Americans were recruited to provide an adequate workforce during Sarasota's economic boom. Many of them moved into the Newtown community.

In its early years, Newtown flourished, despite segregation, with several successful small businesses, schools and churches.

In 1961, four years after the U.S. Supreme Court's Brown vs. Board of Education Court decision that declared laws establishing separate public schools for black and white students unconstitutional, the NAACP filed a desegregation lawsuit in federal court. And in 1962, the first African American students enrolled in what had been all-white schools.

Twenty years later, the NAACP successfully challenged Sarasota's system of local representation, alleging it prevented the election of blacks to city government, and in 1985 Fred Atkins became the first African American to serve on the city commission.

I appreciate this opportunity to help celebrate the rich heritage of Newtown.

RECOGNIZING POLICE DETECTIVE EDWARD T. DAVIES

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, after 29 years of honorable service, Police Detective Edward T. Davies of Perkasie Borough will be retiring from the Montgomery Township Police Department on July 31, 2014. During his career, he served in several leadership capacities and has received many commendations for his professional service. He is known as a keen investigator, a court-qualified fingerprint expert, and a hostage negotiator. Detective Davies has served the Montgomery Township community with distinction, receiving sixteen commendations and numerous letters of appreciation from township residents and neighboring law enforcement agencies. In 1996, he was honored with Officer of the Year by the North Penn Chamber of Commerce. We extend our congratulations, as we wish him a happy and well-deserved retirement. Because we are proud of dedicated police officers, who, each day, are on the front lines of public safety, we offer Detective Edward T. Davies our gratitude for a job well done, knowing he has set an example for others to follow.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN STEM BOOSTER ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, together, women and minorities comprise 2/3 of the entire United States workforce. Women today make up half of the current workforce, yet they still hold less than a quarter of all Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) jobs. Minority populations including African-American, Hispanic, and Asian populations make up only 28 percent of the STEM workforce.

Between 2010 and 2020, STEM career fields are expected to grow by 8.5 million jobs. These jobs pay 35 more percent than jobs in other fields. Furthermore, there is a great demand for workers with scientific, technological, engineering, and mathematics-based skills. STEM-educated graduates are more likely to find jobs in the manufacturing sector, the industry most likely to boost our economy and increase competition.

Background in a STEM education is essential to the many jobs that are opening in the manufacturing industry. America's manufacturing sector has led our economic recovery and will help the United States remain competitive in economic competition with emerging economies. However, in order to return to prerecession level, the manufacturing sector must add 1.7 million jobs. Women and minorities engaged in STEM training have greater opportunity to contribute to the manufacturing sector and boost our global economy.

That is why I'm introducing the House version of S. 288, the Women and Minorities in STEM Booster Act of 2014. This bill will authorize competitive grant programs for three years through the National Science Foundation. The grants will go to online workshops, mentoring programs, internships, and outreach programs to engage women and minorities in STEM university departments, educational partnerships, and non-profit organizations to encourage the participation of women and minorities in STEM.

America must invest in the potential of our entire workforce in order for our manufacturing sector to expand and our global competitiveness rise. Opportunities in STEM education will empower historically underrepresented groups who will help boost our economy so that it reaches its full capacity. I urge my colleagues to support the availability of STEM opportunities for all students in the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE ADDITION OF THE 2015 VIKING VI SIDE BY SIDE PRODUCTION OF YAMAHA MOTORS MANUFACTURING PLANT

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to recognize addition of the 2015 Viking VI Side-By-Side production at Yamaha Motors Manufacturing plant in Newnan, Georgia. This is a momentous occasion for Yamaha Motors and for Georgia, as Newnan is home to the Yamaha Motor Manufacturing Corporation facility.

Since 1986, Yamaha Motors has helped to grow Georgia's economy with quality manufacturing, more jobs, and a deep commitment to improving our community. Their production keeps over 1,350 Georgians employed and are expected to add over 300 additional jobs over the next few years. Yamaha Motor Manufacturing Corporation's continued success led to a $250 million investment over the last thirteen years, making Newnan, Georgia Yamaha's worldwide hub for ATV/SxS production and distribution.

Yamaha's achievements showcase how great Georgia is for manufacturing and business, and I thank them for their commitment to improving our district and state's economy. I am honored that the Yamaha Motor Manufacturing Corporation calls Georgia's Third District home and look forward to sharing many more milestones with them in the future.

HONORING THE GRAND OPENING OF PRESTONWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY NORTH

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Prestonwood Christian Academy (PCA) on the grand opening of their North campus. PCA, one of the strongest Christian education programs in the country, provides students with lessons that extend far beyond the classroom. Their level of commitment to excellence in academics, athletics and arts coupled with lifelong teachings of biblical faith contributes to a brighter America and stronger future for our youth.

Larry Taylor's, Head of School, vision and promise for our youth is precisely what students need to help them succeed. In a message to the students, parents and friends of PCA—he wrote:

If your vision is for a year, plant wheat.
If your vision is for ten years, plant trees.
If your vision is for a lifetime, plant people.

I couldn't agree more. We must invest in people. A Christian education not only empowers our next generation of leaders to work hard, persevere, and reach their fullest potential but live a life according to God's will. It produces students who are strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families and communities. I am pleased to see PCA grow and have the opportunity to reach children and parents in more communities including Prosper, Celina, North Frisco, and McKinney.

As classes begin for the first time, I pray for the continued growth of the PCA community, the new principal Mrs. Donna Gilson Leadford, and for discernment in hiring godly faculty and staff.

I commend the leadership of the countless teachers, faculty, parents, and volunteers who contributed to the development of this new campus. I look forward to seeing the many ways in which the creative and innovative voices of this institution will help shape and educate our young North Texans. I am confident, PCA will soon serve as a model for more and more schools across the nation.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in welcoming Prestonwood Christian Academy North!

HONORING ASSOCIATION OF RIVERDALE COOPERATIVES & CONDOMINIUMS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, all vibrant communities are underpinned by strong civic associations. I would like to recognize the Association of Riverdale Cooperatives & Condominiums for their steadfast commitment to the Riverdale community and for 30 years of service.

The Association of Riverdale Cooperatives & Condominiums was formed in 1984, with the mission to educate local condominium and cooperative owners on issues directly related to cooperative living.

As the Association expanded, it developed additional services and programs to ensure better management of residential property, such as civic engagement through political advocacy.

The Association of Riverdale Cooperatives & Condominiums succeeded in its efforts to convince ConEd to install natural gas supply lines in Riverdale and diversified communication sources by bringing Verizon to the Riverdale market.

I commend the Association of Riverdale Cooperatives & Condominiums for 30 years of service to the Riverdale community and to the greater Bronx. I am confident the organization will continue to grow and that its continued outreach will benefit future generations of cooperative and condominium owners.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) fiftieth anniversary.

Since ASCO's founding in 1964, it has made tremendous gains to improve the lives of Americans diagnosed with cancer. When the Society was formed, cancer was often fatal with few effective treatments. Today, new and innovative treatments have developed that are changing what it means to receive a cancer diagnosis.

As a survivor of cancer of the appendix, I can attest to this personally. In 2007 I received an innovative treatment called hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy. This involves washing the abdomen with heated chemotherapy to eliminate cancerous cells. A little more than a year after receiving this treatment, I ran my first marathon. Three years later I began my first campaign for Congress, and seven years later I am still cancer-free.

Advancements in cancer treatments like this bring hope to the millions of Americans suffering from cancer, and the 1.6 million Americans who will receive a cancer diagnosis this year.

I thank the ASCO for its continued research and contributions to the science in the last fifty years, and I look forward to the development of even more innovations to fight and cure cancer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 273 held on June 9, 2014, I intended to vote "no." I oppose Amendment 783 offered by Representative BROUN to H.R. 4745. Nearly 32 million passengers rely on Amtrak for business and recreational travel annually. The Northeast Corridor, which runs between Washington, DC and my home State of Massachusetts, is one of the busiest and most technically advanced tracks in the world. We ought to be investing more in our nation's passenger rail system, not less.

HONORING THE WINNERS OF MAINE'S NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of Maine's National History Day competition who are eligible to represent our State in the national competition.

Maine's National History Day program is a partnership between the University of Maine and the Margaret Chase Smith Foundation that promotes the study of history in schools. This year, the students were tasked with pursuing projects centered on the theme of "Rights & Responsibilities in History." Among those eligible to represent Maine at the national competition are 30 students from across Maine's Second Congressional District.

The following students are eligible to represent Maine at the national competition: Sydney McDonald and Kathleen Dunn of Bangor High School; Abby Boucher of Penobscot Christian School; Lily Waddell of the William S. Cohen School; Dennis Wescott, Norliyana Menes, Jordyn Bennett, and Brooklyn Hutchins of Buckfield Jr/Sr High School; Sela R. Smith and Ben Buck of Dingo High School; Jacob Brown, Josie Champagne, and Tiana Gordon of Lawrence High School; Damian Sheffer, Cecilia Doering, Cannon Breen, and Trey Stimpel of Holbrook Middle School; Anderson Huston, Samantha Grandahl, and Alyssa Thompson of Monmouth Academy; Lauren Grant of Center Drive School; Katelyn Dufour, Nathalie Theriault, Madeline Tiner, Sydney Gosselin, Katelynn Green, Morgan Brousseau, Sarah Moody, and Bailee Kinney of Bruce M. Whittier Middle School; Ben Voter, Chandler Plante, Mariah Lancaster, Jaime Withrow, Abigail Stevens, Thomas Leo, and Emily Michaud of Skowhegan Area Middle School; and Jessica Doucette, Jenna Doucette, and Margaret Bragg of Hartford Sumner Elementary School.

These talented students and the history educators that support them are a testament to the creative and dynamic spirit of Maine. I look forward to hearing about their progress as they participate in the national contest at the University of Maryland, College Park from June 15–19, 2014.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating these students for their outstanding achievements and in wishing them the best of luck at the national competition.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL LA'TONYA LYNN

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Colonel La'Tonya Lynn of

the U.S. Army for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Colonel Lynn distinguished herself through exceptionally meritorious service from August 13, 2012 to June 20, 2014, while serving as the Chief of the Army House Liaison Division.

During this period of extraordinary change, continued combat operations in Afghanistan, significant fiscal constraints and challenges facing the Army, Colonel Lynn fostered a strategic partnership with both the 112th and 113th Congress. She clearly understood the importance of Congressional oversight and did a truly outstanding job managing some of the most complex issues the Army faced during the last three legislative cycles.

A native of Glen Burnie, Maryland, Colonel Lynn began her career in the Army in 1986. She was commissioned as a Military Police Officer upon graduation from Hampton University.

Her assignments include Chief, Prisoner Services; Platoon Leader; Assistant Operations Officer; Company Commander; Budget Officer; Executive Officer; Deputy Division Provost Marshal, 1st Armored Division; Division Provost Marshal, 1st Infantry Division, Operation Iraqi Freedom; Battalion Commander, 10th and 91st Military Police Battalions, Fort Drum, New York; Commander, Task Force Vigilant, Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan and Brigade Commander, 8th Military Police Brigade, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

She also served as Chief, Military Police Enlisted Branch, Human Resources Command and Executive Officer for the Director of Strategy, Plans and Policy, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/5/7, in the Pentagon.

Colonel Lynn has attended numerous Army and civilian schools and training programs. She earned a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from National Defense University (ICAF), a Master of Business Administration degree from Bowie State University, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Hampton University.

Colonel Lynn is an Army Airborne Paratrooper whose military awards include, among others, the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, multiple Kosovo Campaign Medals, multiple Afghanistan Campaign Medals, and Kuwait Liberation Medals. She received the Parachutist Badge, Army Staff Identification Badge and also earned the prestigious Military Police ''Order of the Marechausee.''

In light of her achievements, the Army has recognized her outstanding potential and has assigned her to serve as the Chief of the Ethics/Character Task Force at Headquarters, Department of the Army, Pentagon. Colonel Lynn's outstanding leadership, strategic vision, and keen judgment are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon her, the Office of the Army Legislative Liaison and the U.S. Army.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Colonel La'Tonya Lynn as she proceeds to the next chapter in her remarkable career and continues to serve our great Nation.

HONORING SHERYL AND AARON FLEISHAKER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Sheryl and Aaron Fleishaker have long played a vital role in Beth El Synagogue of New Rochelle, New York.

From painting scenery for youth plays, to filling Mishloach Manot baskets for Purim, and helping to feed over 250 USYers at the last two Kinnusim hosted by Beth El, Sheryl has demonstrated her commitment to do whatever is necessary to support youth programs. She has served as the Youth Activities co-chair and PTA president for four years, and has been a member of the Board of Trustees.

Aaron has also demonstrated his commitment to Beth El throughout the years. He has served on the Board of Trustees for the last 15 years, and is finishing his third year as president. He previously served as vice president and executive vice president. Aaron serves on the Audit and Finance Committee, the Human Resources Committee, and the Fund Raising Committee.

Sheryl and Aaron are the honorees at the annual Beth El Synagogue Center Dinner Dance. They are truly deserving of this honor. I commend them for their years of service and for their commitment to Beth El and the greater Jewish community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sheryl and Aaron Fleishaker for their vital contributions to Beth El Synagogue.

HONORING SECRETARY JACK MARSH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Secretary of the Army John O. ''Jack'' Marsh, Jr., of Winchester, for being awarded the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Public Service. I am proud to call Jack my good friend and pleased to join the Ford Foundation in honoring him for his long and distinguished service to our country.

After attending Washington and Lee University and practicing law in the Shenandoah Valley, Jack began his career in public service when he was elected as a Democrat to represent Virginia's 7th Congressional District in 1963. He later went on to serve as Assistant Secretary of Defense in 1973.

While serving in Congress, Jack met Congressman Gerald Ford, who was representing Michigan's 5th District as a Republican at the time. When Ford became Vice President to Richard Nixon, Jack was asked to serve as National Security Advisor and when Ford assumed the presidency in 1974, Jack became Counselor to the President—a cabinet-level post.

Later, under President Reagan, Jack was appointed Secretary of the Army, an office he held from 1981 until 1989. He is the longest serving Secretary of the Army in history.

The Medal for Distinguished Public Service is awarded annually to public servants who successfully demonstrate President Ford's leadership qualities over their career, and is reserved for a precious few. In receiving the Medal for Distinguished Public Service, Jack joins a special group of alumni, which includes prominent figures like Tip O'Neill, Henry Kissinger, John Paul Stevens and Brent Scowcroft.

I am pleased to submit the following article from the Winchester Star on Jack's achievements and thank my friend for his years of selfless service to our country.

[From The Winchester Star, June 3, 2014]

FORMER ARMY SECRETARY HONORED

(By Cynthia Cather Burton)

WINCHESTER.—Former Secretary of the Army John O. ''Jack'' Marsh Jr. of Winchester was awarded the 2014 Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service on Monday.

The presentation took place during the annual dinner of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation at the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Marsh, 87, joins a group of political, judicial and military luminaries who have received the award, which was established in 2003 by the foundation's board of trustees to recognize individuals ''who reflect the qualities demonstrated by President Ford during his public service career,'' according to the foundation's website at geraldrfordfoundation.org. These include strength of character, integrity, trustworthiness, sound judgment, decisiveness (particularly during periods of crisis), determination in the face of adversity, diligence, self-confidence balanced with respect for the views of others, and self-discipline in personal life.

Past recipients are Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, 2013; Thomas P. ''Tip'' O'Neill, 2012; William T. Coleman, 2011; Henry Kissinger, 2010; Justice John Paul Stevens, 2009; Carla A. Hill, 2008; James A. Baker and Lee H. Hamilton, 2007; and the U.S. armed forces branches, 2006.

Marsh, a Winchester native, served as secretary of the Army under President Ronald Reagan from 1981 to 1989. Previously, in 1973, he was appointed assistant secretary of defense. In 1974, he became national security adviser for then-Vice President Ford.

During Ford's presidency, Marsh was counselor to the president and held cabinet rank.

''I handled a lot of issues that he directed me to do,'' Marsh said from his Winchester office on Monday afternoon. ''I did whatever he wanted me to. My duties related in large measure to the Congress.''

Marsh said he first met Ford when both were serving in the U.S. House of Representatives—Marsh represented Virginia's 7th District from 1963 to 1971 as a Democrat and Ford Michigan's 5th District from 1949 to 1973 as a Republican. They were introduced by Donald Rumsfeld, who would go on to serve as secretary of defense under Ford from 1975 to 1977 and President George W. Bush from 2001 to 2006.

''We were on different sides of the aisle, but we came to know one another,'' Marsh said of Ford. ''When he became vice president, he asked me to be on his staff.''

Following the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon in the wake of the Watergate scandal, Ford became the nation's 38th president, serving from 1974 to 1977.

Marsh said the presidency did not change Ford. ''He was the same person.''

With Watergate, the OPEC oil embargo against the United States, high unemployment and an unpopular war in Vietnam, Ford

inherited ''a government that was in deep trouble,'' Marsh recalled. ''These were issues that were very difficult to handle, and he handled them well. Part of that was because he was so close to the Congress. They respected him, and he respected them. . . He knew how the House worked.''

Marsh noted that Ford ''had more time in Congress than any president, before or since. He was very popular on both sides of the aisle. He was an example of cooperation.''

Congress, Marsh added wryly, ''was more bipartisan in those days.''

He added that Ford was an ''unflappable'' leader. ''Criticism didn't bother him. . . He never carried a grudge.''

Marsh said he was honored to receive the Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service ''because it reflects a time in my life when I was party to and took part in a very critical time in our government.''

Before his political career, Marsh practiced law in the Shenandoah Valley. He also was a World War II veteran and later served in the Army Reserve and Army National Guard. He was a graduate of Harrisonburg High School and Washington and Lee University.

GRAND OPENING OF THE CASEY JOYCE ALL AMERICA POST 4380

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the grand opening of the Casey Joyce All America Post 4380 in Plano, Texas. Plano Post 4380 was chartered on July 28, 1982, to provide support and aid to local veterans and to participate in neighborhood projects and functions in order to build strong ties to the community. On January 1, 2000, the Post was renamed Casey Joyce All America Post 4380; in memory of Sergeant Casey Joyce, an Army Ranger and graduate of Plano Senior High School who was killed in Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1993.

Over twenty years ago, Sergeant Joyce was one of the brave Rangers who put his life on the line to bring American pilots safely home after two U.S. Black Hawk helicopters were shot down. In the midst of the vicious battle, a fellow Ranger who fell from one of the helicopters was in critical condition—without immediate medical attention he would die. Fulfilling the Ranger Creed, Sergeant Joyce took it upon himself to ''never leave a fallen comrade'' behind. He proceeded towards enemy fire in search of a medivac vehicle and was killed in action. It's because of patriots like Sergeant Joyce that America remains the land of the free and home of the brave.

Renaming the Post to Casey Joyce All America Post 4380 will serve as a reminder to us all of the greatness of the American spirit, the unwavering courage of our servicemen, and their commitment to service before self. Some of the post's contributions include the Casey Joyce Memorial Four Year Scholarship and the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Award given to young, bright, and talented students who want to pursue a higher education. Post members also provide leadership, guidance, and other awards to the Plano ISD JROTC Program. Post members volunteer their time to the Samaritan Inn Shelter and Hope's Door Domestic Violence Counseling Center. Their contribution to our North Texas community goes unmatched.

Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude and support for all the achievements performed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and for the 32 years of service that the Casey Joyce All America Post 4380 has provided to the North Texas community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the grand opening of the post and thanking all of the members for continuing their legacy of selfless service. Keep up the good work! God Bless you.

HONORING JACOB DEAN MITCHELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Dean Mitchell. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 92, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Dean Mitchell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING LOGAN WAYNE CALDWELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Logan Wayne Caldwell. Logan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 167, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Logan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Logan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Logan has earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Logan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Logan restored the dilapidated pillars in front of the Winston School and placed the original stones from the classes of 1929 and 1930 back into the pillars.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Logan Wayne Caldwell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chair, I rise to express my appreciation for all the good work that has gone into in the FY 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill. I know a lot of difficult decisions had to be made but I wanted to express my concern over a $20 million reduction in funding for the Maritime Security Program (MSP).

The U.S. flag fleet is critical to our military in delivering cargo overseas to our military to ensure proper readiness and sustainment. The Department of Defense (DOD) for well over a decade has relied on MSP-enrolled vessels for sealift of necessary cargo into conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as other troubled areas in the world, all at a fraction of the cost of what it would cost DOD to replicate that sealift if it had to build its own vessels. These military-sensitive cargoes are handled by U.S.-flag ship operators and mariners that must meet DOD and homeland security standards. They have a demonstrated record of delivering these cargoes efficiently and safely.

I would like to encourage the bill's managers to bring the program's funding level to $186 million in conference with the Senate. This program also has significant support from House members and I am including a letter signed by members in support of this funding. Finally this is the same amount appropriated in FY 2014, authorized by the Armed Services Committee in the NDAA, and requested by the President.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March, 2014.

Hon. TOM LATHAM,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. ED PASTOR,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LATHAM AND RANKING MEMBER PASTOR: We are writing to request that $186 million in funding for FY 2015 for the Maritime Security Program (MSP) be included in the FY 2015 appropriations bill for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies. This is the congressionally authorized amount necessary to ensure that the U.S. Maritime Administration, in conjunction with the Department of Defense, has the necessary funds available to fully implement the MSP. It is the same amount appropriated by Congress for the program in FY 2014.

The MSP was originally enacted to ensure that the United States has the U.S.-flag

commercial sealift capability and trained U.S. citizen merchant mariners available to crew the government and privately owned vessels needed by the Department of Defense in time of war or other international emergency. Most importantly, the Maritime Security Program and the uninterrupted operation of its maritime security fleet of 60 U.S.-flag militarily useful commercial vessels ensures that America will in fact be able to support and supply our troops overseas. It guarantees that American-flag vessels and American crews will continue to be available to transport the supplies and equipment our troops need to do their job in behalf of our nation.

Failure to approve the requested funding for the Maritime Security Program not only will put American troops at risk but will weaken America's overall security interests and will cost the American taxpayer significantly more than the amount requested for FY 2015 for the MSP. Without having the MSP and its maritime security fleet to rely upon, the options available to the Department of Defense and to our country to meet America's commercial sealift capability requirements are totally unacceptable.

On the one hand, our country would be faced with the option of giving foreign-flag shipping interests and their foreign mariners—interests who may not share America's goals, objectives and values—the responsibility for supporting and advancing America's security interests overseas. These foreign-flag shipping services will have to be paid for by the United States, and it means our country will be encouraging the outsourcing of American maritime jobs as we spend taxpayer dollars on foreign-flag ships and their foreign crews.

On the other hand, our country would be faced with the option of having the Department of Defense build, maintain, and operate the requisite vessels itself, at a tremendous cost to the American taxpayer. In fact, a 2006 report prepared for the National Defense Transportation Association—Military Sealift Committee concluded that ''the likely cost to the government to replicate just the vessel capacity provided by the MSP dry cargo vessels would be $13 billion.'' In addition, the United States Transportation Command has estimated that it would cost the U.S. Government an additional $52 billion to replicate the ''global intermodal system'' that is made available to the Department of Defense by MSP participants who are continuously developing, maintaining, and upgrading their systems. In contrast, the commercial maritime industry, through the MSP, will provide the Department of Defense with these same vessels and global intermodal system at a cost to the taxpayer of $186 million in FY 2015, a fraction of what it would cost our government to do the job itself.

In other words, without funding the MSP and ensuring the continued operation of its maritime security fleet, America would either have to place the safety of our troops and the security of our nation in the hands of foreign shipping interests or be forced to spend billions of dollars more of the taxpayers' dollars to achieve the commercial sealift capability that will be lost if the requested funds for MSP are not appropriated.

During congressional consideration of the reauthorization of the MSP in 2003, General John W. Handy, then-Commander in Chief, United States Transportation Command, told Congress that: ''As we look at operations on multiple fronts in support of the War on Terrorism, it is clear that our limited defense resources will increasingly rely on partnerships with industry to maintain the needed capability and capacity to meet our most demanding wartime scenarios . . . MSP is a cost-effective program that assures guaranteed access to required U.S.-flag commercial shipping and U.S. merchant mariners when needed . . . MSP is a vital element of our military's strategic sealift and global response capability.''

We again ask that you support this highly efficient and low-cost public-private partnership by including $186 million in your Subcommittee's FY 2015 appropriations legislation in order to fully implement the MSP. In so doing, you will be saving the American taxpayer billions of dollars because the Department of Defense will be able to utilize privately owned U.S.-flag vessels to meet its commercial sealift requirements rather than buying and maintaining this capability on its own.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman,
Committee on Armed Services.

ADAM SMITH,
Ranking Member,
Committee on Armed Services.

Duncan Hunter; Corrine Brown; Scott Peters; Frank LoBiondo; Elijah Cummings; Nick Rahall; Bennie Thompson; John Garamendi; John Duncan; Don Young.

Dutch Ruppersberger; Gary Miller; Rick Larsen; Randy Forbes; Robert Wittman; Derek Kilmer; Jim Brindenstine; Scott Rigell; Peter King; Leonard Lance.

Suzanne Bonamici; Carol Shea-Porter; Michael Michaud; Daniel Lipinski; Suzan DelBene; Michael Grimm; Frederica Wilson; Cedric Richmond; Sean Maloney; Chris Gibson.

William Enyart; David Joyce; Brian Higgins; Linda Sánchez; Howard Coble; Paul Cook; Janice Hahn; David McKinley; Tim Bishop; Jim McDermott.

Joe Courtney; Steve Israel; Michael Turner; Alan Lowenthal; Tulsi Gabbard; Denny Heck; Marc Veasey; Lois Frankel; Madeleine Bordallo; Albio Sires.

Peter DeFazio; Karen Bass; Pete Gallego; Rick Nolan; Tim Walz; Ed Perlmutter; Ron Barber; André Carson.

HONORING JACOB ALAN CROUSE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Alan Crouse. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 309, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has led his troops as Junior Scoutmaster. Jacob has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project by building a picnic shelter for his church.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Alan Crouse for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING TY MICHAEL KIXMILLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ty Michael Kixmiller. Ty is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ty has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ty has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Ty has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow. Ty has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Ty renovated and landscaped Lion's Park in Kearney, Missouri, rehabilitating the front signage, replacing the park grills and mulching the entire park.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ty Michael Kixmiller for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER (LBGT) PRIDE MONTH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOE SAUNDERS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize State Representative Joe Saunders. Representative Saunders was elected to the Florida House on November 6, 2012 to serve House District 49 in East Orange County, and made history as one of Florida's first openly gay state lawmakers.

A graduate of the University of Central Florida's Political Science, Women's Studies, and Legal Studies programs, Joe began his political work as a community organizer on campus. As a campus leader, Joe fought for environmental protections, affordable tuition rates, and stronger anti-discrimination policies. He also ran civic engagement programs to register and empower young voters.

After graduating in 2005, Joe began working for Equality Florida, a statewide civil rights group dedicated to educating and advocating for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. Over the past ten years, he has led coalitions that have won non-discrimination

protections for over 1.5 million people in Central Florida. Joe was also a key leader in the 2008 passage of the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act, Florida's first anti-bullying law.

In addition to his legislative duties, Representative Saunders currently serves as the Director of Civic Engagement for the Equality Florida Institute where he works to register and engage progressive voters in the political process. He also directs the Equality Florida Institute's Equality Means Business program where he works to improve Florida's national and international reputation by spotlighting major employers in Florida who are leading the way on inclusion and diversity.

Joe has held leadership roles with Planned Parenthood of Greater Orlando, the Central Florida Disability Chamber of Commerce, Orange County Democratic Executive Committee, and was a board member at Mad Cow Theatre.

A respected leader in arts education, for several years Joe has chaired the Osceola Arts for a Complete Education Coalition which advocates for quality arts education in K–12 public schools. He is a member of ''The Circle'' coalition for the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center and a past board member for the arts education non-profit, Applause Academy. Recognizing Joe's contributions, the Florida Alliance for Arts Education awarded him with their 2013 Leadership Award.

During the 2013 and 2014 legislative session, Rep. Saunders filed the Florida Competitive Workforce Act which would ban employment and housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The bi-partisan bill earned 35 co-sponsors including 10 Republicans.

Rep. Saunders serves on the House Education Committee, Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee, Health Quality Subcommittee and is the Ranking Democratic member of the Choice and Innovation Subcommittee.

I am happy to honor Representative Joe Saunders, during LGBT Pride Month, for his leadership and service to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MICHAEL SLAYMAKER

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Michael Slaymaker. Michael has a phenomenal record of success in his career as a fundraising professional and a gay rights advocate. Whether the nonprofit organization was large or small, Michael's knowledge, skills, abilities, and dedication to the mission of these organizations earned the same results—he doubled the fundraising revenues, in some cases increased the revenues ten-fold. During his career, Michael Slaymaker has generated over $33 million for nonprofit organizations.

Michael started out as a volunteer fundraiser for the Orlando Gay Chorus (OGC) in August 1998, but was quickly hired as a part rime contract employee to help the small arts organization. During his tenure, he helped OGC increase their annual budget from $28,000 to $189,000. Raising funds for a gay organization in Orlando was a challenge, but Michael's commitment to diversity and his belief in the chorus' vision to use music to change images and attitudes, build a stronger community, and make the world a better place created a tremendous impact. Many local arts organization in Orlando have closed their doors, but due to the ten years of success from Michael's fundraising efforts, OGC continues to entertain audiences and remain solvent.

Orlando Youth Alliance (OYA) provides a safe space for Central Florida gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning teenagers through support groups, and social, educational, and recreational activities, so that none of the youth will ever feel that suicide is the answer. In 2007, Michael Slaymaker became the volunteer Board President. Although the organization was founded in 1990, it took Michael's leadership and knowledge to secure a 501(c)(3) designation and take this tiny nonprofit organization to new levels. Michael strengthened the board and volunteer structure and increased the number of chapters, so that the number of youth being served could increase significantly. Michael serves as the main volunteer fundraiser and leader today. He has increased their annual campaign from $1,900 to a high of $49,000 for this all-volunteer organization. Over the past 25 years, OYA has impacted the lives of 1,300 young people and not a single one has committed suicide.

After being denied a job by a local non-profit because he was gay, Michael recruited a group of volunteers to change local ordinances and policies to make sure what happened to him would never happen to anyone else. In April, 2000, Michael founded the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee (OADO). The mission of OADO is to secure protection for Central Florida residents from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. Under Michael's leadership, drive, and direction the group has amended or updated a staggering 15 ordinances and policies in Orange County, Florida.

I am happy to honor Michael Slaymaker, during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RANDY STEPHENS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Randy Stephens. Raised in rural Alabama by blue collar parents, Randy learned activism at an early age. Both parents were officials with local unions and were role models for employee activism. The picket line was Randy's childhood playground. Upon graduation from Talladega High School, Randy attended Auburn University where he became involved in student government. His interest in government grew while attending Cumberland School of Law from which he graduated in 1981.

After serving as staff attorney for Justice Eric Embry of the Alabama Supreme Court, Randy took a position with the Alabama Education Association (AEA). While serving as attorney and lobbyist, Randy worked on influencing politics by using a statewide network of teachers and support personnel in local campaigns. As a result, AEA was a dominant voice in state politics for decades.

Looking for a change, Randy relocated to Florida in 1992. The activist in him began to get restless. He became involved in, and later chaired, the Rainbow Democratic Club and became the GLBT Democratic Caucus's Region Director for Central Florida. Randy helped lay the groundwork for identifying and registering LGBT persons in Orange County. Thousands of members of the community were registered, giving the community increased influence in many local and statewide elections. Randy also served as a member of the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee (OADO) which successfully championed for equality rights in both the City of Orlando and the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

Randy has served as the Executive Director of the GLBT Community Center of Central Florida for the past four years. During this time ''The Center'' has become a vital part of the GLBT Community, hosting numerous Town Hall meetings and providing the community with useful information on issues like marriage equality. Also, during Randy's tenure, The Center expanded its HIV testing hours, becoming the first center in Florida to test seven days a week and one of the largest HIV testing centers in the state.

Recently married to his partner, Thomas Berthier, Randy anticipates the overturning of the remaining sections of the Defense of Marriage Act and the Florida ban on same sex marriage. Randy always looks for ways to ensure equality for all.

I am happy to honor Randy Stephens, during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARIA RUIZ MARGENOT

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Maria Ruiz Margenot. Born in Cuba during Castro's Revolution, Maria witnessed the debilitating effect of a culture robbed of its freedoms, rights, and voice. Her parents, Victor and Rosaura Ruiz, at immense personal sacrifice, took their young children and fled political oppression. Upon arriving in the United States, her family was classified as political refugees and they were able to obtain green cards.

Maria's family began anew at the Jersey shore. From her experience as a refugee, Maria learned to value the right to vote, to speak out, and to seek social justice.

Maria moved to South Florida, where she found her niche in the hospitality industry, as well as a large community of Cuban exiles. There, she was able to raise her daughter, Ashley, and experienced and embraced both her Cuban and American heritage.

Through passion and commitment, Maria has become a formidable leader in both her industry and community. She is an instrumental figure at Wyndham Vacation Ownership, one of the most recognized and respected hospitality companies in the world. She serves as Senior Vice President of Sales Development, Recruiting and Training. Maria has impacted her company by fostering a culture of inclusion and diversity. She has championed diversity efforts to ensure everyone will feel accepted and valued in the workplace. As a result of employees like Maria, Wyndham Vacation Ownership is consistently named a Best Place to Work for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality.

As her company's highest-ranking Hispanic woman, she was the founding executive sponsor of FUERTE!, a Hispanic employee resource group. Maria has shared her personal story through WynPride, her company's group for LGBT employees and straight allies. Her work isn't confined to the walls of her office

building, as she's a strong voice for the LGBT population in the business community.

Maria volunteers for the Human Rights Campaign and serves as Fed Club co-chair. She's a member of various civic groups, such as Equality Florida, 100 Women Strong, the Florida Diversity Council, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando, MBA Orlando, and NCLR (National Council of La Raza). Following in her mother's footsteps as a strong supporter of organizations committed to women's reproductive health, she also serves on the board of Planned Parenthood of Greater Orlando.

Maria has represented Wyndham Worldwide at the Top 50 Latina Women Award at the White House, has received the Multicultural Leadership Award from the Florida Diversity Council, and has been recognized as Woman of the Year by the National Professional Women's Association.

I am happy to honor Maria Ruiz Margenot, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARY MEEKS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Mary Meeks. As a child Mary learned fearlessness from her mother, Syble Meeks, who taught her to recognize injustice and stand up for herself and others. Even back then Mary knew she wanted to be an attorney and when she grew up and entered law school, civil rights and constitutional law became her passion and life's work.

Mary has practiced law in Central Florida since 1988, where she has represented individuals, small business owners, and Fortune 500 companies for over 26 years. But nothing has been more important or gratifying to her than fighting and dismantling discrimination, whether on behalf of a client or on behalf of an entire community.

Currently, Mary is a member of the legal team representing six plaintiff couples and Equality Florida who have filed a historic lawsuit challenging Florida's two state statutes and state constitutional amendment which ban marriage equality. She is honored to be working alongside Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the most influential attorney in the national LGBT rights movement, to bring marriage equality to Florida.

Mary has worked extensively with municipal and state government to write and advocate for legislation to legally protect LGBT individuals, couples, and families in Florida. Her work has resulted in numerous Human Rights Ordinances and Domestic Partnership Registries, and a multitude of Employee Benefits being implemented throughout the state. Mary co-authored the 2012 Orlando/Orange County Domestic Partnership Registry Ordinance which became model legislation for other local communities in Florida. She is also the co-author of Florida Senate and House Bills which have been introduced to create a statewide domestic partnership registry to provide important legal protections to same-sex couples no matter where they live or travel.

Mary has served the LGBT and wider community in many leadership positions, including serving on the Boards of the National LGBT Bar Foundation, the Central Florida ACLU Legal Panel, the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee, the Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers, the Central Florida Gay and Lesbian Law Association, and Equality Florida's Central Florida Steering Committee. Mary has taught Employment Discrimination Law and Florida Civil Practice as an Adjunct Professor at Barry University School of Law, and has served as a consultant to The Orlando Business Journal and The Orlando Sentinel on employment issues.

Mary is a frequent speaker and author on employment and civil rights issues. Her column, "Living Loud," is featured regularly in The Watermark, Florida's statewide LGBT publication. Mary and her wife, Vicki Nantz, have produced a series of acclaimed documentaries on social justice subjects and have traveled together throughout the state advocating for equality.

I am happy to honor Mary Meeks, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

HONORING JACOB TODD HILEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Todd Hiley. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, has become a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow and currently serves as his troops' Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Jacob has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jacob built a storage mezzanine in the bus barn for First United Methodist Church of Kearney.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Todd Hiley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING CHRISTIAN POLOVICH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christian Polovich. Christian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 404, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Christian has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and serves as his troops' Senior Patrol Leader. Christian has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Christian constructed a workout station on the fitness trail on the campus of A. T. Still University in Kirksville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christian Polovich for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 29, 2014, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 243, "nay"; on rollcall No. 244, "yea"; on rollcall No. 245, "yea"; on rollcall No. 246, "yea"; on rollcall No. 247, "nay"; on rollcall No. 248, "nay"; on rollcall No. 249, "nay"; on rollcall No. 250, "nay"; on rollcall No. 251, "nay"; on rollcall No. 252, "yea"; on rollcall No. 253, "nay"; on rollcall No. 254, "nay"; on rollcall No. 255, "yea"; on rollcall No. 256, "yea"; on rollcall No. 257, "nay"; on rollcall No. 258, "nay"; on rollcall No. 259, "yea"; on rollcall No. 260, "nay"; on rollcall No. 261, "yea"; on rollcall No. 262, "nay"; on rollcall No. 263, "nay"; on rollcall No. 264, "yea"; on rollcall No. 265, "yea"; on rollcall No. 266, "yea"; on rollcall No. 267, "yea"; on rollcall No. 268, "nay"; on rollcall No. 269, "yea."

HONORING SULLIVAN J. EASLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sullivan J. Easley. Sully is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 391, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sully has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Sully has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Sully has led his troops as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Sully has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Sully organized and constructed six bird houses in four different parks. He also led a team in building new trails along a new expansion in a nature preserve for the Friends of Webster Trails organization near Rochester, New York.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sullivan J. Easley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House passed H.R. 4745, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3511–S3552

Measures Introduced: Ten bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2451–2460. **Page S3544**

Measures Reported:

S. 2452, to support early learning. **Page S3544**

Measures Passed:

Authorizing the Use of the Rotunda of the Capitol: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 100, authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. **Page S3551**

Measures Considered:

Federal Student Loans—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2432, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans. **Pages S3511–12**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 9:15 a.m., on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, and the time until 10 a.m. be divided as follows: Senator Alexander controlling up to 15 minutes, and the remaining time equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees prior to the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S3551**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, with respect to Belarus; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–43) **Page S3542**

Brainard Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. **Page S3520**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 59 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. 182), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S3520**

Powell Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. **Pages S3520–21**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 58 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. 183), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S3520–21**

Fischer Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. **Page S3521**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 56 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. 184), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S3521**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By a unanimous vote of 90 yeas (Vote No. EX. 179), M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. **Pages S3512–19, S3552**

By a unanimous vote of 91 yeas (Vote No. EX. 180), Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts. **Pages S3512–19, S3552**

By 58 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. EX. 181), Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Pages S3512–19, S3552

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Routine lists in the Army. **Page S3552**

Messages from the House: **Page S3542**

Measures Referred: **Page S3542**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S3542**

Executive Communications: **Pages S3542–44**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3544–45**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S3545–50**

Additional Statements: **Pages S3538–41**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S3550**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S3551**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S3551**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S3551**

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—184) **Pages S3514, S3519–21**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:09 p.m., until 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3551.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies approved for full committee consideration a bill making appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2015.

SERGEANT BOWE BERGDAHL PRISONER EXCHANGE

Committee on Armed Services: Committee received a closed briefing on the Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl prisoner exchange from Robert O. Work, Deputy Secretary, Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr., USN, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Stephen W. Preston, General Counsel, Michael D. Lumpkin, Assistant Secretary for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict, and Michael J. Dumont, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia, all of the Department of Defense; and Robert Cardillo, Deputy Director for Intelligence Integration, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU'S SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's semi-annual report to Congress, after receiving testimony from Richard Cordray, Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

FASTER SUPERFUND CLEANUPS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Oversight concluded a hearing to examine protecting taxpayers and ensuring accountability, focusing on faster Superfund cleanups for healthier communities, after receiving testimony from Barry Breen, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, and Judith Enck, Region 2 Administrator, both of the Environmental Protection Agency; Scott A. Thompson, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality Executive Director, Oklahoma City; Mayor Joseph Delaney, Garfield, New Jersey; Lois Marie Gibbs, Center for Health, Environment and Justice, Falls Church, Virginia; Robert Spiegel, Edison Wetlands Association, Edison, New Jersey; and Susan Parker Bodine, Barnes and Thornburg, Washington, D.C.

FEDERAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce concluded a hearing to examine Federal information technology (IT) initiatives and the IT workforce, focusing on a more efficient and effective government, after receiving testimony from Luke McCormack, Chief Information Officer, Department of Homeland Security; Stephen Warren, Executive in Charge and Chief Information Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs; Donna Seymour, Chief Information Officer, Office of Personnel Management; David A. Powner, Director, Information Technology Management Issues, Government Accountability Office; and Christopher A. Miller, Program Executive Officer, Healthcare Management Systems, Department of Defense.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 12 public bills, H.R. 4822–4833; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 614–618, were introduced. **Page H5248**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5249–50**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 616, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4800) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4457) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4453) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations (H. Rept. 113–472). **Page H5248**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Ribble to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5189**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H5192**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014: H.R. 4810, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts for the provision of hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for Department of Veterans Affairs patients with extended waiting times for appointments at Department facilities, by a 2/3 recorded vote of 426 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 287 (Agreed by unanimous consent that the earlier proceedings on Roll No. 275, the motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 4810, be vacated to the end that the Chair put the question de novo) and **Pages H5196–H5200, H5203, H5211–12**

Condemning the senseless rampage and mass shooting that took place in Isla Vista, California, on Friday May 23, 2014: H. Res. 608, amended, to condemn the senseless rampage and mass shooting that took place in Isla Vista, California, on Friday May 23, 2014. **Pages H5201–03**

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015: The House passed H.R. 4745, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, by a yea-and-nay vote of 229 yeas to 192 nays, Roll No. 297. Consideration of the measure began yesterday, June 9th. **Pages H5203–11, H5212–39**

Rejected the Esty motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 195 ayes to 227 noes, Roll No. 296. **Pages H5237–39**

On a demand for a separate vote on a certain amendment agreed to in the Committee of the Whole:

By a recorded vote of 167 ayes to 254 noes, Roll No. 295, rejected the Gingrey amendment (No. 29 printed in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2014) that sought to prohibit funds from being used to pay a Federal employee for any period of time during which such employee is using official time under section 7131 of title 5, United States Code (agreed to in the Committee of the Whole by voice vote). **Pages H5226–27, H5237**

Agreed to:

Daines amendment that was debated on June 9th that prohibits funds from being used to develop, issue, or implement regulations that increase levels of minimum financial responsibility for transporting passengers or property as in effect on January 1, 2014, under regulations issued pursuant to sections 31138 and 31139 of title 49, United States Code (by a recorded vote of 214 ayes to 212 noes, Roll No. 283); **Pages H5208–09**

Gosar amendment that was debated on June 9th that prohibits funds from being used to implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled ''Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing'', published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Federal Register on July 19, 2013 (by a recorded vote of 219 ayes to 207 noes, Roll No. 285); **Page H5210**

Fleming amendment that was debated on June 9th that prohibits funds from being used to acquire a camera for the purpose of collecting or storing vehicle license plate numbers (by a recorded vote of 255 ayes to 171 noes, Roll No. 286); **Pages H5210–11**

Royce amendment (No. 5 printed in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2014) that prohibits funds from being used for the Housing Trust Fund established under section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992; **Page H5212**

Grijalva amendment that prohibits funds from being used to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed in section 2313(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code, in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term ''Fair Labor Standards Act''; **Page H5219**

Higgins amendment that prohibits funds from being used to terminate the status of a unit of general local government as a metropolitan city (as defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974) with respect to grants under section 106 of such Act; **Page H5219**

Grayson amendment that prohibits funds from being used to make incentive payments pursuant to 48 CFR 16.4 to contractors for contracts that are behind schedule under the terms of the contract as prescribed by 48 CFR 52.211 or over the contract amount indicated in Standard Form 33, box 20; **Page H5220**

Yoho amendment that prohibits funds from being used to promulgate, implement, or enforce any regulations that would mandate GPS tracking or event data recorders in light-duty non-commercial passenger motor vehicles; **Page H5223**

Gingrey amendment (No. 28 printed in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2014) that prohibits funds from being used to provide mortgage insurance under title II of the National Housing Act for any mortgage on a 1- to 4-family dwelling to be used as the principal residence of a mortgagor who provides only an individual taxpayer identification number for identification; **Page H5225**

DeLauro amendment that prohibits funds from being used to enter into any contract with an incorporated entity if such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity is incorporated or chartered in Bermuda or the Cayman Islands, and such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity was previously incorporated in the United States; **Pages H5227–28**

Gingrey amendment that prohibits funds from being used in contravention of section 24305(c)(4) of title 49, United States Code; **Pages H5228–29**

Sessions amendment that prohibits funds from being used to support Amtrak's route with the highest loss, measured by contributions/(Loss) per Rider, as based on the National Railroad Passenger Corporation Fiscal Years 2013–2017 Five Year Plan from May 2013; **Pages H5229–30**

Bass amendment that prohibits funds from being used by the Secretary or the Federal Transit Administration to implement, administer, or enforce section 18.36(c)(2) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, for construction hiring purposes; **Page H5230**

Engel amendment that prohibits funds from being used to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011; **Page H5231**

Denham amendment that prohibits funds from being used for high-speed rail in the State of California or for the California High-Speed Rail Authority (by a recorded vote of 227 ayes to 186 noes, Roll No. 288); and **Pages H5214–16, H5232**

Schock amendment that prohibits funds from being used to implement, administer, or enforce paragraph (c)(3) of section 982.503, Code of Federal Regulations (by a recorded vote of 210 ayes to 209 noes, Roll No. 290). **Pages H5219, H5233–34**

Rejected:

Gohmert amendment that was debated on June 9th that sought to reduce funding for the Public Housing Capital Fund by $7,100,000 and the Public Housing Operating Fund by $17,600,000 and apply the $24,700,000 in savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 160 ayes to 266 noes, Roll No. 276); **Page H5204**

Nadler amendment that was debated on June 9th that sought to increase funding, by offset, for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program by $29,100,000 (by a recorded vote of 205 ayes to 221 noes, Roll No. 277); **Pages H5204–05**

Capito amendment that was debated on June 9th that sought to increase funding, by offset, for the Community Development Fund by $100,000,000 for carrying out the community development block grant program (by a recorded vote of 114 ayes to 311 noes, Roll No. 278); **Pages H5205–06**

Broun (GA) amendment that was debated on June 9th that sought to reduce funding for the community development block grant program by $20,000,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 134 ayes to 288 noes, Roll No. 279); **Page H5206**

Broun (GA) amendment that was debated on June 9th that sought to reduce funding for Rental Housing Assistance by $7,000,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 143 ayes to 283 noes, Roll No. 280); **Pages H5206–07**

Broun (GA) amendment that was debated on June 9th that sought to reduce funding for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation Office of Inspector General by $1,000,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 130 ayes to 295 noes, Roll No. 281); **Pages H5207–08**

Hartzler amendment that was debated on June 9th that sought to prohibit funds from being used to enforce section 319 of title 23, United States

Code (by a recorded vote of 188 ayes to 237 noes, Roll No. 282); **Page H5208**

Gosar amendment that was debated on June 9th that sought to prohibit funds from being used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to retain any legal counsel who is not an employee of such Department or the Department of Justice (by a recorded vote of 177 ayes to 249 noes, Roll No. 284); **Pages H5209–10**

Blackburn amendment (No. 1 printed in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2014) that sought to reduce each amount made available by the bill by 1% (by a recorded vote of 159 ayes to 260 noes, Roll No. 289); **Pages H5216–17, H5232–33**

Gosar amendment that sought to reduce the amount made available for ''Department of Housing and Urban Development—Management and Administration—Executive Offices'' by $2,000,000 (by a recorded vote of 190 ayes to 232 noes, Roll No. 291); **Pages H5220–21, H5234**

Gosar amendment that sought to reduce the amount made available for ''Department of Housing and Urban Development—Management and Administration—Administrative Support Offices'' by 4.2% (by a recorded vote of 181 ayes to 240 noes, Roll No. 292); **Pages H5221, H5234–35**

Schiff amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used to enforce section 47524 of title 49, United States Code, or part 161 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, with regard to noise or access restrictions or to enforce section 47107 of title 49, United States Code, with regard to access restriction on the operation of aircraft by the operator of Bob Hope Airport in Burbank, California (by a recorded vote of 208 ayes to 212 noes, Roll No. 293); and **Pages H5221–22, H5235–36**

Sessions amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used to support any Amtrak route whose costs exceed 2 times its revenues, as based on the National Railroad Passenger Corporation Fiscal Years 2013–2017 Five Year Plan from May 2013 (by a recorded vote of 167 ayes to 250 noes, Roll No. 294). **Pages H5230–31, H5236**

Withdrawn:

Titus amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have prohibited funds from being used to issue rules or regulations to allow an individual on an aircraft to engage in voice communications using a mobile communications device during a flight of that aircraft in scheduled passenger interstate or intrastate air transportation except for use by a member of the flight crew, flight attendant on duty on an aircraft, or Federal law enforcement officer acting in an official capacity and **Page H5223**

Ellison amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have inserted a new section providing funding for affordable rental housing for extremely low-income families by improving targeting of mortgage interest deductions. **Pages H5224–25**

Point of Order sustained against:

Garamendi amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used in contravention of ''Buy America'' preferences; **Pages H5217–18**

Cassidy amendment (No. 23 printed in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2014) that sought to prohibit funds from being used to promulgate or enforce rules, orders, or consent agreements or to fund approved projects under TIGER unless the Department of Transportation implements the recommendations provided in a preliminary GAO report regarding TIGER grants; and **Pages H5222–23**

Conyers amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used to pay any FHA mortgage insurance claim or in connection with the sale of any mortgage insured by the FHA before compliance with existing FHA loss mitigation requirements, documentation of such compliance by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and provision of such documentation to the mortgagor. **Pages H5225–26**

H. Res. 604, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4745) and (H.R. 4681), was agreed to on May 30th.

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the tragic incident at Reynolds High School in Troutdale, OR today. **Page H5232**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2014—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 113–118). **Page H5240**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and 21 recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5204, H5204–05, H5205–06, H5206, H5206–07, H5207–08, H5208, H5208–09, H5209–10, H5210, H5210–11, H5211–12, H5232, H5232–33, H5233–34, H5234, H5234–35, H5235–36, H5236, H5237, H5238–39, and H5239. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water held a markup on Energy and Water Appropriations Bill FY 2015. The bill was ordered reported to the Full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee held a markup on Defense Appropriations Bill FY 2015. The bill was ordered reported, as amended.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WAR ON POVERTY: REFORMING FEDERAL AID

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''A Progress Report on the War on Poverty: Reforming Federal Aid''. Testimony was heard from Representative Clyburn; and public witnesses.

REGULATORY AND ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES OF THE EEOC: EXAMINING THE CONCERNS OF STAKEHOLDERS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing entitled ''The Regulatory and Enforcement Priorities of the EEOC: Examining the Concerns of Stakeholders''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee concluded markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4795, the ''Promoting New Manufacturing Act''; H.R. 4801, to require the Secretary of Energy to prepare a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use for potable hot water; H.R. 4299, the ''Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act''; H.R. 4709, the ''Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act''; and H.R. 4631, the ''Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2014''. The following bills were forwarded to the House, without amendment: H.R. 4795; H.R. 4801; and H.R. 4299. The following bills were forwarded to the House, as amended: H.R. 4709 and H.R. 4631.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee began a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4697, the ''Small-Cap Access to Capital Act''; H.R. 2629, the ''Fostering Innovation Act of 2013''; H.R. 4564, the ''Equity Crowdfunding Improvement Act of 2014''; H.R. 4809, the Defense Production Act to improve the Defense Production Act Committee, and for other purpose; H.R. 3770, the ''CFP–G Act of 2013''; H.R. 4262, the ''Bureau Advisory Commission Transparency Act''; H.R. 4383, the ''Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Small Business Advisory Board Act''; H.R. 4539, the ''Bureau Research Transparency Act''; H.R. 4604, the ''CFPB Data Collection Security Act''; H.R. 4811, the ''Bureau Guidance Transparency Act''; H.R. 3389, the ''CFPB Slush Fund Elimination Act''; H.R. 4662, the ''Bureau Advisory Opinion Act''; H.R. 4804, the ''Bureau Examination Fairness Act''; legislation regarding a 6-month moratorium on the authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council to make financial stability determinations; and H.R. 4387, the ''FSOC Transparency and Accountability Act''.

VERIFYING IRAN'S NUCLEAR COMPLIANCE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Verifying Iran's Nuclear Compliance''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING U.S. RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing entitled ''Examining U.S. Reconstruction Efforts in Afghanistan''. Testimony was heard from John F. Sopko, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction; and Charles Michael Johnson, Jr., Director, International Security and Counterterrorism Issues, International Affairs and Trade Team, Government Accountability Office.

STATE DEPARTMENT'S COUNTERTERRORISM BUREAU: BUDGET, PROGRAMS, AND EVALUATION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade held a hearing entitled ''The State Department's Counterterrorism Bureau: Budget, Programs, and Evaluation''. Testimony was heard from Tina Kaidanow, Ambassador-at-Large and Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Department of State.

BIOWATCH: LESSONS LEARNED AND THE PATH FORWARD

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications held a hearing entitled ''BioWatch: Lessons Learned and the Path Forward''. Testimony was heard from Kathryn Brinsfield, M.D., Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Health Affairs, Department of Homeland Security; Reginald Brothers, Under Secretary, Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security; and Chris Cummiskey, Acting Under Secretary, Management Directorate, Department of Homeland Security; and Chris Currie, Acting Director, Homeland Security

and Justice Issues, Government Accountability Office; and a public witness.

MUSIC LICENSING UNDER TITLE 17

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet held a hearing entitled ''Music Licensing Under Title 17 Part One''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

STATE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN THE UNITED STATES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice held a hearing entitled ''The State of Religious Liberty in the United States''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINATION OF AMERICA'S EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled ''Whole Lotta Shakin': An Examination of America's Earthquake Early Warning System Development and Implementation''. Testimony was heard from Bill Leith, Senior Science Advisor for Earthquake and Geologic Hazards, U.S. Geological Survey; John D. Schelling, Interim Mitigation and Recovery Section Manager, Washington State and Emergency Management Division; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation held a hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 318, to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance; H.R. 4029, to require the Secretary of the Interior to transfer all Federal land, facilities, and any other assets associated with the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to the State of Missouri for the purposes of maintaining a State park, and for other purposes; H.R. 4049, the ''Ashland Breakwater Light Transfer Act''; H.R. 4182, to provide that the Ozark National Scenic Riverways shall be administered in accordance with the general management plan for that unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; H.R. 4272, the ''Forest Access in Rural Communities Act''; H.R. 4283, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to maintain or replace certain facilities and structures for commercial recreation services at Smith Gulch in Idaho, and for other purposes; H.R. 4489, the ''World War I Memorial Act of 2014''; and H.R. 4527, to remove a use restriction on land formerly a part of Acadia National Park that was transferred to the town of Tremont, Maine, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from the following Representatives: Walden; Simpson; Smith (MO); Hall; Cleaver; Duffy; and Michaud; and Leslie A.C. Weldon, Deputy Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Steve McClure, Commissioner, Union County Board of Commissioners; Victor Knox, Associate Director, Park and Planning, Facilities and Lands, National Park Service, Department of Interior; Robert Ross, State Representative, Missouri; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 3716, the ''Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe—Fish Springs Ranch Settlement Act''; H.R. 4166, the ''Lake Berryessa Recreation Enhancement Act of 2014''; H.R. 4508, to amend the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior to extend the contract for certain water services; and H.R. 4562, to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska. Testimony was heard from Diane Dillon, Napa County California, Supervisor; Tom Iseman, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; and public witnesses.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OVERSIGHT: EXAMINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE DISABILITY DETERMINATION APPEALS PROCESS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee began a hearing entitled ''Social Security Administration Oversight: Examining the Integrity of the Disability Determination Appeals Process''. Testimony was heard from Senator Coburn; Harry C. Taylor II, Administrative Law Judge, Charleston, West Virginia, Office of Disability Adjudication and Review, Social Security Administration; Charles Bridges, Administrative Law Judge, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Office of Disability Adjudication and Review, Social Security Administration; Gerald I. Krafsur, Administrative Law Judge, Kingsport, Tennessee, Office of Disability Adjudication and Review, Social Security Administration; and James A. Burke, Administrative Law Judge, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Office of Disability Adjudication and Review, Social Security Administration.

PERMANENT S CORPORATION BUILT-IN GAINS RECOGNITION PERIOD ACT OF 2014; AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2014; AND AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4453, the "Permanent S Corporation Built-in Gains Recognition Period Act of 2014"; H.R. 4457, the "America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2014"; and H.R. 4800, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–4, a modified-open rule for H.R. 4800. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI. The rule provides that after general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. During consideration of the bill for amendment: (1) amendments shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment; and (2) no pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. The rule provides that, under the rules of the House, the bill shall be read for amendment by paragraph. The rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the Congressional Record. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Additionally, the rule provides a closed rule for H.R. 4457. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, as modified by the amendment printed in the Rules Committee Report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Lastly, the rule provides a closed rule for H.R. 4453. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–46 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Tiberi, Reichert, Levin, Aderholt, and Farr.

REVIEW OF THE P5: THE U.S. VISION FOR PARTICLE PHYSICS AFTER DISCOVERY OF THE HIGGS BOSON

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled "A Review of the P5: The U.S. Vision for Particle Physics After Discovery of the Higgs Boson". Testimony was heard from Steve Ritz, P5 Chair and Professor, University of California, Santa Cruz; Persis Drell, Director Emerita, SLAC National Laboratory; Nigel Lockyer, Director, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory; and Natalie Roe, Director, Physics Division, Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory.

VERIFICATION OF INCOME AND INSURANCE INFORMATION UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight; and Subcommittee on Health held a joint subcommittee hearing entitled "Verification of Income and Insurance Information Under the Affordable Care Act". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Missile Defense Agency, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 2 p.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Victor M. Mendez, of Arizona, to be Deputy Secretary, and Peter M.

Rogoff, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Policy, both of the Department of Transportation, Bruce H. Andrews, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary, and Marcus Dwayne Jadotte, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Industry and Analysis, International Trade Administration, both of the Department of Commerce, and Robert S. Adler, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission; to be immediately followed by a business meeting to consider the nominations of Elliot F. Kaye, of New York, to be Chairman, and Joseph P. Mohorovic, of Illinois, both to be a Commissioner, both of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Judith M. Davenport, of Pennsylvania, and Elizabeth Sembler, of Florida, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and nominations for promotion in the U.S. Coast Guard, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stuart E. Jones, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, Robert Stephen Beecroft, of California, to be Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dana Shell Smith, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the State of Qatar, James D. Nealon, of New Hampshire, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras, and Gentry O. Smith, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, all of the Department of State, 11 a.m., SD–419.

Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on the situation in Ukraine, 5:15 p.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 919, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, S. 1447, to make technical corrections to certain Native American water rights settlements in the State of New Mexico, S. 1574, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, S. 2041, to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and S. 2188, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on higher education for American Indian students, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights, business meeting to consider S.J. Res. 19, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections, 4 p.m., SD–226.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, markup on Homeland Security Appropriations Bill FY 2015; and Revised Report on the Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY 2015, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The May 31, 2014 Transfer of Five Senior Taliban Detainees'', 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''21st Century Cures: Examining the Role of Incentives in Advancing Treatments and Cures for Patients'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled ''Media Ownership in the 21st Century'', 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled ''The Production and Circulation of Coins and Currency'', 11:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled ''Assessing Energy Priorities in the Middle East and North Africa'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''The Ongoing Struggle Against Boko Haram'', 2:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3202, the ''Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act''; H.R. 3488, to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, and for other purposes; H.R. 3846, the ''United States Customs and Border Protection Authorization Act''; H.R. 4263, the ''Social Media Working Group Act of 2014''; H.R. 4289, the ''Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act''; H.R. 4802, the ''Airport Security Enhancement Act of 2014''; H.R. 4803, the ''TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2014''; and H.R. 4812, the ''Honor Flight Act'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Social Security Administration Oversight: Examining the Integrity of the Disability Determination Appeals Process, Part II'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy, markup on committee print, the Department of Energy and Research and Development Act of 2014, 12 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''FAA's 2020 NextGen Mandate: Benefits and Challenges for General Aviation'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled ''Potential Impacts of Proposed Changes to the

Clean Water Act Jurisdictional Rule'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled ''Advancing the U.S. Trade Agenda: Benefits of Expanding U.S. Agriculture Trade and Eliminating Barriers to U.S. Exports'', 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine the security, economic and human rights dimensions of United States-Azerbaijan relations, 10 a.m., SR–432.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:15 a.m., Wednesday, June 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2432, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans. At 10 a.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, June 11

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 4800—Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (Subject to a Rule).

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