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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 8, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, shortly before the July Fourth break, we had three marines from Camp Lejeune, which is in my district, who were killed during combat operations in Afghanistan: Staff Sergeant David H. Stewart, Lance Corporal Brandon J. Garabrant, and Lance Corporal Adam F. Wolff. May I, at this time, extend my deepest sympathy to the families of these three brave marines.

Mr. Speaker, recently much attention has been given to the chaos building in Iraq. However, we must not forget that there is still chaos in Afghanistan.

In June of this year, I visited Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. I met three soldiers from Fort Bragg who had lost one leg each in Afghanistan. I met two marines from my district at Camp Lejeune.

One marine, 23 years old, had lost two legs and an arm. His father, from Louisiana, was standing beside his exercise mat, which is about 3 or 4 feet off the ground. To look in the eyes of the father, to see the pain, the sadness, and the worry about the future of his 23-year-old son, I cannot describe today on the floor of the House. I don't know the words to describe the pain I saw in the eyes.

Then I went to see the second marine from Camp Lejeune, who in February of this year stepped on a 40-pound IED and lost both legs. I could only look at him and hope for the best as he told me about his wife and his 8-month-old baby girl.

Mr. Speaker, beside me today, I have the photograph on this poster of two young ladies whose father was Sergeant Kevin Balduf, stationed at Camp Lejeune. The little girls' names are Eden and Stephanie. They are standing at the grave site of their father.

Sergeant Balduf and Colonel Palmer—Sergeant Balduf, again, was stationed at Camp Lejeune and Colonel Palmer at Air Station Cherry Point, which is also in my district in eastern North Carolina—were sent to Afghanistan to train Afghans to be police officers. The night before Sergeant Balduf and Colonel Palmer were killed, Sergeant Balduf emailed his wife, Amy, and said, ''I don't trust them. I don't trust them. I don't trust any of them.'' The next day, he and Colonel Palmer were shot and killed by the Afghans they were trying to train.

Mr. Speaker, Afghanistan is not worth the treasure or the blood that has been spent there over the last 12 years. We have no more business thinking we can change the Middle East, because history has proven Afghanistan and Iraq will never change, no matter what. Iraq was an unnecessary war. It was manufactured intelligence by the previous administration. It was an unnecessary, unjust war where 4,000 Americans were killed, 30,000 were wounded, and 100,000 Iraqis were killed themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I will close today by quoting a man for whom I have great respect, because he and I agree on our foreign policies. His name is Pat Buchanan:

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

We in Congress continue to spend money over in Afghanistan—and now Iraq—from money that we borrow from other countries. It makes no sense.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I say to Stephanie and Eden: Your father was a hero. He will never be forgotten.

I will say to all the families and the children of those who lost loved ones: Your loved ones will never be forgotten. They have done so much for this country.

May God continue to bless America and may God continue to bless those in uniform, and may God continue to bless America.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to a Federal judge in Texas, our government is ''completing the criminal mission'' of human traffickers ''who are violating the border security of the United States'' and assisting a ''criminal conspiracy in achieving its illegal goals.''

Printed on recycled paper.

Here is how ICE is complicit in aiding and abetting human smuggling:

A smuggler is paid to bring children into the United States. The smuggler then is apprehended by ICE and prosecuted, but the criminal act is completed when ICE personally delivers the migrant child to the parent who has instigated the crime. If the parent is also illegally in the United States, ICE neither deports the parent nor the child.

The Federal judge chastised the Department of Homeland Security for not enforcing the law and compares this nonenforcement on the border to ''taking illegal drugs or weapons it has seized from smugglers and delivering them to the criminals who solicited their illegal importation'' into the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this administration, with its policy of open borders and blatant refusal to enforce the law, is complicit in the crisis at the southern border.

The timing is not a coincidence. The surge of foreign nationals illegally entering the United States all began when the President planted the seed for executive amnesty in a 2012 Rose Garden speech. In this speech, he announced his policy of unilateral administrative amnesty for minors. This was an avoidable crisis created to set the stage politically for universal amnesty.

The President's policy of nonenforcement has effectively encouraged tens of thousands of people to pay smugglers to bring children from Central America to the United States. Now migrant children just surrender themselves at the border and expect the United States to let them stay, take care of them, or reunite them with their parents who may also illegally be in the U.S.

Why? Because the word is out in Central America that America does not enforce its laws. The number of unaccompanied minors who are smuggled into the U.S. illegally has grown tremendously under this administration, as this chart shows, now up to 142,000 a year.

This is not only a humanitarian crisis, but this crisis is affecting our national security, our economy, our health, and our sovereignty. Our porous border allows anyone to enter the United States illegally. The influx of thousands of migrants comes with a cost to the tune of billions of dollars, all left to Americans to pay for.

The system is overwhelmed. We can't even take care of our veterans. Now there have been disturbing reports of diseases originating in Central America that have traveled with the migrants coming to our country threatening the health of people who are legally here and American citizens.

This is not isolated on the border towns. Unaccompanied minor children are being sent all over the country. In fact, I just found out last night that Health and Human Services is looking for a school to house unaccompanied minors in Houston, Texas—my hometown.

While the administration acts surprised about the crisis, the paper trail shows they knew that it was coming in January. The Department of Homeland Security in January posted online advertising for transportation contractors needed to help deal with this surge of unaccompanied minors coming into the United States.

The administration knew about this, but rather than enforce the rule of law and increase border security, the administration planned to accept the migrants and find places to house them. This current chaos is also an insult to people who come to America the legal way, but the White House has put politics over the law and what is best for the American people.

So what now? Well, deploy the National Guard to the southern border to deter future migrants from making the journey to America. It is the first duty of the Federal Government to defend the sovereignty of our Nation. Appropriate money that is still going for nation-building in Iraq to fund the National Guard on our southern border. Surely, protecting our border is just as important as securing the border of Iraq. If the President won't protect the border, let the State Governors do it with the National Guard.

Second, those who have already come here should be safely reunited with their families in their native countries. The law should be changed to expedite their removal. Warehousing these children is not a compassionate response to this crisis. It will not solve the crisis; it will only grow.

The President of the United States should be the first to say to the world: The rule of law will be enforced in the United States. Do not try to beat the system. Come to the United States the legal way or not at all.

But the administration is missing in action in this crisis. It is true the President is going to Texas this week, but he is going down there to raise money for a campaign. He is not going near the border. Maybe it is just too dangerous to go to the Texas-Mexico border.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE REAGAN HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND FROM PFAFFTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Band of Raiders that successfully marched on Washington last week.

The Reagan High School Marching Band came to D.C. from Pfafftown, North Carolina, one of only 14 bands chosen to participate in the National Independence Day Parade.

Director Andrew Craft gives life to the band's philosophy that ''we must create strong musicians before we can expect a strong music ensemble.'' The band's music statement emphasizes performance excellence, and excellence's ever present companion: work ethic.

In fewer than 10 years, Reagan High School is already recognized as having one of the top school bands in North Carolina and the Nation.

The Raiders performed ''America the Beautiful'' for the parade. They are also proud of the Reagan High School fight song, appropriately titled, ''The Great Communicator March.''

It is an honor to recognize this fine organization today, and I wish them continued success in the future. With their rigorous focus and commitment to excellence, I believe we can count on a bright future for the Band of Raiders.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, our crisis at the southern border is a direct result of the President's executive actions that have sent a message to children and families across Central America that if they cross our porous border they will be allowed to stay. In fact, the administration estimates approximately 65,000 unaccompanied alien children will cross our border this year alone.

This is a humanitarian crisis of this administration's own creation and a stark reminder of the President's failings when it comes to securing our border. An unsecure border presents many dangers to our national security, and the recent and dramatic rise in unaccompanied alien children along our southern border indicates an alarming ease at which our border is being crossed illegally.

Potentially worse than that, despite the administration's apparent surprise by this recent surge in border crossings by these children, on January 19 of this year, the Department of Homeland Security posted a request for information on the Federal Business Opportunities Web site seeking contractors to provide ''escort services'' for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The posting specifically calls for a contractor who can transport unaccompanied alien children that have been apprehended by law enforcement in the U.S. to the care of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The solicitation from January states that ''there will be approximately 65,000 unaccompanied alien children in total.''

□ 1215

The online posting suggests that DHS was expecting a significant increase in the number of unaccompanied alien children that it would need to transport this year.

Furthermore, the 65,000 number closely corresponds with the administration's new estimate that 60,000 unaccompanied children will come into the country illegally this year.

This leads to the obvious question of how it was that ICE or DHS was able to project such a rise in border crossing by children this year.

Because of this, I have sent a letter to DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson and Acting Director of ICE, Thomas Winkowski, demanding information as to how their agencies may have anticipated the recent and dramatic rise in the number of unaccompanied alien children that are crossing the southern border into the United States illegally.

Mr. Speaker, this unprecedented humanitarian crisis at our border must be resolved, and I fear that promises of even more unilateral executive actions from this President will only make the problem he has created even worse.

We must get to the bottom of how this crisis happened, how it can be prevented from happening again, and how we can finally secure our Nation's problem of securing our porous borders.

IN HONOR OF MY SISTER

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our great country.

As the fireworks went off and we celebrated Independence Day, July Fourth was a reminder of the men and women across this country and throughout history that have dedicated their lives to freedom, faith, and their families.

We had a wonderful time with a majority of my family, but I was reminded the day following the Fourth of July that this is not just about a place where we talk about policy. It is really about people.

I got a call that my sister, who is fighting a different kind of fight—a fight against cancer—was moved to a hospice wing. Truly, as I went to visit her, she reminded me, Mr. Speaker, that it is not about policy, but it is about people.

Today, as she fights for her final breath, I want to take a personal opportunity to tell the few that are gathered here—and perhaps this is only for an audience of one—that an older brother is proud of his sister. He is very thankful for the opportunity that he has had these last 52 years to know her.

Lord, as we look at the fight against cancer, it affects every single family—perhaps every single Member that is here—and there is nothing much that we can be thankful for, other than the time that it permits us to say the things that we should have said long ago.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body to thank many of the Members who have been praying for my sister, but mainly to say that I am proud to be her brother and to serve this country, where we can gratefully express our appreciation in a free and unselfish way.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

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

As the House reconvenes, we ask Your blessing upon deliberations informed by the experiences and interactions of the Members with their constituents.

We thank You for the time to be together with family and friends as our Nation celebrated 235 years of being a marvelous experiment in the self-governance of a people brought together by ideals and trusting in the ability of a free people to govern themselves in justice and peace.

Mindful of this great heritage, and the hard work and sacrifices of so many American ancestors to us all, may the Members of this people's House deliberate in good faith, mindful not only of short-term interest, but of their place in history, and of the tremendous responsibility to govern wisely for a bright future for our Nation.

May all that is done this day, in the wake of our national celebration, be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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.

CONGRATULATING RANDY ERICKSON

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize and thank Mr. Randy Erickson, a constituent from Kodiak, Alaska.

Recently, on behalf of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Foundation, he traveled from Kodiak, Alaska, to South Sudan. While there, Mr. Erickson repaired and serviced power generators for the two utilities that provide these towns with electricity. This work is part of the Electrification Sustainability Program in South Sudan, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

One project has evolved into a self-sustaining municipal electric cooperative serving approximately 1,300 consumer members. The other project also serves approximately 550 customers, including household, commercial enterprises, public institutions, and nongovernmental organizations.

After the 2005 peace agreement in South Sudan, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation sent a team of experienced engineering and management staff to establish the first electric cooperative, and later to build two more rural utilities in other areas.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International team provided training at these utilities to strengthen the competency of their directors, management, and employees.

Civil unrest broke out again last December, and many people were evacuated. Recently, USAID and the State Department began approving travel for its employees and partners to South Sudan, and Mr. Erickson volunteered his time and skills for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation to help ensure that, despite the unpredictable situation, the people in these areas could still have electricity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Erickson for his hard work.

SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, once again, as so many times before, the people of Israel are under missile attack from the terrorist group Hamas in Gaza, with 300 rocket attacks since June—150 just over the past few days—forcing children into shelters, with the promise of more violence rained on Israel. This is the same Hamas that has formed a unity government with the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Speaker, some things are clear. When rockets are fired on Israel, Israel will defend its people. When Hamas chooses violence, Israel will protect its people. When Hamas commits itself to the eradication and extermination of Israel, Israel will do what it must to ensure its survival.

Today, I will be introducing bipartisan legislation reaffirming this country's support for the people of Israel as it defends itself.

IMMIGRATION CRISIS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Spartanburg Herald-Journal published an editorial from the Colorado Springs Gazette titled: ''Immigration Crisis: Securing Border is Key to Stemming Flow of Children.''

Extraordinary points are made in the editorial:

> Failure to secure the southern border, combined with careless messaging by President Barack Obama, has made the United States an attractive nuisance. The fiasco at the southern border is far more than a political dilemma.
>
> Obama needs to get this under control, letting Latin Americans know in no uncertain terms that the United States cannot and will not host unattended children who illegally cross the border. We cannot continue putting these youths in danger, and we can't afford to resolve their collective plight.
>
> The lives of helpless children rest in the balance.

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

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, numbers don't lie, but viewed in isolation, they can obscure the truth.

Last week offered some encouraging news: 288,000 new jobs and an unemployment rate, by one measure, of 6.1 percent, which is the lowest rate achieved during Mr. Obama's administration.

There is tremendous human cost associated with half a decade of unemployment above—often, well above—6 percent, but this is an improvement. Our celebration, though, should be tempered by the truths obscured by this statistic.

The truth is: more than 92 million adults above age 16 are not in the labor force.

The truth is: if the labor force were at pre-recession levels, the unemployment rate would be 11.1 percent.

The truth is: the labor force participation rate has not been this low since 1978.

Mr. Speaker, some predicted President Obama would be the second coming of Jimmy Carter. Nearly 6 years in, that is looking like a best-case scenario.

SECURE THE BORDER AND FAITHFULLY EXECUTE THE LAW

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

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, the President refuses to secure the border, ignoring our laws. He has promoted citizenship for anyone who makes it into our country illegally. In so doing, he has caused mass illegal migration into our country. This has resulted in human trafficking, abuse, and even death.

The President has turned U.S. military bases into refugee camps, denying Members of Congress access to these camps. He has allowed media tours, but the media can't ask questions, can't talk to medical staff or employees, can't talk to the children, can't bring recording devices, and can't take pictures. It is very reminiscent of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, the President's lawlessness on the border has undermined our national sovereignty and national security. Now the President wants our constituents to pay $3.7 billion to solve a problem he created. Without a secure border, this is just the beginning.

Members of both parties must demand that the President finally secure the border and faithfully execute the law.

DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, everywhere I go in my district, from the grocery store to town hall meetings, I hear the same thing over and over again. This President will not stay within the bounds of the Constitution of the United States or the laws passed by this body and the Senate, and it is time that we stand up to that.

That is why I join in support with the proposal by the esteemed Speaker of this House, the gentleman from Ohio, that this House bring a lawsuit to bring the President back within bounds. I do so reluctantly. I wish we didn't have to do that.

The President's response to this was to say: So sue me.

So, Mr. President, we will sue you—not because we want to but because we have to defend the Constitution you won't abide by and we have to protect the rights of the people of this country that you continue to transgress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1531

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE) at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

VETERINARY MEDICINE MOBILITY ACT OF 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1528) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow a veterinarian to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice outside of the registered location, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1528

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 ''Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. TRANSPORT AND DISPENSING OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IN THE USUAL COURSE OF VETERINARY PRACTICE.

Section 302(e) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 822(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(e)'' and inserting ''(e)(1)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a registrant who is a veterinarian shall not be required to have a separate registration in order to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice at a site other than the registrant's registered principal place of business or professional practice, so long as the site of transporting and dispensing is located in a State where the veterinarian is licensed to practice veterinary medicine and is not a principal place of business or professional practice.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include an exchange of letters between the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON, On April 3, 2014, the Committee on Energy and Commerce ordered reported H.R. 1528, the ''Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2013.'' As you know, the Committee on the Judiciary was given an additional referral on this measure upon introduction. As a result of your having consulted with the Judiciary Committee concerning provisions of the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I too agree to discharge the Committee on the Judiciary from further consideration of H.R. 1528.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 1528 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1528, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2014.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1528, the ''Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2013.'' As you noted, the Committee on the Judiciary was given an additional referral on this measure upon introduction.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on H.R. 1528, and I agree that your decision is not a waiver of any of the Committee on the Judiciary's jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward. In addition, I understand the Committee reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and you will have my support for any such request.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 1528 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2014, introduced by Representative KURT SCHRADER of Oregon.

This is a commonsense bill that is supported by the veterinary community and will bring clarity to the sometimes conflicting guidance from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the DEA, relative to the Controlled Substances Act and the ability of a licensed veterinarian to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice outside of the registered location. Simply put, the bill allows veterinarians to legally carry and dispense controlled substances in the field.

This bill has a direct impact on my district—home of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, New Bolton Center. Vets are often required to provide ambulatory services in the field, especially in rural areas and for the care of large animals such as cows or horses. Sometimes it is not feasible for owners to bring the animals to a hospital or a clinic like New Bolton Center, and so vets provide essential house call visits.

Clarification of the law is necessary to allow vets to transport, administer, and dispense controlled substances outside of their registered location whether to provide pain management, anesthesia, or euthanasia. Passage of this important legislation will allow veterinarians the complete ability to provide care to their animal patients beyond their clinics. This will protect the health and welfare of the Nation's animals, ensure public safety, and safeguard the Nation's food supply.

A companion bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on January 8, 2014. H.R. 1528 includes 185 cosponsors and is supported by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the ASPCA, the American Animal Hospital Association, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and a veterinary coalition coordinated by the AVMA of over 110 organizations.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act.

This bipartisan legislation will permit veterinarians to treat animals in the most appropriate setting. This is particularly important for veterinarians when responding to emergencies, treating livestock and wildlife, or working in rural areas.

H.R. 1528 amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow veterinarians to legally carry and administer controlled substances in States in which they are licensed so they can provide care at the location of the animal patient.

The Senate unanimously passed a companion bill, and I am pleased the House is voting on this important legislation. Veterinarians must be able to legally provide complete veterinary care in a way that best protects animal welfare and public safety.

I would like to thank the sponsors, both Representative KURT SCHRADER and TED YOHO. I would also like to acknowledge the leadership of Chairman UPTON, Chairman PITTS, Ranking Member WAXMAN, Ranking Member PALLONE, and the work of the committee's staff in advancing this bill through the Energy and Commerce Committee and bringing it to the floor today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1528, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), who is a veterinarian himself.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act.

I want to thank my colleagues—Chairman UPTON, Chairman GOODLATTE, and Mr. PITTS—for helping to bring this important measure to the floor, and a special thank you to my friend and fellow vet, KURT SCHRADER. I also want to thank the Senate for unanimously passing this important piece of legislation out of that Chamber.

I spent over 30 years in the veterinary profession, and the passage of this bill will allow for the continued use of drugs necessary to perform the work we do for our four-legged patients. The animals I have helped on ranches and in the field have no voice of their own, and they require a certain degree of service that only veterinarians can provide.

Vets must have the ability to treat animals on-site and in the field. Limit that ability and you hurt a profession, you cripple ranchers across the country, and, most of all, you unfairly restrict lifesaving treatments for the animals, the patients, who need them the most. Imagine what it would be if the cattle ranchers were required to bring their cattle in or the horse owners to bring their horse to the vet every time they needed services. It directly affects their patient and their livelihood.

My friends, take it from me, I have practiced veterinary medicine in the field. If anything, we need more vets in the field, not less. This bill simply allows those in our profession to continue to do the lifesaving work that we were trained to do on the animals that so badly require it.

Join me in voting for this commonsense measure.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my colleague from Oregon, Congressman SCHRADER.

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, this really was a truly bipartisan, bicameral effort, including, as you have already heard, an impressive coalition ranging from the American Farm Bureau and the ASPCA down to all 50 State veterinary medical associations.

It is nice, I think the public should be reminded, that while we have great differences in this body on many issues, there are also a lot of issues we agree on. I think this first 6 months

has been a very productive session for this Congress, and this particular bill I think is noteworthy.

It is a little bit of a shame we are actually here in the early stages of the Drug Enforcement Agency's efforts to control the distribution and abuse of controlled substances. They issued a very blanket type of rule that, unfortunately, scooped up veterinary medicine and animals. We have been able to avoid this issue for many, many years. It is one of those where for the last 100–150 years veterinarians have gone out to the farms and ranches—nowadays, even within the cities, going home to home with mobile veterinary clinics—making sure those patients got the care with the appropriate medication that they deserve to be treated humanely.

DEA, in its exuberance, unfortunately, was unwilling to grant a waiver, a commonsense waiver, administratively, and forced Congressman YOHO and myself to go to a statutory change—lots of taxpayer money, lots of time by the committees. But it, unfortunately, is necessary. The good news I think for America is that common sense does prevail a lot of times in this great Congress. As alluded to, they have over 185 cosponsors of this legislation, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act, allowing veterinarians simply to do what they have done before, which is carry controlled substances safely to treat, dispense, and protect their patients in the field.

I think America would wonder why we are here. I think America is glad we are here, making sure that their pets, their livestock, get the care and treatment they need so they can have safe food and fiber and take care of the pets that they love and live with on a daily basis.

I am not going to go into the bill itself. I think Mr. PITTS did an excellent job of outlining things, as did Mr. GREEN.

I want to make sure I recognize a few folks that have been critical in the role here getting this to the floor. First and foremost, my good friend and colleague, TED YOHO from Florida, and his right-hand man, Larry Calhoun, did a yeoman's job making sure this was a good bipartisan effort; Chairman GOODLATTE and his staff for their unwavering support throughout the process; Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON were invaluable—as a matter of fact, I think we had all but four members of the Agriculture Committee sign on, Republican, Democrat, city, rural; this is a great bill—Senators MORAN and KING for their efforts on the Senate side; Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member WAXMAN on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

And finally, I extend my personal gratitude and a very special thank you to Dr. Ashley Morgan at the American Veterinary Medical Association for her tireless efforts through several years' worth of time to make sure that this bill actually got to the floor and got the vote that our animal friends actually deserve and, frankly, on behalf of all veterinarians in this great country.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have no other speakers, and we are prepared to close.

I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to ask all of the Members to support this commonsense bill that is on behalf of the life and safety of our animal patients and the safety of our food supply.

I urge bipartisan support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1528, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4653) to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4653

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 ''United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 201 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', which shall be an independent Federal Government advisory body''.

(b) SELECTION.—Subparagraph (A) of section 201(b)(2) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(b)(2) is amended by inserting at the end the following new sentence: ''The Commission as a whole shall also have expertise on the variety of faiths practiced around the world.''.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—Subsection (b)(3) of section 201 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by striking ''The appointments required by paragraph (1) shall be made not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.'' and inserting the following: ''An appointment required by subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) should be made within 90 days of a vacancy on the Commission.''.

(d) VACANCIES.—Subsection (g) of section 201 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by striking the second sentence.

SEC. 3. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.

Subsection (a) of section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),

(A) by striking ''and the director'' and inserting ''the director''; and

(B) inserting ''and members of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom,'' after ''Training Center,''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''and the various'' and inserting ''the various''; and

(B) by inserting '', the relationship between religious freedom and security, and the role of religious freedom in United States foreign policy'' after ''violations of religious freedom''.

SEC. 4. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended in the second sentence, by inserting ''voting'' after ''nine''.

(b) COMPENSATION.—Subsection (b) of section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by inserting ''voting members of the'' after ''The''.

(c) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—Subsection (e) of section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''The Department of State is encouraged to allow Commissioners and Commission staff with the appropriate security clearance access to classified information, in order to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of their positions.''.

(d) APPLICATION OF ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAWS.—Subsection (g) of section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by inserting '', including discrimination on the basis of religion'' after ''employment discrimination''.

SEC. 5. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DISCLOSURE.

Paragraph (2) of section 208(d)(2) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435a(d)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(H) Intern, fellowship, and volunteer programs that are primarily of educational benefit to the intern, fellow, or volunteer. Sponsoring private parties may provide compensation and benefits to interns, fellows, and volunteers, provided that no conflict of interest arises. The number, duration, and funding source of any such internship, fellowship, or volunteer programs shall be described in the annual financial report required by subsection (e).''.

SEC. 6. EXTENSION AND TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) of section 207 (22 U.S.C. 6435), by striking ''2014'' and inserting ''2019''; and

(2) in section 209 (22 U.S.C. 6436), by striking ''September 30, 2014'' and inserting ''September 30, 2019''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

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

H.R. 4653 demonstrates—again, introduced by our distinguished friend and

colleague FRANK WOLF—the strong bipartisan support that exists for religious freedom, with nearly an equal number of Republican and Democrat cosponsors of the legislation.

□ 1545

I believe this makes a powerful statement in a world where we see the rights of religious minorities and conscientious objectors being trampled upon in countries where intolerant ideologies, be they of a sectarian or secular nature, seek to crush moral and spiritual thought and conscience.

The headlines, indeed, are filled with examples in country after country in the world. A 27-year-old mother in Sudan was imprisoned and faced a death sentence in Sudan because, under shari'a law, she was considered an apostate as the child of a Muslim father, even though the only religion she herself had ever practiced was Christianity. To this day, Meriam Ibrahim remains unable to leave Sudan.

Anti-Semitism, pervasive and lethal in the Middle East, has spread like a cancer in many parts of Europe, and has resurfaced in Ukraine with a series of shocking and violent attacks following the ouster of former Prime Minister Yanukovych.

In communist dictatorships such as China, religious believers are imprisoned, tortured, and even executed for attempting to practice their faith. In China today, there is a pernicious, escalating war on believers, made worse by the wanton brutality of the regime's ubiquitous secret police. In North Korea, the situation couldn't be more dire, with Christians in particular subject to what human rights observers have termed genocide, dying by the tens of thousands from starvation and torture in concentration camps for daring to hold true to their consciences—that innermost sanctuary of the individual.

Tragically, many countries of the world are a long way from achieving the human right of religious freedom recognized by article 18 of both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Mr. Speaker, in 1998, with great legislative skill, commitment, and driving passion, Chairman FRANK WOLF pushed a somewhat supportive Congress but highly reluctant White House into enacting a singularly important human rights law: the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

For the first time ever, FRANK WOLF's law made the protection and promotion of religious freedom a serious priority in U.S. foreign policy by creating an Ambassador at Large for Religious Freedom; by establishing the Office of International Religious Freedom at the Department of State, which, among other duties, compiles the International Religious Freedom Reports on every country in the world; and by crafting the independent-minded U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the subject of today's reauthorization.

Importantly, FRANK WOLF's landmark law also created a system for naming and taking action against Countries of Particular Concern, or CPCs. History has shown that when the U.S. elevates religious freedom—and that priority is conveyed to Countries of Particular Concern—conditions often change for the better, prisoners of conscience gain their freedom, and progress is made in the free, or at least a freer, exercise of religious liberty.

According to the Commission, three themes guide the nine Commissioners' discussions on priority countries with serious violations of religious freedom: state-sponsored hostility to and repression of religion; state-sponsored extremist ideology and education; and state failure to prevent and punish religious freedom violations—or, a sense of impunity. Several of the CPC countries that systematically violate religious freedom fall into all three of those categories.

Mr. Speaker, when an administration, be it Republican or Democrat, demotes or trivializes religious freedom to a minor talking point, human rights-abusing nations construe such indifference as license to harass, abuse and exploit persons of faith.

Since its founding, the International Religious Freedom Commission has issued 15 annual reports and 14 special reports covering 76 countries. Of these, the Commission has identified 16 of these as countries that ought to be designated as Countries of Particular Concern.

I would also point out the Commission has acted as a true watchdog, recommending with incisive commentary—and I read their reports, as I know FRANK WOLF and many other Members in this Chamber read them—twice as many countries as CPCs than the State Department has designated as Countries of Particular Concern.

Our hope is that the State Department will say other diplomatic concerns need to be subordinated and just call it the way it is. If a designation is warranted, then name them a Country of Particular Concern and begin a robust intervention to try to get that nation to mitigate and, hopefully, end such egregious practices.

This includes the Commission's list of eight nations that are not on the list currently. One is Vietnam, which is an egregious violator of the rights of religious minorities. The Commission always calls it like it is and pulls no punches.

I would hope—and I would add this parenthetically—that when Members travel, they ought to look up on the Commission Web site and read what the country they are going to visit has said and done about religious freedom violations. Read the country specific report on it, and bring it up with your interlocutors in the country you are going to.

It is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that while the CPC designations remain, the penalties associated with the designations have now essentially lapsed. The last designations by the Obama administration were in 2011, and as 2 years have passed, the sanctions directly linked to the International Religious Freedom Act's sanctions authority have expired. This failure to implement our law on religious freedom sends a deeply troubling message to violators of this fundamental human right. It is thus more important than ever that we in Congress speak with a clear and loud voice today.

Two-and-a-half years ago, after passing with strong bipartisan support in the House, reauthorization of the Commission got bogged down in the Senate. Eventually, through the tenacity of Chairman WOLF, holds were lifted and the bill passed and was signed into law. We hope that the Senate will move swiftly to passage.

Mr. Speaker, let me also point out that in the House there has been tremendous cooperation on both sides of the aisle. This is, as I said at the outset, a truly bipartisan piece of legislation. We have had excellent input from the Commission itself throughout this process, including testimony from then-Chairman Dr. Robert George of Princeton University, who attended my hearing on May 22 and laid out in long, and very, I think, precise detail what needs to be done to combat the religious intolerance that exists today.

I would point out parenthetically that on July 1, Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett was elected as the new Chairman. Dr. George is now the Vice Chairman.

I would also point out that at my hearing members from the religious minority communities—Muslim, Baha'i, Christian, and Jewish—spoke out about the importance of the work of the Commission in countries like Iran, Pakistan, and China, helping to shine a bright light on the serious abuses that take place in all three countries. Of course, they raised other concerns as well.

Therefore, I ask all of our colleagues to join us in supporting this fine bipartisan piece of legislation, sending a very important message to the world that the United States of America deeply values religious liberty, and that it should continue to be a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4653, legislation that reauthorizes the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

I would like to begin by commending Representative FRANK WOLF, the author of this important legislation, along with Representative CHRIS SMITH, for their leadership on international religious freedom issues and for their hard work on this bill.

Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights States that:

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to . . . manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance.

Yet, every day religious communities around the world are subject to escalating violence, persecution, and discrimination.

In Sudan, a woman just faced a trial for apostasy, and was initially sentenced to death. China has banned fasting during Ramadan in Muslim-majority areas. In Nigeria, Christians and Muslim communities live in fear of the fanatical terrorist group Boko Haram. In Iran, the regime continues to persecute members of the Baha'i faith.

These and the many other examples of religious intolerance around the world are unacceptable. In keeping with our values, the United States has a responsibility to speak out against violations of religious freedom wherever they might occur.

USCIRF's work to defend religious freedom ranges from conducting research and publishing reports and analysis for public consumption, to offering advice and guidance to lawmakers on religious freedom violations around the world.

I believe religious freedom is a cornerstone of a strong democracy. And democracies, especially the United States, have a responsibility to support religious freedom around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4653, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the author of this legislation and the man that pushed this bill to enactment, the prime author of the International Religious Freedom Act, the chairman of the Commerce, Justice Appropriations Subcommittee, and also the cochair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Speaker BOEHNER, Majority Leader CANTOR, and their staff for prioritizing House consideration of this important reauthorization, as well as House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ED ROYCE and Congressman CHRIS SMITH for shepherding this legislation through the committee process.

I will say publicly what I said many times privately: no person that I have served with in 34 years has done more for human rights and religious freedom than Congressman CHRIS SMITH. He is my hero. When I see the giants that I have served with in my 34 years, and when you go abroad, whether it be in Boko Haram territory in Nigeria or in China, no one has a greater reputation for speaking out for the voiceless than Congressman SMITH. So I appreciate CHRIS' efforts at moving this thing quickly.

I also want to thank Elyse Anderson from my staff, who has done incredible work on this.

From the start, this bill has enjoyed, as Mr. SMITH said, strong bipartisan support, including the cosponsorship of Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL. I want to thank Mr. ENGEL also for his strong support on these issues over the years.

The broad support for this bill is fitting for an issue so central to America's own grand experiment in self-governance—the protection of religious freedom—which is often referred to as America's ''first freedom.''

Sadly, one need only pick up the newspaper today to see how religious freedom is under assault globally.

The terrorist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, is gaining territory in Iraq and before our eyes is threatening the very existence of ancient faith communities in the region, including the centuries-old Christian community.

Tens of thousands of Iraqi Christians have fled Mosul and the surrounding region in what the Christian Science Monitor recently characterized as a ''cataclysmic restructuring of an area that was home to some of the earliest Christians.''

In addition to the crisis in Iraq, religious minorities are marginalized and imperiled in Egypt and Syria. The government of Vietnam severely restricts religious activities of all faiths, as does the government of China; and religious minorities such as the Ahmadiyya Muslims face governmental and social harassment in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia. Countries that we give aid and support to, though the Ahmadiyyas in Pakistan cannot even vote.

These persecuted individuals and communities look to the U.S. above all others to champion their cause and to raise their plight with repressive governments.

In May, I introduced H.R. 4653, the bipartisan legislation before us today, which reauthorizes the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom for 5 years.

First created in 1998 through the International Religious Freedom Act, it is an independent, bipartisan Federal Government Commission that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad, reviews the facts and circumstances of religious freedom violation based on international standards, and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress. Without this Commission, there would be nobody around to point out what is taking place to these groups.

□ 1600

Since its inception, the Commission has been an invaluable watchdog for global religious freedom conditions. The Commission has been a voice for the imprisoned Baha'i leader who is languishing unjustly behind bars in Iran. Many Baha'is are behind bars in Iran, and if it weren't for the Commission, no one would know.

The Commission has been a voice of the fearful Iraqi nun who is uncertain if there is a future for her in the land of her birth. More Biblical activity took place in Iraq than in any other country in the world, other than in Israel. Abraham is from Iraq. Ezekiel is buried in Iraq. Daniel is from Iraq, as are Jonah and Nineveh. Without the Commission, there would be nobody speaking out for the Iraqi nun, who is fearful of her life and is fearful of the future for her church.

The Commission has been a voice of the Buddhist monk, who has watched with horror as more than 130 of his fellow Tibetans have set themselves aflame in desperation at the abuses they have suffered at the hands of the Chinese Government. If it were not for this Commission, nobody would know how the Buddhists are being persecuted in Tibet.

In short, the Commission has been and, with passage of this legislation, will continue to be the voice of the marginalized, oppressed, and persecuted people who dare to worship according to the dictates of their consciences.

The Commission can be relied upon to consistently give the unvarnished truth, as Mr. SMITH said, about the true state of religious freedom in countries around the globe, whether they are strategic allies or adversaries. The Commission is also unhindered by the bureaucratic morass that so often stymies the State Department during both Republican and Democratic administrations alike.

Given the state of religious freedom abroad today, the sobering reality is that the Commission's voice is needed more now than ever before. A vote for this legislation is a vote for America's first freedom. With that, I urge its unanimous passage.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, so I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 4653.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

To conclude, I want to thank Chairman WOLF again for, authoring the International Religious Freedom Act in 1998. What we reauthorize today is just one part of it, and that is the International Religious Freedom Commission.

For the record, the Commission is comprised of nine Commissioners, plus the Ambassador at Large. As of July 1, the current Chairman is Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, Dr. Robert George is Vice Chairman; Dr. James Zogby is Vice Chairman; and Dr. Zuhdi Jasser and Mary Ann Glendon are Commissioners.

Dean Eric Schwartz—who, as we all know, used to work up on the Hill as a staffer on the Democrat side and who went on to work in the NSC and work on refugee policies—is also a Commissioner, as are Daniel Mark, Father Thomas Reese, and Hannah Rosenthal—who acted as—as point person in

combating anti-Semitism. They work at their own expense. These are very, very dedicated individuals and their work is supported by a highly professional staff.

Again, I would ask Members to read their reports. They are among the best reports that have been produced anywhere in Washington. They are accurately posting what is going on, and then they go into great depth as to what some of the remedies ought to be.

I want to thank, again, Chairman WOLF for his extraordinary leadership for 34 years as a Member of Congress in combating all forms of human rights abuse, especially religious persecution. This is just another manifestation of his extraordinary leadership.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I rise in strong support to H.R. 4653, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2014.

I support this bipartisan legislation which reauthorizes the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) for five years.

First created in 1998, USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan Federal government commission that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad, reviews the facts and circumstances of religious freedom violations based on international standards and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State and Congress.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to have religious freedom then it is important that we protect it. Everywhere we look, the choice of worship is being challenged.

For example, we are reminded that significant threats to religious freedom persist across the globe.

In Iraq the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is gaining territory in Iraq and threatening the very existence of ancient faith communities in the region,

In addition to the crisis in Iraq, religious minorities are marginalized and imperiled in Egypt and Syria; the government of Vietnam severely restricts religious activities of all faiths, as does the government of China; and religious minorities such as the Ahmadiyya Muslims face governmental and social harassment in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia.

Since its inception, USCIRF has been an invaluable watchdog for global religious freedom conditions.

USCIRF commissioners are routinely called upon to testify before Congress and provide expert policy recommendations on how to most effectively advance this fundamental human right in U.S. foreign policy.

Religious freedom is America's first freedom, part of its history and identity as a nation. It also is a core human right recognized by international law and treaty; a necessary component of U.S. foreign policy and America's commitment to defending democracy and freedom globally; and a vital element of national security, critical to ensuring a more peaceful, prosperous, and stable world.

USCIRF champions this issue both at home and abroad and its voice is needed as much today as it has ever been.

I urge you to join me in cosponsoring this bipartisan legislation to reauthorize USCIRF.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4653, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUSPENSION OF EXIT PERMITS

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 588) concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 588

Whereas according to UNICEF, over 4,000,000 orphans are estimated to be living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas the United States has made significant financial investments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, providing an estimated $758,102,000 in development, humanitarian, and security assistance, including peacekeeping activities, in fiscal year 2013;

Whereas cyclical and violent conflict has plagued the Democratic Republic of the Congo since the mid-1990s;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State, the policy of the Administration toward the Democratic Republic of the Congo is ''focused on helping the country become a nation that . . . provides for the basic needs of its citizens'';

Whereas the United Nations has recognized a child's right to a family as a basic human right worthy of protection;

Whereas adoption, both domestic and international, is widely recognized as an important child protection tool and an integral part of child welfare best practices around the world, along with family reunification and prevention of abandonment;

Whereas, on September 27, 2013, the Congolese Ministry of Interior and Security, General Direction of Migration, informed the United States Embassy in Kinshasa that effective September 25, 2013, they had suspended issuance of exit permits to adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents, affecting hundreds of children;

Whereas there are American families with finalized adoptions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the necessary legal paperwork and visas ready to travel home with these children but are currently unable to do so; and

Whereas on December 19, 2013, the Congolese Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior and Security, and the General Direction of Migration confirmed to members of the United States Department of State that the current suspension on the issuance of exit permits continues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) affirms that all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent family;

(2) recognizes the importance of ensuring that international adoptions of all children are conducted in an ethical and transparent manner;

(3) expresses concern over the increasing number of new adoption cases that have been opened and the impact on children and families of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's suspension of exit permits; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Congolese Government—

(A) resume issuing exit permits for all children that have been adopted, and continue processing adoptions that are already underway;

(B) expedite the processing of those adoptions which involve medically fragile children; and

(C) encourages continued dialogue and cooperation between the United States Department of State and the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve the intercountry adoption process and ensure the welfare of all children adopted from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

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

I speak in strong support of the Peterson resolution, H. Res. 588, concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents.

Last year, the Democratic Republic of the Congo suspended the issuance of exit permits for Congolese children who were adopted by foreign parents, impacting hundreds of U.S. families.

The suspension means that Congolese children adopted by American parents cannot leave the country to go to their new homes, even though the parents have been officially declared the legal guardians under Congolese law. What is more, despite the exit permit suspension, Congolese courts have continued processing new adoptions, leading to a further backlog of adopted children who are unable to leave the country.

It is estimated that over 900 American families are caught up in varying degrees and stages of this adoption limbo—breaking many, many hearts. This is a deplorable situation for these children and for their distraught families. The DRC has not offered a clear

explanation for the suspension. The government has provided no evidence of widespread abuse in the adoption process.

The Peterson resolution underscores the importance of an ethical and transparent adoption process, and there are currently robust procedures in place for ensuring that these children are, indeed, orphaned and going to safe homes.

Ultimately, the DRC is entitled to amend its adoption process in going forward, but once the parents' legal guardianships are approved and established by the Congolese courts, the government should allow these children to depart the DRC with their adoptive moms and dads. All children deserve loving homes with moms and dads.

I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota, COLLIN PETERSON, for authoring this important measure, which has strong bipartisan support. Mr. PETERSON has always been a consistent voice in support of human dignity and of the least and littlest among us, consistently defending the human person from the womb to the tomb.

At the full committee markup, several adoptive parents who were denied the requisite permission to bring their sons or daughters home were in attendance.

They, COLLIN, when we went down and spoke to them, told many of us how incredibly grateful they are to you for your leadership and your compassion and for your authorship, especially, of this important resolution.

I also want to thank my colleagues on the committee—Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and subcommittee Ranking Member KAREN BASS—for their leadership in marking up this resolution at both the subcommittee and committee levels and for helping to get it to the floor. I also thank ERIC CANTOR and the Speaker for ensuring that it was up for consideration today.

Again, more than 900 American families from across the U.S. and their Representatives in Congress are watching this very closely. Indeed, in April, 170 Members of Congress wrote and asked the DRC Government to lift the exit permit suspension.

When Secretary Kerry visited the Congo in May, he personally raised the issue with President Kabila. I also call on President Obama to raise this issue personally when he and President Kabila meet at the gathering of African heads of state here in Washington during the first week of August.

Finally, I want to say a word to those parents who have endured not only the burdens that are financial, but that are primarily emotional in being separated from the children they have graciously welcomed into their lives.

Your hardship and pain is deeply understood by my colleagues and me, as well as by our staff members, many of whom have worked not only on this resolution, but who have also pushed our State Department and the Government of the DRC to resolve this important issue. Please continue to persevere. Don't give up hope. You will get to love and to have those wonderful children in your homes.

I also want to let the parents know that our Africa Subcommittee plans to hold another hearing to address the growing crisis of orphans in Africa to which adoption is one of the very important durable remedies, and we specifically intend to address the situation that you are confronting with your children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I would hope that Congressman PETERSON would lead off that testimony, again, in having been the man, the person in Congress, walking point on this very important issue.

Our approval today of House Resolution 588, with support across party lines, will send a strong signal to Kinshasa that we need to unite these affected families. They shouldn't be separated from these kids. They have done everything by the book, and they ought to be with their loving parents.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank Foreign Affairs Committee Chair ROYCE, the subcommittee Chair CHRIS SMITH, and Ranking Members ENGEL and BASS for their support of this legislation.

I first heard about this problem when a constituent from my district, Kristin Zeidler of Montevideo, called my office to explain her family's situation.

Kristin and her husband, Gregg, adopted a 4-year-old girl from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Their adoption has been recognized by both the United States Government and the Congolese Government since December of 2012, but they are not being allowed to bring this little girl home.

That is because, in September 2013, adoptions from the DRC were effectively suspended as the Congolese immigration authorities stopped issuing exit permits to adopted children. The Zeidler family has been fighting for the last year and a half to bring their little girl home.

This is just one example of more than 800 Congolese children and their adoptive American families who are caught up in the ongoing adoption crisis in the DRC.

Just to put this into context, this is over 10 percent of the total number of children who were adopted internationally by American families last year worldwide. The majority of the impacted cases are in their final stages and are merely awaiting the last step to bring home their legally adopted children.

This legislation takes a pragmatic approach, seeking to keep both sides at the table and to lead us towards a positive resolution. The resolution recognizes the Congolese Government's concerns about the ethical and transparent adoption process, and it respectfully requests that the issuance of exit permits and the adoption process resume.

Most importantly, H.R. 588 encourages a continued dialogue between our two countries on this issue. I hope that our mutual interests in the welfare of these children can lead us to a solution.

Turmoil in the region makes official estimates difficult, but we know there are millions of orphans living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With hundreds of American families like the Zeidlers being impacted by the suspension, we have a responsibility to act. A child's right to a family is a basic human right that is worthy of protection.

I am leading a letter with Representatives EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, MICHELE BACHMANN, and TRENT FRANKS to President Obama, asking him to address this issue when he meets with President Kabila at the United States-Africa Leaders Summit here in Washington, D.C., next month. I urge my colleagues who support this resolution today to also consider signing the letter.

Once again, I am very grateful to committee Chairman ROYCE and to subcommittee Chairman SMITH for their attention to this important issue, and I am also grateful for the support of the Adoption Caucus cochairs—Congresswoman BACHMANN and Congressmember BASS—and of Ranking Member ENGEL.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I have several speakers who want to be here, but they are not physically present on the floor.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this important resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, you have heard today about the devastating effects of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's decision to suspend exit permits for internationally adopted children. I've met with the American families who, as a result of this action, cannot welcome their adopted son or daughter into their home. I've seen their heartbreak.

One family, the Weavers, live in my district. In 2012, James and Olivia Weaver began the process of adopting little Wilfride, a gregarious five-year-old girl with a heartwarming smile. Her birth mother had abandoned her at a local orphanage.

The Weavers were overjoyed when, after nine long months, a Congolese court declared them Wilfride's legal parents. They quickly made preparations for their new daughter to join them and their two other daughters in Chino Hills, California.

But one month after the court's declaration, the Congolese Government suspended exit permits for children like Wilfride—meaning this little girl has had to continue living in an orphanage for the last 10 months. All this despite having a loving home in California that desperately wants to take her in.

I have been to the Congo many times. I understand the exceptional deprivation of orphans there. The Congolese Government should be helping, and not hindering, their transition to a good home.

I should add that, parents with completed adoptions in the DRC are legally responsible for their child's wellbeing—and are reportedly paying on average $500 a month in child support, in addition to healthcare expenses. I have serious concerns that the DRC Government may have perverse financial incentives to postpone resolving this issue.

I sincerely hope that this is not contributing to the Congo's delay. The government must allow these children to make their way to the homes that are anxiously awaiting their arrival. I want to thank Rep. PETERSON and Chairman SMITH for their hard work on this difficult issue, and I urge Members to support this important resolution to encourage the Congolese government to do the right thing.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 588, which expresses the strong opposition of the House to the current practice of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) of suspending the issuance of exit visas for Congolese children adopted by loving American families.

On September 27, 2013, the Congolese Government inexplicably and inexcusably suspended the issuance of exit permits to children who were seeking to depart and begin new and more hopeful lives in the country of their adoptive parents.

All children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent family.

It is unjust, cruel, and inhumane to punish innocent children for actions they did not commit and had no control over.

UNICEF estimates that there are over four million orphans living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 800,000 of which are double orphans, meaning that they have lost both of their parents. In many cases entire families have been decimated by violence.

Thus, if these innocent children are to have any chance for a normal life, there is a major need for international adoptions.

The recent action by the DRC Government jeopardizes both the adoption process and the long term safety of these children.

Mr. Speaker, there are few nations with more persons willing and eager to open their homes and their hearts to the orphaned children of the DRC.

There are, right at this moment, scores of American citizens currently in the DRC who are being forced to remain in the country for months while they wait for the government to approve exit permits for their adopted children. These delays serve no useful purpose and unnecessarily impede the children's adjustment to their new life and brighter future in America, including enrolling in school, adapting to the culture, and learning the language.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of the Government of the DRC are particularly disturbing given the fact that the United States is one of the DRC's largest and most generous supporters, as evidenced by the estimated $274 million in bilateral aid $165 million in emergency humanitarian assistance it provided in fiscal year 2014.

I agree that it ought to be the policy of the United States to help the Democratic Republic of Congo ''focus on helping the country become a nation that provides for the basic needs of its citizens.''

That is why the government of the DRC must discontinue its current practice of needlessly delaying or suspending the issuance of exit visas to children so they can be united with their adoptive families who will love and cherish them and provide for their basic needs.

H. Res. 588 calls upon the U.S. Government to recognize a child's rights and ask the Congolese government to:

1. Resume processing and issuing exit permits;

2. Prioritize the processing of inter-country adoptions that occurred before the suspension; and

3. Expedite the processing of children who are deemed medically fragile.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the pain and anxiety of one Texas family resulting from the DRC Government's arbitrary suspension of exit visas for adopted children.

The mother of this family wrote my office yesterday. This is what she said:

> I am writing today to inform you of the tragic situation my family is in with our legally adopted children not being allowed to come home from the Democratic Republic of Congo.
>
> Our sweet children, Josias (18 months) and Mercy (20 months), were adopted over a year ago and have had U.S. visas since December 2013.
>
> Sadly, they are still waiting for us to come get them and bring them home because the Congolese government is not allowing any adopted children to leave the country to be united with their families.
>
> In September 2013, the DRC government issued a suspension on the issuance of exit letters for all internationally adopted children, initially claiming the suspension would last ''up to a year.''
>
> They have now indicated the suspension will likely go on much longer and that we may not ever be granted an exit letter for our children.
>
> This has been a heartbreaking situation for our family as each day that our children are stuck in the DRC their lives are in danger.
>
> Several children have died of malaria during the suspension and many more have become very ill due to unsanitary living conditions and limited access to medical care and their lives are now in jeopardy.

Adoption is an important tool for protecting children and if the only barrier preventing these children from going home is signature on an exit visa, then the United States should stand with the children and insist that the government of the DRC act in the best interests of the children.

I urge all members to join me in supporting H. Res. 588 so that we can end the suffering and heartbreak currently experienced by so many American families and their adopted children from the DRC. It is the right thing to do.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, today we have a chance to change the lives of hundreds of American families, including three families in the Sixth District of Kentucky. One of these is the Hatton family, who are sitting in the gallery here today.

These families have legally adopted children from the Democratic Republic of Congo, but have been unable to bring their children home because their exit permits have been unfairly halted.

After learning of their struggles, I have been working closely with the Department of State and advocating on their behalf because no family should be faced with the choice of leaving the newest member of their family in another country or remaining in the Congo, further splitting up their family and causing a tremendous amount of uncertainty and heartache.

We must do everything in our power to help these American citizens and facilitate the travel of their adopted children home to join their family in the United States.

That is why I am a cosponsor of this resolution and thank the member from Minnesota for his leadership and support on this issue.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important bipartisan resolution to encourage the Democratic Republic of the Congo to resume issuing exit permits so that families can bring their adoptive children home to the United States.

I want to commend my colleague, Representative COLLIN PETERSON, for bringing this measure forward. It makes clear that we condemn the use of children as political pawns and support the unification of these families that have been separated due to arbitrary, bureaucratic, red tape.

As the father of three, I can imagine nothing worse than being separated from my children and not being able to love and care for them. Unfortunately, this has been a reality for hundreds of American families, including two in my district.

The Riegler's, a family from Muncie, legally adopted their son Chiza on August 27, 2013. Almost a year later, he is not home, despite having medical needs that can only be properly treated in the United States. The Riegler's are not alone in this harrowing experience, other families throughout the country are in the same senseless limbo.

The Department of State must put pressure on the Democratic Republic of the Congo to issue exit permits for children that have legally been adopted. As exit permits are provided for children deemed medically fragile, the State Department must then expeditiously process the paperwork to ensure these children are in their parents' arms as soon as possible.

All children have a right to be in a loving family that can provide the support they need to become healthy adults. We should not accept having to wait years to bring an adopted child home to the United States as the best we can do for these children and their parents.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 588, 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.

The title was amended so as to read: ''Concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1615

PRECLEARANCE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3488

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 ''Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS.

Pursuant to section 1629 of title 19, United States Code, and subject to section 5, the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations in a foreign country to—

(1) prevent terrorists, instruments of terrorism, and other security threats from entering the United States;

(2) prevent inadmissible persons from entering the United States;

(3) ensure merchandise destined for the United States complies with applicable laws;

(4) ensure the prompt processing of persons eligible to travel to the United States; and

(5) accomplish such other objectives as the Secretary determines necessary to protect the United States.

SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.

(a) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days before entering into an agreement with the government of a foreign country to establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations in such foreign country, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) A copy of the proposed agreement to establish such preclearance operations, including an identification of the foreign country with which U.S. Customs and Border Protection intends to enter into a preclearance agreement, and the location at which such preclearance operations will be conducted.

(2) An estimate of the date on which U.S. Customs and Border Protection intends to establish preclearance operations under such agreement.

(3) The anticipated funding sources for preclearance operations under such agreement, and other funding sources considered.

(4) An assessment of the impact such preclearance operations will have on legitimate trade and travel, including potential impacts on passengers traveling to the United States.

(5) A homeland security threat assessment for the country in which such preclearance operations are to be established.

(6) An assessment of the impacts such preclearance operations will have on U.S. Customs and Border Protection domestic port of entry staffing.

(7) Information on potential economic, competitive, and job impacts on United States air carriers associated with establishing such preclearance operations.

(8) Information on the anticipated homeland security benefits associated with establishing such preclearance operations.

(9) Information on potential security vulnerabilities associated with commencing such preclearance operations, and mitigation plans to address such potential security vulnerabilities.

(10) A U.S. Customs and Border Protection staffing model for such preclearance operations, and plans for how such positions would be filled.

(11) Information on the anticipated costs over the next five fiscal years associated with commencing such preclearance operations.

(12) A copy of the agreement referred to in subsection (a) of section 5.

(13) Other factors that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines to be necessary for Congress to comprehensively assess the appropriateness of commencing such preclearance operations.

(b) CERTIFICATIONS RELATING TO PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS ESTABLISHED AT AIRPORTS.—In the case of an airport, in addition to the notification requirements under subsection (a), not later than 90 days before entering into an agreement with the government of a foreign country to establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations at an airport in such foreign country, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) A certification that preclearance operations under such preclearance agreement would provide homeland security benefits to the United States.

(2) A certification that preclearance operations within such foreign country will be established under such agreement only if—

(A) at least one United States passenger carrier operates at such airport; and

(B) the access of all United States passenger carriers to such preclearance operations is the same as the access of any non-United States passenger carrier.

(3) A certification that the Secretary of Homeland Security has considered alternative options to preclearance operations and has determined that such options are not the most effective means of achieving the objectives specified in section 3.

(4) A certification that the establishment of preclearance operations in such foreign country will not significantly increase customs processing times at United States airports.

(5) An explanation of other objectives that will be served by the establishment of preclearance operations in such foreign country.

(6) A certification that representatives from U.S. Customs and Border Protection consulted publically with interested parties, including providers of commercial air service in the United States, employees of such providers, security experts, and such other parties as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, before entering into such an agreement with such foreign government.

(7) A report detailing the basis for the certifications referred to in paragraphs (1) through (6).

(c) MODIFICATION OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 30 days before substantially modifying a preclearance agreement with the government of a foreign country in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a copy of the proposed agreement, as modified, and the justification for such modification.

(d) REMEDIATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall monthly measure the average customs processing time to enter the 25 United States airports that support the highest volume of international travel (as determined by available Federal passenger data) and provide to the appropriate congressional committees such measurements.

(2) ASSESSMENT.—Based on the measurements described in paragraph (1), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall quarterly assess whether the average customs processing time referred to in such paragraph significantly exceeds the average customs processing time to enter the United States through a prclearance operation.

(3) SUBMISSION.—Based on the assessment conducted under paragraph (2), if the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines that the average customs processing time referred to in paragraph (1) significantly exceeds the average customs processing time to enter the United States through a preclearance operation described in paragraph (2), the Commissioner shall, not later than 60 days after making such determination, provide to the appropriate congressional committees a remediation plan for reducing such average customs processing time referred to in paragraph (1).

(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 30 days after submitting the remediation plan referred to in paragraph (3), the Commissioner of United States Customs and Border Protection shall implement those portions of such plan that can be carried out using existing resources, excluding the transfer of personnel.

(5) SUSPENSION.—If the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection does not submit the remediation plan referred to in paragraph (3) within 60 days in accordance with such paragraph, the Commissioner may not, until such time as such remediation plan is submitted, conduct any negotiations relating to preclearance operations at an airport in any country or commence any such preclearance operations.

(6) STAKEHOLDER RECOMMENDATIONS.—The remediation plan described in paragraph (3) shall consider recommendations solicited from relevant stakeholders.

(e) CLASSIFIED REPORT.—The assessment required pursuant to subsection (a)(5) and the report required pursuant to subsection (b)(7) may be submitted in classified form if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that such is appropriate.

SEC. 5. AVIATION SECURITY SCREENING AT PRECLEARANCE AIRPORTS.

(a) AVIATION SECURITY STANDARDS AGREEMENT.—Prior to the commencement of preclearance operations at an airport in a foreign country under this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall enter into an agreement with the government of such foreign country that delineates and requires the adoption of aviation security screening standards that are determined by the Administrator to be comparable to those of the United States.

(b) AVIATION SECURITY RESCREENING.—If the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration determines that the government of a foreign country has not maintained security standards and protocols comparable to those of the United States at airports at which preclearance operations have been established in accordance with an agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator

shall require the rescreening in the United States by the Transportation Security Administration of passengers and their property before such passengers may deplane into sterile areas of airports in the United States.

(c) SELECTEES.—Any passenger who is determined to be a selectee based on a check against a terrorist watch list and arrives on a flight originating from a foreign airport at which preclearance operations have been established in accordance with an agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), shall be required to undergo security rescreening by the Transportation Security Administration before being permitted to board a domestic flight in the United States.

SEC. 6. LOST AND STOLEN PASSPORTS.

The Secretary of Homeland Security may not enter into or renew an agreement with the government of a foreign country to establish or maintain U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations at an airport in such foreign country unless such government certifies—

(1) that it routinely submits information about lost and stolen passports of its citizens and nationals to INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Document database; or

(2) makes available to the United States Government such information through another comparable means of reporting.

SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except for subsection (c) of section 4, this Act shall apply only to the establishment of preclearance operations in a foreign country in which no preclearance operations have been established as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 3488. This legislation would require that the Secretary of Homeland Security meet certain conditions and requirements prior to establishing any new U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations in foreign countries.

The Customs and Border Protection's preclearance operations overseas inspect and examine travelers and their merchandise in foreign locations prior to their arrival in the United States. Once cleared on foreign soil, passengers do not have to clear customs upon arrival in the United States.

Now, Congress has a long history of supporting limited and specific preclearance operations. These serve to facilitate travel, and they improve homeland security. However, earlier this year, Customs and Border Patrol, or CBP, commenced preclearance operations in Abu Dhabi without prior notification to Congress, without concern to American jobs, and without a clear homeland security benefit.

This legislation ensures that the DHS takes into account the impact on American jobs and our global competitiveness as we enhance our security through future preclearance facilities. My bill requires DHS to meet a series of benchmarks to establish a preclearance operation and requires transparency and prompt notification to Congress while the Department negotiates preclearance agreements with foreign governments. This legislation will go a long way towards preventing a repeat of CBP's mismanaged rollout of the preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi earlier this year.

I have long had serious concerns about the agreement with Abu Dhabi, especially the way it was handled by the Department and, ultimately, the disregard DHS had for the domestic airline industry. To correct that error, this bill requires extensive consultation with key stakeholders so that that never happens again.

Abu Dhabi was the first new preclearance location established since 9/11. Prior to Abu Dhabi, the U.S. had preclearance locations in places like Ireland, the Bahamas, and Canada. We had an obligation to get this right, and CBP did not. Despite the security-focused rationale, this agreement was conducted without suitable congressional notification or a thorough explanation for the rationale of preclearance operations in Abu Dhabi.

We know that a significant number of watch list hits and suspicious travel pattern information originates from the region, but that does not excuse the lack of notification or, more importantly, not taking into account how such agreements affect American workers and their employers.

The establishment of a preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi, where no domestic carrier currently flies—let me repeat that, no domestic carrier currently flies—puts U.S. carriers at a competitive and significant disadvantage, as customs wait times are generally shorter at preclearance facilities compared to wait times in the United States.

This facility provides a clear facilitation benefit to foreign airlines at the expense of U.S. carriers and U.S. jobs, and this is particularly egregious where the foreign-based airline is given subsidies designed to tilt the market unfairly in their direction. By requiring the Secretary to consider the economic impact in establishing preclearance facilities, we protect American jobs and American workers.

I support giving our security professionals the tools needed in their effort to ''push out our borders,'' but we must do so in a way that makes us more secure, does not divert limited CBP staffing resources, or threaten U.S. jobs and a vital economic engine provided by U.S. carriers.

I am pleased that over 150 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle cosponsored this measure, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014.

As a Member who represents a major international airport, I had deep reservations about the Department of Homeland Security's decision to open a preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi earlier this year. I was concerned about the prospect that limited Customs and Border Protection personal resources would be diverted from domestic airports like Newark Liberty International Airport to overseas posts, which could result in wait times for clearing customs exceeding anyone's definition of reasonable. I also had concerns about DHS' decision to conduct preclearance at an overseas airport where U.S. carriers do not have a presence, thus giving a competitive advantage to a foreign-owned airline.

H.R. 3488 addresses both of my concerns. Regarding customs processing times, the bill requires DHS to certify to Congress that the establishment of preclearance operations in an additional country will not significantly increase processing times at airports in the United States. As for opening preclearance facilities at airports where U.S. carriers do not operate, this bill would prohibit DHS from doing so going forward.

United States airlines and the jobs they create and support across the country are critical to our economy. Efforts to ''push out our borders'' for security reasons must not come at the expense of the competitiveness of U.S.-owned and -operated airlines. I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) for recognizing this fact and for bringing forth this legislation before us today.

If enacted, H.R. 3488 will result in stricter requirements as well as enhanced oversight and accountability regarding how DHS decides to expand preclearance operations.

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I certainly want to thank Mr. MEEHAN for his diligent work on this issue—for quite a long time, actually. He raised concerns with the Department of Homeland Security preclearance operations very early on, and his leadership has been so important to the success of this bill and where we are today.

You know, really, I think there have been few issues that have kept CBP leadership busier over the last year

than preclearance. The troubled rollout of the preclearance in Abu Dhabi caused an awful lot of consternation in the Congress.

The preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi was the first such operation established since 9/11 based primarily on a security rationale. Therefore, the lack of appropriate congressional coordination and notification troubled many Members on both sides of the aisle.

In fact, preclearance operations were the subject of a limitation amendment to last year's Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill that I cosponsored with Mr. MEEHAN.

The bill under consideration today is sort of a fusion of Mr. MEEHAN's original text and then the FY14 Consolidated Appropriations Act, as well as Ms. JACKSON LEE's bill on this topic also, and it was very carefully crafted after numerous consultations with the Department of Homeland Security, the airline industry, and, again, Members from both sides of the aisle.

It really sets the contours for future preclearance operations which incorporate a series of notifications and certifications, including a justification that outlines the homeland security benefit and impact to domestic staffing and wait times that any new preclearance operations would have. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, this bill requires Congress to be notified in the event that the Department of Homeland Security modifies or changes an existing agreement.

I certainly want to be clear that the House Homeland Security Committee supports preclearance where it makes sense. Preclearance, of course, has been around as a security screening and trade facilitation tool since the early 1950s actually, and since 9/11, the security value of these operations has only been heightened. However, this bill makes it absolutely clear that the Department of Homeland Security cannot repeat the mistakes of the past.

I would also like to just thank Chairman CAMP of the Ways and Means Committee, who helped work with us with the Homeland Security Committee to get this bill to the floor today. Again, I certainly want to thank Mr. MEEHAN and other Members who have worked hard to make sure that the American airlines are not negatively impacted by future preclearance operations overseas.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014.

Earlier this year, the Department of Homeland Security decided to alter the focus of Customs and Border Protection's preclearance program from one aimed at passenger facilitation to one intended to enhance security—or, at least, that is what we were told when a bipartisan group of Members led by Representatives MEEHAN and DEFAZIO began asking hard questions about why a preclearance facility was being opened in Abu Dhabi, an airport at which no U.S. flag carriers operate.

Since preclearance operations commenced in Abu Dhabi earlier this year, representatives from DHS, including Secretary Johnson, have repeatedly stated that they are looking to expand the program to other high-risk overseas airports. Enactment of H.R. 3488 would ensure that, before DHS entered into another preclearance agreement, thoughtful consideration is given to the potential homeland security benefits of such an expansion, as well as the potential impacts to CBP staff at domestic ports of entry. Importantly, the bill also requires DHS to report to Congress on the potential economic, competitive, and job-related impacts opening such a facility would have on United States air carriers.

During committee consideration of the bill, an amendment that I offered was accepted that would require any passenger arriving in the U.S. who is determined to be a selectee to undergo security rescreening by the Transportation Security Administration before being permitted to board a domestic flight in the United States. This provision would ensure that any traveler that is determined to be potentially dangerous undergoes security screening on U.S. soil before being allowed to board a domestic flight.

Finally, the bill prohibits the opening of a new preclearance facility unless at least one United States passenger carrier operates at the airport where preclearance operations would be established. This provision will ensure that we do not see a repeat of the circumstances surrounding the opening of the preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi, where a foreign airline was provided a significant competitive advantage over U.S. carriers.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014.

□ 1630

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) for his hard work and leadership on this issue, this bill. He rallied more than 150 Members of Congress—no small feat in this institution—to express his concern over the way the DHS preclearance operations in Abu Dhabi were set up last year. The commonsense bill before us today should be supported by every Member of this body. Pushing out the border through operations like preclearance allows Customs and Border Protection to identify and intercept threats, including dangerous people and cargo, long before they ever reach our shores. So it is a noble concept.

Preclearance facilities have served America's interests by facilitating secure trade and travel since the 1950s. Since 9/11, the security value of these facilities has only increased.

However, I share the concerns of many of my colleagues regarding the rollout of a preclearance facility that was recently established in Abu Dhabi, which was the first such facility set up after 9/11. The process by which CBP announced and created this facility was not transparent, raising several questions about the suitability of that location.

I recently had the opportunity to visit this preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi on a delegation that I led to the region, and I came away convinced that there is real security value in putting our CBP officers overseas. However, I think it is appropriate that Congress weigh in on how we go about establishing future preclearance operations, given the controversy and mismanaged rollout of Abu Dhabi.

This bill strengthens the homeland security elements of preclearance operations by requiring that comparable aviation security screening standards are in place prior to beginning preclearance operations. It would also require rescreening of passengers and cargo if security standards are not maintained overseas.

This bill takes steps to reduce the potential for missteps by requiring a series of notifications and certifications to the Congress long before new preclearance facilities are established. Under the requirements of this bill, DHS must now certify that future facilities serve the national interests, stakeholders must be properly consulted, and U.S. airlines must have equal access to locations under consideration. This legislation we are considering is a result of extensive consultation with industry, the Department itself, and Members from both parties.

Again, I want to thank Chairman MEEHAN for his hard work and oversight on this important program. I want to thank the ranking member of the full committee, BENNIE THOMPSON, and the ranking member of the subcommittee for, once again, on our committee, showing great bipartisanship to get the will of the people done in this House.

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

Mr. Speaker, as you heard, H.R. 3488 enjoys the support of members of the Committee on Homeland Security. Indeed, this bill has a bipartisan collection of 154 cosponsors.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my deep appreciation to my

colleagues from both sides of the aisle for responding so collectively to the importance of this issue.

First and foremost, the principle that I think we stand for on both sides of the aisle is, when important issues like this are raised, that there be appropriate consultation with Congress and an appropriate understanding of the clear articulation by Homeland Security of the benefit that they expect to reach.

As the chairman has identified, once he visited Abu Dhabi, he came away convinced that there was a benefit. But the idea that that would not have been shared with us prior to entering that agreement is one of the critical things that we want to see addressed by this legislation.

But it is also the inability of the Department to appreciate or to take into consideration the impact that this will have, that it may have, and, in fact, it will have when there is no United States airline flying from Abu Dhabi. And the competitive disadvantage of that, which is generated by the fact that individuals who choose to fly the foreign airline currently get right into our country once they get into the preclearance facility, while those on American airlines coming into the same airport will wait in long lines. It creates a competitive disadvantage and the real possibility of a loss of American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and the Ranking Member of the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, I rise in support of H.R. 3488, the "Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014."

The legislation before the House today is the product of regular order, having been considered and approved by the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security in May and the Full Committee on Homeland Security in June.

H.R. 3488 stipulates the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish and conduct preclearance operations.

It is imperative that as we seek to "push out our Nation's borders" through preclearance and other programs, we do so in a risk-based manner that is mindful of impacts to our economy and the traveling public.

That guiding principle is what prompted me to introduce legislation last November, H.R. 3575, the "Putting Security First in Preclearance Act."

I am pleased that several of the provisions and policy goals contained in my legislation have been incorporated into the bill before the House today.

During subcommittee consideration of H.R. 3488, I offered two amendments that were adopted.

The first amendment requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to report to Congress on the anticipated homeland security benefits associated with establishing preclearance operations at a foreign airport.

As the Department of Homeland Security seeks to expand preclearance operations to potentially high-risk airports around the world, we should have a full understanding of the homeland security benefits associated with opening such facilities.

My second amendment, also adopted during subcommittee consideration of the bill, requires that any country seeking to enter into a preclearance agreement with the United States submit lost and stolen passport information to INTERPOL or another source that is searchable by the United States.

The tragic loss of Malaysian Airlines Flight 370 in March brought into focus a number of vulnerabilities in the international aviation arena, not the least of which is gaps related to lost and stolen passports.

On April 4th, the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security held a hearing on the vulnerabilities of passport fraud.

One of the major takeaways from that hearing was the need for more countries to regularly submit information about lost and stolen passports to INTERPOL.

The provision in H.R. 3488 requiring countries seeking to open Preclearance facilities to submit information on lost and stolen passports to INTERPOL will serve as an impetus for bringing would-be international partners into the fold and make the INTERPOL database more complete.

Enactment of H.R. 3488 will ensure greater Congressional oversight of the process associated with commencing preclearance operations and ensure the economic interest of U.S. airlines are considered when new Preclearance facilities are contemplated.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of H.R. 3488.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3488, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4007) to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4007

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 ''Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''TITLE XXI—CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS

''SEC. 2101. CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM.

''(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—There is in the Department a Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program. Under such Program, the Secretary shall establish risk-based performance standards designed to protect covered chemical facilities and chemical facilities of interest from acts of terrorism and other security risks and require such facilities to submit security vulnerability assessments and to develop and implement site security plans.

''(b) SECURITY MEASURES.—Site security plans required under subsection (a) may include layered security measures that, in combination, appropriately address the security vulnerability assessment and the risk-based performance standards for security for the facility.

''(c) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF SITE SECURITY PLANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove each security vulnerability assessment and site security plan under subsection (a). The Secretary may not disapprove a site security plan based on the presence or absence of a particular security measure, but the Secretary shall disapprove a site security plan if the plan fails to satisfy the risk-based performance standards established under subsection (a).

''(2) ALTERNATIVE SECURITY PROGRAMS.—The Secretary may approve an alternative security program established by a private sector entity or a Federal, State, or local authority or pursuant to other applicable laws, if the Secretary determines that the requirements of such program meet the requirements of this section. A covered chemical facility may meet the site security plan requirement under subsection (a) by adopting an alternative security program that has been reviewed and approved by the Secretary under this paragraph.

''(3) SITE SECURITY PLAN ASSESSMENTS.—In approving or disapproving a site security plan under this subsection, the Secretary shall employ the risk assessment policies and procedures developed under this title. In the case of a covered chemical facility for which a site security plan has been approved by the Secretary before the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary may not require the resubmission of the site security information solely by reason of the enactment of this title.

''(4) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary may consult with the Government Accountability Office to investigate the feasibility and applicability a third party accreditation program that would work with industry stakeholders to develop site security plans that may be applicable to all similarly situated facilities. The program would include the development of Program-Specific Handbooks for facilities to reference on site.

''(d) COMPLIANCE.—

''(1) AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct the audit and inspection of covered chemical facilities for the purpose of determining compliance with this Act. The audit and inspection may be carried out by a non-Department or nongovernment entity, as approved by the Secretary.

''(B) REPORTING STRUCTURE.—Any audit or inspection conducted by an individual employed by a nongovernment entity shall be assigned in coordination with the head of audits and inspections for the region in which the audit or inspection is to be conducted. When in the field, any individual employed by a nongovernment entity shall report to

the respective head of audits and inspections for the region in which the individual is operating.

''(C) REQUIREMENTS FOR NONGOVERNMENT PERSONNEL.—If the Secretary arranges for an audit or inspection under subparagraph (A) to be carried out by a nongovernment entity, the Secretary shall require, as a condition of such arrangement, that any individual who conducts the audit or inspection be a citizen of the United States and shall prescribe standards for the qualification of the individuals who carry out such audits and inspections that are commensurate with the standards for a Government auditor or inspector. Such standards shall include—

''(i) minimum training requirements for new auditors or inspectors;

''(ii) retraining requirements;

''(iii) minimum education and experience levels;

''(iv) the submission of information as required by the Secretary to enable determination of whether the auditor or inspector has a conflict of interest;

''(v) the maintenance of a secret security clearance;

''(vi) reporting any issue of non-compliance with this section to the Secretary within 24 hours; and

''(vii) any additional qualifications for fitness of duty as the Secretary may establish.

''(D) TRAINING OF DEPARTMENT AUDITORS AND INSPECTORS.—The Secretary shall prescribe standards for the training and retraining of individuals employed by the Department as auditors and inspectors. Such standards shall include—

''(i) minimum training requirements for new auditors and inspectors;

''(ii) retraining requirements; and

''(iii) any additional requirements the Secretary may establish.

''(2) NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—

''(A) NOTICE.—If the Secretary determines that a covered chemical facility or a chemical facility of interest is not in compliance with this section, the Secretary shall—

''(i) provide the owner or operator of the facility with—

''(I) written notification (including a clear explanation of any deficiency in the security vulnerability assessment or site security plan) by not later than 14 days after the determination is made; and

''(II) an opportunity for consultation with the Secretary or the Secretary's designee; and

''(ii) issue an order to comply by such date as the Secretary determines to be appropriate under the circumstances.

''(B) CONTINUED NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the owner or operator continues to be in noncompliance after the date specified in such order, the Secretary may enter an order assessing a civil penalty, an order to cease operations, or both.

''(3) PERSONNEL SURETY.—

''(A) PERSONNEL SURETY PROGRAM.—For purposes of this title, the Secretary shall carry out a Personnel Surety Program that—

''(i) does not require an owner or operator of a covered chemical facility that voluntarily participates to submit information about an individual more than one time;

''(ii) provides a participating owner or operator of a covered chemical facility with feedback about an individual based on vetting the individual against the terrorist screening database, to the extent that such feedback is necessary for the facility's compliance with regulations promulgated under this title; and

''(iii) provides redress to an individual whose information was vetted against the terrorist screening database under the program and who believes that the personally identifiable information submitted to the Department for such vetting by a covered chemical facility, or its designated representative, was inaccurate.

''(B) PERSONNEL SURETY IMPLEMENTATION.—To the extent that a risk-based performance standard under subsection (a) is directed toward identifying individuals with terrorist ties—

''(i) a covered chemical facility may satisfy its obligation under such standard with respect to an individual by utilizing any Federal screening program that periodically vets individuals against the terrorist screening database, or any successor, including the Personnel Surety Program under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) the Secretary may not require a covered chemical facility to submit any information about such individual unless the individual—

''(I) is vetted under the Personnel Surety Program; or

''(II) has been identified as presenting a terrorism security risk.

''(C) RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECURITY SCREENING COORDINATION OFFICE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct the Security Screening Coordination Office of the Department to coordinate with the National Protection and Programs Directorate to expedite the development of a common credential that screens against the terrorist screening database on a recurrent basis and meets all other screening requirements of this title.

''(ii) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the progress of the Secretary in meeting the requirements of clause (i).

''(4) FACILITY ACCESS.—For purposes of the compliance of a covered chemical facility with a risk-based performance standard established under subsection (a), the Secretary may not require the facility to submit any information about an individual who has been granted access to the facility unless the individual—

''(A) was vetted under the Personnel Surety Program; or

''(B) has been identified as presenting a terrorism security risk.

''(5) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall share with the owner or operator of a covered chemical facility such information as the owner or operator needs to comply with this section.

''(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

''(1) IDENTIFICATION OF FACILITIES OF INTEREST.—In carrying out this title, the Secretary shall consult with the heads of other Federal agencies, States and political subdivisions thereof, and relevant business associations to identify all chemical facilities of interest.

''(2) RISK ASSESSMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this title, the Secretary shall develop a risk assessment approach and corresponding tiering methodology that incorporates all relevant elements of risk, including threat, vulnerability, and consequence.

''(B) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SECURITY RISK.—The criteria for determining the security risk of terrorism associated with a facility shall include—

''(i) the relevant threat information;

''(ii) the potential economic consequences and the potential loss of human life in the event of the facility being subject to a terrorist attack, compromise, infiltration, or exploitation; and

''(iii) the vulnerability of the facility to a terrorist attack, compromise, infiltration, or exploitation.

''(3) CHANGES IN TIERING.—Any time that tiering for a covered chemical facility is changed and the facility is determined to no longer be subject to the requirements of this title, the Secretary shall maintain records to reflect the basis for this determination. The records shall include information on whether and how the information that was the basis for the determination was confirmed by the Secretary.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this title:

''(1) The term 'covered chemical facility' means a facility that the Secretary identifies as a chemical facility of interest and, based upon review of a Top-Screen, as such term is defined in section 27.105 of title 6 of Code of Federal Regulations, determines meets the risk criteria developed pursuant subsection (e)(2)(B). Such term does not include any of the following:

''(A) A facility regulated pursuant to the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–295).

''(B) A Public Water System, as such term is defined by section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Public Law 93–523; 42 U.S.C. 300f).

''(C) A Treatment Works, as such term is defined in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Public Law 92–500; 33 U.S.C. 12920).

''(D) Any facility owned or operated by the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy.

''(E) Any facility subject to regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

''(2) The term 'chemical facility of interest' means a facility that holds, or that the Secretary has a reasonable basis to believe holds, a Chemical of Interest, as designated under in Appendix A of title 6 of the Code of Federal Regulations, at a threshold quantity that meets relevant risk-related criteria developed pursuant to subsection (e)(2)(B).

"SEC. 2102. PROTECTION AND SHARING OF INFORMATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, information developed pursuant to this title, including vulnerability assessments, site security plans, and other security related information, records, and documents shall be given protections from public disclosure consistent with similar information developed by chemical facilities subject to regulation under section 70103 of title 46, United States Code.

''(b) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—This section does not prohibit the sharing of information developed pursuant to this title, as the Secretary deems appropriate, with State and local government officials possessing the necessary security clearances, including law enforcement officials and first responders, for the purpose of carrying out this title, if such information may not be disclosed pursuant to any State or local law.

''(c) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH FIRST RESPONDERS.—The Secretary shall provide to State, local, and regional fusion centers (as such term is defined in section 210A(j)(1) of this Act) and State and local government officials, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, such information as is necessary to help ensure that first responders are properly prepared and provided with the situational awareness needed to respond to incidents at covered chemical facilities. Such information shall be disseminated through the Homeland Security Information Network or the Homeland Secure Data Network, as appropriate.

''(d) ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS.—In any proceeding to enforce this section, vulnerability assessments, site security plans, and other information submitted to or obtained by the Secretary under this section, and related vulnerability or security information, shall be treated as if the information were classified material.

"SEC. 2103. CIVIL PENALTIES.

"(a) VIOLATIONS.—Any person who violates an order issued under this title shall be liable for a civil penalty under section 70119(a) of title 46, United States Code.

"(b) RIGHT OF ACTION.—Nothing in this title confers upon any person except the Secretary a right of action against an owner or operator of a covered chemical facility to enforce any provision of this title.

"SEC. 2104. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.

"The Secretary shall publish on the Internet website of the Department and in other materials made available to the public the whistleblower protections that an individual providing such information would have.

"SEC. 2105. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.

"(a) OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to supersede, amend, alter, or affect any Federal law that regulates the manufacture, distribution in commerce, use, sale, other treatment, or disposal of chemical substances or mixtures.

"(b) STATES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.—This title shall not preclude or deny any right of any State or political subdivision thereof to adopt or enforce any regulation, requirement, or standard of performance with respect to chemical facility security that is more stringent than a regulation, requirement, or standard of performance issued under this section, or otherwise impair any right or jurisdiction of any State with respect to chemical facilities within that State, unless there is an actual conflict between this section and the law of that State.

"(c) RAIL TRANSIT.—

"(1) DUPLICATIVE REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to eliminate any provision of this title applicable to rail security that would duplicate any security measure under the Rail Transportation Security Rule under section 1580 of title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect as of the date of the enactment of this title. To the extent that there is a conflict between this title and any regulation under the jurisdiction of the Transportation Security Administration, the regulation under the jurisdiction of the Transportation Security Administration shall prevail.

"(2) EXEMPTION FROM TOP-SCREEN.—A rail transit facility or a rail facility, as such terms are defined in section 1580.3 of title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, to which subpart 3 of such title applies pursuant to section 1580.100 of such title shall not be required to complete a Top-Screen as such term is defined in section 27.105 of title 6 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

"SEC. 2106. REPORTS.

"(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards Program. Such report shall include each of the following:

"(1) Certification by the Secretary that the Secretary has made significant progress in the identification of all chemical facilities of interest pursuant to section 2101(e)(1), including a description of the steps taken to achieve such progress and the metrics used to measure it, information on whether facilities that submitted Top-Screens as a result of such efforts were tiered and in what tiers they were placed, and an action plan to better identify chemical facilities of interest and bring those facilities into compliance.

"(2) Certification by the Secretary that the Secretary has developed a risk assessment approach and corresponding tiering methodology pursuant to section 2101(e)(2).

"(3) An assessment by the Secretary of the implementation by the Department of any recommendations made by the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute as outlined in the Institute's Tiering Methodology Peer Review (Publication Number: RP12–22–02).

"(b) SEMIANNUAL GAO REPORT.—During the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this title, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a semiannual report to Congress containing the assessment of the Comptroller General of the implementation of this title. The Comptroller General shall submit the first such report by not later than the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this title.

"SEC. 2107. CFATS REGULATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized, in accordance with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, to promulgate regulations implementing the provisions of this title.

"(b) EXISTING CFATS REGULATIONS.—In carrying out the requirements of this title, the Secretary shall use the CFATS regulations, as in effect immediately before the date of the enactment of this title, that the Secretary determines carry out such requirements, and may issue new regulations or amend such regulations pursuant to the authority in subsection (a).

"(c) DEFINITION OF CFATS REGULATIONS.—In this section, the term 'CFATS regulations' means the regulations prescribed pursuant to section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295; 120 Stat. 1388; 6 U.S.C. 121 note), as well as all Federal Register notices and other published guidance concerning section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007.

"(d) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall exclusively rely upon authority provided in this title for determining compliance with this title in—

"(1) identifying chemicals of interest;

"(2) designating chemicals of interest; and

"(3) determining security risk associated with a chemical facility.

"SEC. 2108. SMALL COVERED CHEMICAL FACILITIES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide guidance and, as appropriate, tools, methodologies, or computer software, to assist small covered chemical facilities in developing their physical security.

"(b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on best practices that may assist small chemical facilities, as defined by the Secretary, in development of physical security best practices.

"(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term 'small covered chemical facility' means a covered chemical facility that has fewer than 350 employees employed at the covered chemical facility, and is not a branch or subsidiary of another entity.

"SEC. 2109. OUTREACH TO CHEMICAL FACILITIES OF INTEREST.

"Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall establish an outreach implementation plan, in coordination with the heads of other appropriate Federal and State agencies and relevant business associations, to identify chemical facilities of interest and make available compliance assistance materials and information on education and training.

"SEC. 2110. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title $81,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017.".

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

"TITLE XXI—CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI–TERRORISM STANDARDS

"Sec. 2101. Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.
"Sec. 2102. Protection and sharing of information.
"Sec. 2103. Civil penalties.
"Sec. 2104. Whistleblower protections.
"Sec. 2105. Relationship to other laws.
"Sec. 2106. Reports.
"Sec. 2107. CFATS regulations.
"Sec. 2108. Small covered chemical facilities.
"Sec. 2109. Outreach to chemical facilities of interest.
"Sec. 2110. Authorization of appropriations.".

(c) THIRD-PARTY ASSESSMENT.—Using amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 2110 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall commission a third-party study to assess vulnerabilities to acts of terrorism associated with the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program, as authorized pursuant to section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295; 120 Stat. 1388; 6 U.S.C. 121 note).

(d) METRICS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a plan for the utilization of metrics to assess the effectiveness of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program to reduce the risk of a terrorist attack or other security risk to those citizens and communities surrounding covered chemical facilities. The plan shall include benchmarks on when the program will begin utilizing the metrics and how the Department of Homeland Security plans to use the information to inform the program.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 4007, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014. This bipartisan legislation continues our efforts to provide a sound plan and clear objectives for the Department of Homeland Security's Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards, or what we call CFATS.

Before I discuss the merits of the bill, itself, I would like to extend a special

debt of gratitude to Chairman UPTON and subcommittee Chairman SHIMKUS of the Energy and Commerce Committee, without whom H.R. 4007 would not be on the floor today.

The Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce share jurisdiction over the CFATS program, and our goal of ensuring that CFATS is doing what needs to be done to protect American chemical facilities from acts of terrorism is a common one. Therefore, our two committees work together to create this bill.

In fact, last summer, Chairman UPTON and Chairman MCCAUL sent a letter to then-Secretary Napolitano, expressing their frustration with the Department's delay in getting the CFATS program up and running. They vowed to work together as the program's authorizers to provide the guidance and direction the program needed and to do so immediately. H.R. 4007 represents the culmination of our collaborative efforts to fulfill the pledge.

Over the course of the past year, our two committees have worked in partnership with all of the CFATS key stakeholders, including both the regulated community and the Department itself, to assess the program's strengths and shortcomings, and develop a straightforward, practically minded piece of legislation to improve the CFATS program overall.

I am very proud of the partnership in getting H.R. 4007 done, and I am grateful for Chairmen UPTON and SHIMKUS and their support for allowing us to bring the bill to the floor swiftly in the interest of seeing this legislation enacted in this Congress.

I would like to note that the Energy and Commerce Committee's exchange of letters with the Homeland Security Committee in no way diminishes that committee's jurisdictional claim to or authority over the CFATS program.

This bill represents the result of the legislative process done right: committees and Members of Congress working in partnership with one another to do what is best for America. I am proud to share the credit of the bill with Chairman UPTON and Chairman SHIMKUS, and my good friends and colleagues from the other side of the aisle. Good governance is represented here today.

CFATS was created by the Department of Homeland Security in 2007 after Congress authorized the Department to develop a set of vulnerability assessment standards for chemical plants and to implement a corresponding set of regulations that will protect the highest risk facilities from a physical attack.

Prior to the attacks on 9/11, Congress had established an array of laws aimed at preventing environmental disasters at facilities that produce or store potentially dangerous chemicals. While those laws remain, Congress and the Department of Homeland Security developed CFATS specifically to prevent an intentional attack on chemical facilities.

The program uses risk-based performance standards in order to provide individual facilities the flexibility to address their unique security challenges. Importantly, the Department developed a tiering structure that permits CFATS to focus their resources on the higher-risk facilities. By partnering with industry, CFATS requires the covered chemical facilities to prepare security vulnerability assessments and develop and implement site security plans that are based on those assessments.

Despite what we would all agree are the best of intentions, it is no secret that CFATS has struggled throughout its 7-year history. From implementation problems to management flaws to insufficient feedback from facilities, highlighted in the aftermath of the West, Texas, disaster, CFATS has had a rocky start. However, let's be mindful that mismanagement is not synonymous with policy failure.

Our goal has been to identify both the major problems with the program and the progress made by DHS to correct them. The assessment has given us the ability to craft a set of benchmarks that are complementary to the President's Executive Order No. 13650 that was released after the tragic explosion at the West Fertilizer plant in West, Texas, last spring.

For the past 4 years, CFATS has relied on appropriations with no official guidance or authorizing statute from Congress. Past attempts to reauthorize the program have failed due to either overly ambitious proposals or sweeping overhauls that expand the scope of its intent. Let's first fix the program before we debate granting greater responsibility.

We have taken a modest, practical approach to reauthorization. We have determined that the site security plan approval process needs greater efficiency. The compliance process is greatly in need of better coordination. Implementing a sensible and effective methodology in assessing risk will help DHS better communicate with State and local officials, as well as other Federal agencies and industry associations, to identify facilities. This is important as we talk about issues like the West, Texas, plant. CFATS must remain on probation until the program proves its effectiveness. Therefore, the Government Accountability Office should continue to assess the program and report to Congress its findings on a biannual basis—all parts that are included in that bill.

The resulting legislation, H.R. 4007, does all of these things and, therefore, enjoys support from a wide array of stakeholders. Republicans and Democrats have voiced their support for the bill. In addition to having two Democratic cosponsors, Representatives GENE GREEN and FILEMON VELA, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson explicitly endorsed H.R. 4007 in February of this year. We have worked with the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to produce legislation that puts the security of Americans above politics and jurisdictional values.

This bill has support from the House; the Senate, which is in the process of crafting a companion bill, which they plan to mark up this month; DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson; and industry stakeholders, including the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, the American Chemistry Council, CropLife America, and a coalition comprised of a broad spectrum of agricultural, mining, petroleum, and transport organizations. At this time, I would like to enter those support letters into the RECORD.

AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK MEEHAN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN MCCAUL AND MEEHAN: The American Chemistry Council (ACC) would like to thank you and your colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee for your work and leadership on the authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014, H.R. 4007. ACC strongly supports this bill, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to help secure final passage of this important and much needed legislation. Long term authorization of CFATS is critical to helping safeguard chemical facilities, and this bill would give the industry long overdue regulatory certainty.

ACC is the trade association for the chemical industry in the United States, which is a $770 billion industry and employs 784,000 Americans in high wage jobs. The industry is experiencing a renaissance in the United States thanks to the increase in shale gas production, and our members have announced over $100 billion in new planned capital expenditures that will provide tens of thousands of new jobs, and give manufacturers throughout the value chain a domestic supply of the chemicals they need to manufacture products in this country. Ensuring that clear and workable security regulations remain in place is an important part of creating an environment that will continue to foster these new investments.

DHS has dramatically improved its administration of the CFATS program, which has had a positive impact on enhancing security at US chemical sites, and ACC supports making this a permanent program for the approximately 4,500 sites that are regulated under CFATS. Congressional oversight via an authorization would help DHS with some of the challenges they have faced implementing the program, even as the agency has made progress with a new management structure. The industry has seen considerable increased activity from DHS, including improved quality of inspections and faster authorizations. Most importantly, DHS leadership has demonstrated a commitment to working with stakeholders to improve the implementation of the CFATS program. A long term authorization outside of the appropriation process will provide the regulatory consistency and operational stability to ensure the success of CFATS, while giving industry confidence in long term capital

commitments to this program. Ensuring the future of this important program will also help DHS recruit and retain top talent to effectively implement CFATS.

We are committed to continuing our work with you and your staff to help move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

CAL DOOLEY.

AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2014.

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

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER AND LEADER PELOSI: The American Chemistry Council (ACC) urges you to vote yes today on H.R. 4007, The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014. ACC strongly supports this bill which would give much needed long term authorization to the CFATS program. CFATS regulates security for a wide variety of facilities that make, store, or use chemicals from farms to factories. The program allows facilities to tailor their security plans to meet their unique needs, and authorization of the program would give the industry long overdue regulatory certainty.

ACC is the trade association for the chemical industry in the United States, which is a $770 billion industry and employs 784,000 Americans in high wage jobs. The industry is experiencing a renaissance thanks to the increase in domestic shale gas production, and our members have announced over $110 billion in new planned capital expenditures that will provide tens of thousands of new jobs, and give manufacturers throughout the value chain a domestic supply of the chemicals they need to manufacture products in this country. Ensuring that clear and workable security regulations remain in place is an important part of creating an environment that will continue to foster these new investments.

DHS has dramatically improved its administration of the CFATS program, which has had a positive impact on enhancing security at US chemical sites, and ACC supports making this a permanent program for the approximately 4,500 sites that are regulated under CFATS. Congressional oversight via an authorization would help DHS with some of the challenges they have faced implementing the program, even as the agency has made progress with a new management structure. The industry has seen considerable increased activity from DHS, including improved quality of inspections and faster authorizations. Most importantly, DHS leadership has demonstrated a commitment to working with stakeholders to improve the implementation of the CFATS program.

A long term authorization outside of the appropriation process will provide the regulatory consistency and operational stability to ensure the success of CFATS, while giving industry confidence in their long term capital commitments to this program. Ensuring the future of this important program will also help DHS recruit and retain top talent to effectively implement CFATS.

Please contact Mike Meenan, Director of Federal Affairs at mike_meenan@americanchemistry.com or at (202) 249–6216 if we can be of any assistance while you consider this important vote.

Sincerely,

CAL DOOLEY.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, April 2, 2014.

Hon. PATRICK MEEHAN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MEEHAN: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, supports H.R. 4007, the ''Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014.''

This bill is a narrowly tailored measure that would authorize for two years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program, which is administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The bill addresses several industry policy goals. First, rather than relying on the current cycle of yearly appropriations measures, the bill's dual-year authorization would give businesses and DHS more certainty when making planning and investment decisions. Second, H.R. 4007 would eliminate some of the major impediments that facilities owners and operators encounter when implementing CFATS. The bill would both enhance the efficiency of site security plan approvals and provide the flexibility needed to satisfy the program's personnel surety standard—which is a top Chamber priority. Third, H.R. 4007 would give DHS the option of using third parties to quicken the pace of chemical facility inspections. The measure would also require tighter coordination between state and local government and business to constructively address ''outlier'' sites. Importantly, the bill would refrain from mandating inherently safer technologies (ISTs).

The Chamber commends you and your staff for taking the lead in drafting a sensible measure that protects investments businesses have made in conjunction with CFATS, while making smart and necessary reforms. The Chamber encourages Homeland Security Committee members to support H.R. 4007 and looks forward to working with you as the bill advances in the House.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2014.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, supports H.R. 4007, the ''Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014,'' as reported out of committee by voice vote.

H.R. 4007 is a narrowly tailored measure that would authorize for three years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program, which is administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The bill addresses several industry policy goals. First, rather than relying on the current cycle of yearly appropriations measures, the bill's three-year authorization would give businesses and DHS more certainty when making planning and investment decisions. Second, H.R. 4007 would eliminate some of the major impediments that facilities owners and operators encounter when implementing CFATS. The bill would enhance both the efficiency of site security plan approvals and the flexibility needed to satisfy the program's personnel surety standard—which is a top Chamber priority.

Third, H.R. 4007 would give DHS the option of using third parties to quicken the pace of chemical facility inspections. The measure would also require tighter coordination between state and local government and business to constructively address ''outlier'' sites. Importantly, the bill would refrain from mandating inherently safer technologies (ISTs).

The Chamber commends the Homeland Security Committee for taking the lead in drafting a sensible measure that protects investments businesses have made in conjunction with CFATS, while making smart and necessary reforms. The Chamber urges you and your colleagues to support H.R. 4007, and may consider including votes on, or in relation to, this bill in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

THE FERTILIZER INSTITUTE,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2014.

Re Vote yes on H.R. 4007 today.

To Members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: I am writing to you today to urge you to support H.R. 4007, the ''Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014.'' H.R. 4007 is a bipartisan, streamlined, bill that provides a three year authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program. The bill provides clear and important guidance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on key issues of chemical facility security.

As the trade association representing the domestic fertilizer industry, The Fertilizer Institute's members are producers, wholesalers, and retailers of crop nutrients, some of which are classified by DHS as chemicals of interest and thus covered by the CFATS program

H.R. 4007 addresses several important policy goals that will help ensure an efficient and effective CFATS program. First, it provides companies with a necessary level of flexibility that will facilitate improved security by ensuring that standards for facility access can be modified to meet site-specific conditions. Specifically, the bill allows for third-party inspections and the utilization of DHS approved site security plans by covered facilities. This is important to the fertilizer industry due to the broad diversity in the types and sizes of facilities our members operate.

Additionally, H.R. 4007 addresses certain concerns surrounding the personnel surety program which establishes requirements needed for facility access. It directs DHS to leverage existing federal security programs that require screening through the Terrorist Screening Database to satisfy compliance under the CFATS program and avoid needlessly requiring additional background security checks or resubmission of workers' personal identifying information.

Also of importance, the legislation ensures better coordination between DHS and state and local officials. Communication and coordination at all levels is key to ensuring that facilities and communities are prepared to respond to an incident at a chemical facility.

The CFATS Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014 will also eliminate the

need for year-to-year program budget extensions, which are subject to the annual appropriations process, and provide industry with the certainty needed to make long-term planning and investment decisions regarding facility security. In addition, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will be able to effectively establish programs and make necessary changes to existing ones without worrying about whether or not the resources to administer them will be available in the future.

While the CFATS program has certainly had its share of flaws in the past, we believe that this bipartisan legislation will provide DHS with the necessary tools to improve implementation while at the same time providing Congress with the ability to conduct proper oversight of the program by monitoring implementation activities and making necessary changes when the program is subject to reauthorization.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, The Fertilizer Institute urges you to vote YES on H.R. 4007.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

J. CLARK MICA.

APRIL 29, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.
Hon. PATRICK MEEHAN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, Washington, DC.
Hon. BENNIE THOMPSON,
Ranking Member, House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.
Hon. YVETTE CLARKE,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL, RANKING MEMBER THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN MEEHAN, AND RANKING MEMBER CLARKE: We, the undersigned organizations would like to express our support for H.R. 4007, the CFATS Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014 and urge the House Committee on Homeland Security to quickly consider and pass the bill. H.R. 4007 is a streamlined bill that provides a three year authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program and guidance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on key issues of chemical facility security.

The bill addresses several important policy goals. First, it provides a multi-year authorization to allow DHS to confidently implement CFATS and industry to make important investments with the certainty that goes along with knowing the program will be authorized. The current practice of year-to-year extensions, or worse, short-term continuing resolutions through the appropriations process, is a destabilizing force in the implementation and investment process.

Secondly, the legislation also addresses some of the major impediments to completing site security plans and full implementation of the program. It addresses certain concerns surrounding the personnel surety requirements needed for access; gives covered facilities the ability to meet site security plans through alternate security plans approved by DHS and an option to use 3rd parties as inspectors; improves Congressional oversight regarding the tiering methodology; and ensures better coordination with state and local officials.

We recognize the complexities in implementing a program like CFATS and are fully aware of some of the flaws in management exposed over the past few years. This multi-year authorization will give DHS the time and stability it needs to improve its implementation, but at the same time, will ensure that Congress has the ability to monitor the program and make any necessary changes to it before the next authorization.

The organizations and companies listed below represent thousands of American businesses that employ millions of American workers. We are manufacturers, producers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers in agriculture, chemistry, energy, forest products, medicine, and other businesses that form our nation's infrastructure. We support H.R. 4007, and urge the Committee on Homeland Security to quickly consider and pass this important legislation.

Thank you for your timely consideration.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association, American Chemistry Council, American Coatings Association, American Forest & Paper Association, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Gas Association, American Petroleum Institute, American Trucking Associations, Association of Oil Pipe Lines, CropLife America, Edison Electric Institute, Global Cold Chain Alliance, Institute of Makers of Explosives, International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses, International Liquid Terminals Association, International Warehouse Logistics Association, National Agricultural Aviation Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Manufacturers, National Mining Association, National Pest Management Association, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates, The Fertilizer Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

APRIL 1, 2014.

Hon. MIKE MCCAUL,
Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.
Hon. BENNIE THOMPSON,
Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MEMBER: As the Committee on Homeland Security considers legislation to promote the security of chemical facilities, we would like you to know that we share your interest and support your efforts to ensure that homeland security and the protection of America's food supply is a top priority. The nation's agricultural industry continues to take proactive steps to properly secure crops and livestock as well as vital crop input materials such as fertilizer and pesticides throughout the distribution chain. The agricultural industry has worked closely with U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials in order to establish appropriate standards and ensure compliance with the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) regulations.

Because agribusiness is unique in its use, distribution and storage of chemicals, so are its security needs. To address these unique needs, agricultural companies and trade associations formed an Agribusiness Security Working Group in 2002 to address security concerns. The members of this working group participate in DHS workgroups, such as the Chemical Sector Coordinating Council, to help coordinate agribusiness' response to DHS's requests for comments and to facilitate our industry's ability to communicate threat information, report suspicious activity and respond to emergencies.

America's agricultural industry supports passage of H.R. 4007, ''The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014'' introduced by Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies Subcommittee Chairman Patrick Meehan. We believe the extension of the current CFATS program for two years will help create regulatory certainty for the agricultural community and we support a workable Personnel Surety Program included in the bill.

The regulatory and economic impact on American agriculture and the consumer for whom essential food, fiber and bioenergy is provided is of great concern to the agricultural industry. It is our hope that any bill that comes out of the Committee on Homeland Security will recognize these unique challenges and seek to mitigate the costs of regulation to our agricultural producers while also ensuring facility security.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and perspectives shared within the broader agriculture sector. We look forward to working with you to pass chemical facility legislation that ensures the security of our vital infrastructure and that does not have unintended consequences for American agriculture.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation, Agricultural Retailers Association, Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology, CropLife America, National Agricultural Aviation Association, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, The Fertilizer Institute.

JULY 8, 2014.

DEAR MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: We, the undersigned organizations would like to express our support for H.R. 4007, the CFATS Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014 and urge you to vote in favor of the bill. H.R. 4007 is a streamlined bill that provides a three year authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program and guidance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on key issues of chemical facility security.

The bill addresses several important policy goals. First, it provides a multi-year authorization to allow DHS to confidently implement CFATS and industry to make important investments with the certainty that goes along with knowing the program will be authorized. The current practice of year-to-year extensions, or worse, short-term continuing resolutions through the appropriations process, is a destabilizing force in the implementation and investment process.

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We recognize the complexities in implementing a program like CFATS and are fully aware of some of the flaws in management exposed over the past few years. This multi-year authorization will give DHS the time and stability it needs to improve its implementation, but at the same time, will ensure that Congress has the ability to monitor the program and make any necessary changes to it before the next authorization.

The organizations and companies listed below represent thousands of American businesses that employ millions of American workers. We are manufacturers, producers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers in agriculture, chemistry, energy, forest products, medicine, and other businesses that form our nation's infrastructure.

We support H.R. 4007, and urge the House of Representatives to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association, American Chemistry Council, American Coatings Association, American Forest & Paper Association, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Gas Association, American Petroleum Institute, American Trucking Associations, Association of Oil Pipe Lines, Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology CropLife America, Global Cold Chain Alliance, International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses.

International Liquid Terminals Association, International Warehouse Logistics Association, National Agricultural Aviation Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Manufacturers, National Mining Association, National Pest Management Association, Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates, The Fertilizer Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

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Mr. MEEHAN. I would specifically like to thank my cosponsors, as well as Homeland Security Committee staff, for their hard work and tireless efforts to ensure that the views of the regulated community and the administration were properly reflected and implemented in a realistic and achievable way, with strict goals which will lift this program from stagnation to success.

I am proud of this legislation and its bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass H.R. 4007, so we can ensure that the proper measures are in place to secure our communities from the devastating potential of a terrorist attack.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4007, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4007 authorizes the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program within the Department of Homeland Security. At the outset, I would acknowledge that, during consideration in committee, a somewhat inclusive approach was taken, and, as a result, a number of amendments offered by Democratic Members were accepted.

It is regrettable that, now that H.R. 4007 is before us today, this same opportunity is not being afforded to my colleagues in the House. The decision of the Republican leadership to bring this measure up under suspension of the rules limits debate on the measure and effectively prevents any Member from offering an amendment to make further improvements to the bill.

Despite my reservations about process, I am generally supportive of H.R. 4007, as it would give DHS and chemical facility owners and operators some measure of confidence about the program's future. Since coauthoring legislation in the 109th Congress to grant DHS authority to regulate the chemical sector for security, I have consistently supported efforts at enacting a comprehensive freestanding authorization bill.

As those who have followed the CFATS program know, jurisdictional challenges have consistently complicated authorization efforts. As a result, renewal of the program has been at the mercy of the appropriations process since 2006.

H.R. 4007 is the Committee on Homeland Security's latest effort at achieving the goal of enacting CFATS legislation. The most significant prior effort was back in the 111th Congress, when the House approved H.R. 2868, legislation that I introduced with then-Energy and Commerce Chairman HENRY WAXMAN, after a year and a half of intense negotiations.

That bill eliminated the regulatory exemptions on water and wastewater facilities that have been a major concern of every Secretary of Homeland Security, especially Secretary Michael Chertoff in the Bush administration.

The bill under consideration today bears little resemblance to H.R. 2868, but, I suppose, reflects the political realities of the 113th Congress. I am disappointed that it does not directly tackle the water and wastewater exemptions that put communities and neighborhoods that are near these facilities at risk, though I note that the bill requires a security assessment of those exemptions, so that the next time Congress looks at reauthorizing CFATS, the debate will be better informed.

I am pleased that, in response to the deadly April 2013 explosion at a plant in West, Texas, H.R. 4007 gives DHS now authority to compel action by facilities that, to date, have not participated in the program that DHS views as potentially high-risk facilities.

I am also pleased that H.R. 4007 includes language authored by Representative YVETTE CLARKE to ensure the Department takes a commonsense approach to vetting transportation workers who service chemical facility shipping needs.

That said, there are a couple of areas that should be addressed before this measure reaches the President's desk. Specifically, H.R. 4007 should provide adequate whistleblower protections for those risking their jobs to report violations of law or security vulnerabilities, ensure workers have a meaningful role in developing the security plans for their facilities, and promote greater adoption of best practices and inherently safer and securer technologies among high-risk facilities.

The bill before us today is a good start, but there is more work to be done.

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4007, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act introduced by Chairman MEEHAN and myself, along with my good friend, Representative GENE GREEN from Texas. I want to thank Chairman Meehan for his very hard work on this legislation over the last year to get to the point where we are today.

I also want to thank Chairmen UPTON and SHIMKUS on the Energy and Commerce Committee for allowing this bill to go forward for a vote today, as well. Finally, we don't thank our staff enough for what they do every day. Joan O'Hara on our staff worked tirelessly on this bill with both the administration and industry to, I think, deliver a very good product.

This bipartisan bill provides the stability and the certainty that both the Department and industry have been calling for, while also making fundamental improvements to the CFATS program.

It is no secret that CFATS has had a troubled history, but this bill will allow the Department to build off its successes while correcting many of its shortcomings. After the tragic events of West, Texas, in my home State, it is imperative that we pass this bill.

Specifically, the bill ensures that DHS coordinates with other Federal agencies, State and local officials, and industry associations to make sure facilities aren't off the grid and ensure first responders are properly trained to deal with emergency incidents at CFATS facilities.

It also improves the site security plan approval and DHS accountability by requiring the Secretary to certify the Department's progress and by authorizing GAO to regularly conduct assessments and report to Congress.

In addition to being good policy, this bill enjoys widespread support by the stakeholder community and was passed unanimously out of both the subcommittee and the full committee, something I think, Mr. Chairman, is almost unheard of in this Congress here today, and I am glad that it came out of our committee, the Homeland Security Committee.

In fact, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson explicitly endorsed this bill in his first appearance testifying on the Hill before our committee.

I would also finally like to, again, thank Chairman MEEHAN, as well as all the cosponsors of this bipartisan legislation, and I urge their support.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York, Ms. YVETTE CLARKE, the ranking member on the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee on the Homeland Security Committee.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the

ranking member who has done a yeoman's job in helping alongside our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to move this forward.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Homeland Security has a great stake and a long history of trying to help the troubled Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards, or CFATS, program succeed. Consideration of H.R. 4007 today is our latest effort.

While I feel that it would have been better to bring this bill before the full House under a rule, so that Members could offer amendments, I want to commend my counterpart on the Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies Subcommittee, Mr. MEEHAN, for his diligence and commitment to moving the legislation through regular order in committee.

Upon introduction of this bill, I had a number of concerns with the bill. Amazingly, the original legislation had a requirement that required CFATS to terminate after 2 years.

It also did not provide an authorization of appropriations or codify the critical infrastructure protection program within the Homeland Security Act. This was corrected by Democratic amendments, many of which I offered, that were accepted in committee.

A major impetus for action to authorize the CFATS program was certainly the explosion last April in West, Texas, at a fertilizer facility containing a huge amount of ammonium nitrate. As we later learned, the facility was willfully off the regulatory grid and unknown to DHS.

Through the committee process, language was adopted to give DHS new authority to bring so-called outlier facilities into compliance. We had an energetic debate at subcommittee with respect to whether nongovernmental third-party contractors should be utilized to carry out compliance visits and inspections.

I appreciate the majority's view that augmenting the DHS inspector workforce in this fashion could be helpful with respect to the massive backlog of security inspections that exist in the CFATS program. However, there are other ways to increase capacity without contracting out jobs.

Further, there is a troubled history with the CFATS program of overreliance on contractors. I believe that, if DHS goes down this path, there need to be structures in place to ensure that work done by contractors is promptly and accurately fed into the regulatory system. That is why I offered language in committee to build in oversight and accountability. I am pleased to say that it was accepted.

A lingering concern—underscored by the Steelworkers, Teamsters, and others—is even if there is broad recognition that, for CFATS to work, we need chemical workers to come forward to report security vulnerabilities and CFATS compliance issues, no guaranteed whistleblower protections attach.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Men and women that risk their positions and paychecks to make their workplace, their communities, and the Nation more secure deserve access to meaningful whistleblower protections. Should H.R. 4007 be approved today, I would put whistleblower protections high on the to-do list for the Senate.

Then there is the matter of the statutory exemptions barring DHS from regulatory water, wastewater, and other critical infrastructure chemical facilities. The bill perpetuates the exemption without consideration of the arguments that former DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and others have made about the risks.

Encouragingly, the committee accepted the amendment offered by Ranking Member THOMPSON to require an independent study of the terrorism vulnerabilities associated with the limited authority granted to DHS and the exemption on water and wastewater facilities. The results of that study will be important to inform Congress when the CFATS is up for reauthorization in 3 years.

Overall, I would say that, through the committee process, the bill has been improved. Is there more work to be done? Certainly—that is why I am profoundly disappointed that H.R. 4007 is being considered on suspension.

Many Members of this body that do not have the privilege to sit on the Homeland Security Committee have concerns about the vital, critical infrastructure program that affects their districts, towns, and neighborhoods.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. WAXMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, since before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, experts have been concerned about the vulnerability of chemical plants to attack. These facilities hold large stores of industrial chemicals which pose a safety and security risk to the American people if they are released or detonated.

A recent report found that more than 134 million Americans live in the vulnerability zones around these chemical facilities. I have such a facility in my district, which is a very serious concern for the surrounding community.

These risks have not been addressed adequately, and this bill falls short of what is needed. The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program at the Department of Homeland Security has not been successful. It was set up through an appropriations rider that did not give the Department the tools it needed to succeed.

The original statute blocked effective enforcement, leading to a lack of compliance. We saw the dangers of noncompliance when the West Fertilizer Company facility in West, Texas, exploded. Unfortunately, those limitations on enforcement would be preserved by this bill.

The original statute blocked the Department from requiring measures to reduce the consequences of a terrorist attack and, in the process, created serious obstacles to disapproving site security plans that failed to meet the program's standards.

□ 1700

This led to an approval process so complicated that it took more than 5 years for the Department to complete its review of the first facility. This bill preserves those obstacles.

There have been significant issues with the background check requirements promulgated under the existing program, and this bill would preserve and codify some of those problems.

The President should be commended for recognizing this program's deficiencies and taking strong action to address them, including issuing an executive order on chemical safety and security last year. The working group created by that executive order has looked at how best to secure these facilities with fresh eyes, and the administration is now moving to revise and improve the program.

These reforms are important and necessary, but they are not reflected in this bill. Instead, this bill could limit the Department's ability to improve the program. That just doesn't make sense.

In its current form, this bill is simply not adequate to provide real protections for the public. My view is that we should strengthen this bill before sending it to the Senate. If this bill passes today, we should work with the Senate to strengthen the bill and enact legislation we can all support.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania, and I thank him for working with me on H.R. 4007. I rise in support of H.R. 4007, the CFATS Authorization and Accountability Act, legislation I introduced with Congressman MEEHAN and my friend Chairman MCCAUL.

This bipartisan legislation would, for the first time, codify the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program that DHS has been operating through appropriations funding since 2007.

Last October, during the government shutdown, the American people saw that without authorization of the CFATS program there would be no

legal binding regulations in place to protect our Nation's chemical facilities from criminal and terrorist attacks once the appropriations expired.

I have the honor of representing north and east Harris County and the Houston Ship Channel, at the heart of our Nation's petrochemical industry. The expiration of the CFATS program puts the safety of my constituents who work in and live in the communities that surround these facilities in danger, and it is our obligation as the people's elected representatives to do everything we can to protect them from harm's way.

I have heard the concern of those on my side of the aisle who do not support this legislation. I agree that this is not perfect legislation. It does not solve every problem that exists in the CFATS program, but a number of Congresses since 2007 have had the opportunity to do this but we haven't.

The main purpose of this bill is to reauthorize CFATS for 3 years and give Congress the opportunity to oversee DHS' progress or lack thereof. This bill will solve the personnel surety issue by allowing workers who have TWIC or HME cards to have access to chemical facilities without having to get another Federal credential. Representing those plants, I saw what happened with the TWIC card and the concern of folks who have to pay more money for another Federal ID card. This bill, if passed, would protect the folks who work in those plants. That is important to my constituents who already have TWIC cards and work in the petrochemical plants and drive the trucks that deliver the raw materials and products they produce.

I urge my colleagues to join the Homeland Security Committee, which passed this legislation by voice vote, and Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, who has been vocal in support of the legislation, and vote in support of H.R. 4007.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has no more speakers, I am prepared to close.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers and reserve the balance of my time to close.

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

In closing, while I am supportive of advancing this legislation to the Senate in the hopes of moving the process forward to provide a multiyear authorization for the CFATS program, there is more work to be done.

Should H.R. 4007 be approved today, I will work with my colleagues in the other body to work towards ensuring that the legislation provides adequate whistleblower protections for those risking their jobs to report violations of law or security vulnerabilities, ensures workers have a meaningful role in developing the security plans for their facilities, and promotes greater adoption of best practices and inherently safer and securer technologies among high-risk facilities.

The bill before us today is a good start, but there is more work to be done.

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

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

I want to express my deep appreciation to my colleagues on my side of the aisle, but particularly to my colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee and subcommittee, the ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, and the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentlelady from New York. As both have articulated, there is more work to be done, and nobody disputes that particular issue; but we also appreciate that this is an issue which has been laying for a long period of time without resolution, and we are taking very responsible steps to take a big step forward in the authorization of this program.

We worked with both sides of the aisle to try to handle as many issues as we could. As has been articulated, 15 Democratic amendments have been made part of this bill. The wastewater issue was an important one, but mature security programs do exist for that. It is one of the original critical infrastructures as part of the Sector Coordinating Council for DHS. But I agree, there is still more work to be done in that particular area.

We are worried about outliers as well. One of the gentlemen raised the issue of the chemical facilities that have avoided scrutiny, which led to the West, Texas, situation, but it is for that reason that this bill is so critically important and we act now. It is because it gives DHS the ability to affirmatively reach out to those facilities that are not compliant, and what this bill does is it rewards those who have taken responsible steps towards identifying and creating the kinds of plans that are contemplated underneath this bill, but it also calls to challenge those who have been avoiding scrutiny.

So the issues still may be there for future resolution, but we will, in 3 years, be able to bring this bill back up for reconsideration, and during that period of time we can work together on both sides of the aisle to ensure that it is done appropriately. I encourage my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I rise in support of H.R. 4007, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act is a step forward in securing our nation from potential terrorist attacks or threats to the homeland.

I want to acknowledge the work of Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member THOMPSON that resulted in this bill being considered by the Full House.

During Full Committee consideration of H.R. 4007, two Jackson Lee Amendments were unanimously agreed to for inclusion in the bill.

The first Jackson Lee Amendment directs the Secretary to establish an outreach plan to facilitate collaboration between the Department and the owners and operators of small chemical facilities for the purpose of assisting them with the development of physical security best practices.

This collaboration will begin with established relationships, which exists among local and state authorities; and small chemical facility owners and operators.

The Secretary will create opportunities to incorporate Regional Directors and Protective Security Advisors within the collaborative framework that is developed with the full cooperation and input of small chemical facility owners and operators who elect to participate.

Large chemical facilities will have access to nearly unlimited resources to meet their own security needs, but smaller chemical facilities may not have the resources to protect themselves from similar terrorist threats.

The second Jackson Lee Amendment creates opportunities for small chemical facility operators and owners to gain more insight or guidance on improving their facility's physical security.

The third Jackson Lee Amendment allows the Secretary Homeland Security to consult with the Government Accountability Office to investigate the feasibility and applicability of a third party accreditation program that would work with industry stakeholders to develop site security plans.

This amendment would allow chemical facility owners and operators to devise challenging tests, and exercises that pit their knowledge against what terrorists may attempt to do should their facility become a target.

These amendment's will assist chemical facility security experts in thinking of potential threats before terrorists do so that they may take steps to eliminate them before terrorists could exploit discovered vulnerabilities.

Since September 11, 2001, security experts have warned of vulnerabilities that exist should terrorists plan to attack a chemical facility located within the United States or far worse use unlawful access to a facility, pipelines, or transit routes to steal chemicals for an attack.

The 18th Congressional District which I serve is home to some of the world's largest Chemical producers which employ thousands of Houston area residents to provide the nation with products are vital to our nation and its economy.

Chemicals are a vital and common presence in the lives of all of our nation's citizens, but we often forget how dangerous they can be under the wrong conditions.

On April 17, of last year the small town of West Texas felt the power and destructive force of ammonium nitrate when an accidental fire ignited what is believed to have been between 140 to 160 tons of the chemical.

This was no terrorist attack, but a very tragic accident.

The accident in the town of West Texas reminded all of us who represent districts that count chemical plants or their owners and operators as constituents—that these facilities should have the resources necessary to protect their property from potential terrorists' threats or attacks.

H.R. 4007 reestablishes the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Program, under which the Secretary of Homeland

Security (DHS) is required to: establish risk-based performance standards designed to protect covered chemical facilities from acts of terrorism; require such facilities to submit security vulnerability assessments and develop and implement site security plans; review and approve or disapprove each such assessment and plan; arrange for the audit and inspection of covered chemical facilities to determine compliance with this Act; and notify, and issue an order to comply to, the owner or operator of a facility not in compliance.

The legislation is based upon feedback and information the Homeland Security Committee and the Committee on Energy and Commerce received through countless meetings with industry stakeholders, the regulated community, first responders, union representatives, the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, and the Department of Homeland Security itself.

Among the benefits H.R. 4007 provides are:

Greatly improved coordination and communication between DHS and the owners and operators of chemical facilities.

Enhanced information sharing with the first responders who put themselves in harms way dealing with chemical facility incidents, like the tragedy at West, TX.

A more workable employee-screening methodology, that allows facility owners and operators to implement procedures that make sense and ensure maximum security.

The elimination of the problem of "outlier" chemical facilities (currently, there are thousands of facilities still unknown to DHS) to ensure no facility remains "off the grid".

The certainty that chemical infrastructure security will no longer hang in the balance with each year's appropriations cycle.

Ensures that whistleblower protections available to facility workers who report security issues to DHS are clearly articulated in all CFATS media and materials.

Greater Department accountability through mandatory biannual GAO audits of the CFATS program to provide for informed and thorough Congressional oversight.

I ask my colleagues from both side of the aisle to support this bipartisan bill, which received strong support from the Committee on Homeland Security.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK MEEHAN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, Washington, DC.

Hon. BENNIE THOMPSON,
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

Hon. YVETTE CLARKE,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL, RANKING MEMBER THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN MEEHAN, AND RANKING MEMBER CLARKE:

We, the undersigned organizations would like to express our support for H.R. 4007, the CFATS Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014 and urge the House Committee on Homeland Security to quickly consider and pass the bill. H.R. 4007 is a streamlined bill that provides a three year authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program and guidance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on key issues of chemical facility security.

The bill addresses several important policy goals. First, it provides a multi-year authorization to allow DHS to confidently implement CFATS and industry to make important investments with the certainty that goes along with knowing the program will be authorized. The current practice of year-to-year extensions, or worse, short-term continuing resolutions through the appropriations process, is a destabilizing force in the implementation and investment process.

Secondly, the legislation also addresses some of the major impediments to completing site security plans and full implementation of the program. It addresses certain concerns surrounding the personnel surety requirements needed for access; gives covered facilities the ability to meet site security plans through alternate security plans approved by DHS and an option to use 3rd parties as inspectors; improves Congressional oversight regarding the tiering methodology; and ensures better coordination with state and local officials.

We recognize the complexities in implementing a program like CFATS and are fully aware of some of the flaws in management exposed over the past few years. This multi-year authorization will give DHS the time and stability it needs to improve its implementation, but at the same time, will ensure that Congress has the ability to monitor the program and make any necessary changes to it before the next authorization.

The organizations and companies listed below represent thousands of American businesses that employ millions of American workers. We are manufacturers, producers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers in agriculture, chemistry, energy, forest products, medicine, and other businesses that form our nation's infrastructure. We support H.R. 4007, and urge the Committee on Homeland Security to quickly consider and pass this important legislation.

Thank you for your timely consideration.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association, American Chemistry Council, American Coatings Association, American Forest & Paper Association, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Gas Association, American Petroleum Institute, American Trucking Associations, Association of Oil Pipe Lines, CropLife America, Edison Electric Institute, Global Cold Chain Alliance, Institute of Makers of Explosives.

International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses, International Liquid Terminals Association, International Warehouse Logistics Association, National Agricultural Aviation Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Manufacturers, National Mining Association, National Pest Management Association, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates, The Fertilizer Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2014.

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

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER AND LEADER PELOSI: The American Chemistry Council (ACC) urges you to vote yes today on H.R. 4007, The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014. ACC strongly supports this bill which would give much needed long term authorization to the CFATS program. CFATS regulates security for a wide variety of facilities that make, store, or use chemicals from farms to factories. The program allows facilities to tailor their security plans to meet their unique needs, and authorization of the program would give the industry long overdue regulatory certainty.

ACC is the trade association for the chemical industry in the United States, which is a $770 billion industry and employs 784,000 Americans in high wage jobs. The industry is experiencing a renaissance thanks to the increase in domestic shale gas production, and our members have announced over $110 billion in new planned capital expenditures that will provide tens of thousands of new jobs, and give manufacturers throughout the value chain a domestic supply of the chemicals they need to manufacture products in this country. Ensuring that clear and workable security regulations remain in place is an important part of creating an environment that will continue to foster these new investments.

DHS has dramatically improved its administration of the CFATS program, which has had a positive impact on enhancing security at US chemical sites, and ACC supports making this a permanent program for the approximately 4,500 sites that are regulated under CFATS. Congressional oversight via an authorization would help DHS with some of the challenges they have faced implementing the program, even as the agency has made progress with a new management structure. The industry has seen considerable increased activity from DHS, including improved quality of inspections and faster authorizations. Most importantly, DHS leadership has demonstrated a commitment to working with stakeholders to improve the implementation of the CFATS program.

A long term authorization outside of the appropriation process will provide the regulatory consistency and operational stability to ensure the success of CFATS, while giving industry confidence in their long term capital commitments to this program. Ensuring the future of this important program will also help DHS recruit and retain top talent to effectively implement CFATS.

Please contact Mike Meenan, Director of Federal Affairs at mike_meenan@americanchemistry.com or at (202) 249–6216 if we can be of any assistance while you consider this important vote.

Sincerely,

CAL DOOLEY.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4007, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP ACT OF 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4263) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4263

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 ''Social Media Working Group Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 318. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish within the Department a social media working group (in this section referred to as the 'Group').

''(b) PURPOSE.—In order to enhance information sharing between the Department and appropriate stakeholders, the Group shall provide guidance and best practices to the emergency preparedness and response community on the use of social media technologies before, during, and after a terrorist attack or other emergency.

''(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall serve as the permanent chairperson of the Group, and shall designate, on a rotating basis, a representative from a State or local government who is a member of the Group to serve as co-chairperson. The Under Secretary shall establish term limits for individuals appointed to the Group pursuant to paragraph (2). Membership of the Group shall be composed of a cross section of subject matter experts from Federal, State, local, tribal, and nongovernmental organization practitioners, including representatives from the following entities:

''(A) The Office of Public Affairs of the Department.

''(B) The Office of the Chief Information Officer of the Department.

''(C) The Privacy Office of the Department.

''(D) The Federal Emergency Management Agency.

''(E) The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

''(F) The American Red Cross.

''(G) The Forest Service.

''(H) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

''(I) The United States Geological Survey.

''(J) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

''(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall appoint, on a rotating basis, qualified individuals to the Group. The total number of such additional members shall—

''(A) be equal to or greater than the total number of regular members under paragraph (1); and

''(B) include—

''(i) not fewer than three representatives from the private sector; and

''(ii) representatives from—

''(I) State, local, and tribal entities, including from—

''(aa) law enforcement;

''(bb) fire services;

''(cc) emergency management services; and

''(dd) public health entities;

''(II) universities and academia; and

''(III) non-profit disaster relief organizations.

''(d) CONSULTATION WITH NON-MEMBERS.—To the extent practicable, the Group shall work with existing bodies in the public and private sectors to carry out subsection (b).

''(e) MEETINGS.—

''(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Group shall hold its initial meeting. Such initial meeting may be held virtually.

''(2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After the initial meeting under paragraph (1), the Group shall meet at least twice each year, or at the call of the Chairperson. Such subsequent meetings may be held virtually.

''(f) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Group.

''(g) REPORTS.—Not later than March 30 of each year, the Group shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

''(1) A review of current and emerging social media technologies being used to support preparedness and response activities related to terrorist attacks and other emergencies.

''(2) A review of best practices and lessons learned on the use of social media during the response to terrorist attacks and other emergencies that occurred during the period covered by the report at issue.

''(3) Recommendations to improve the Department's use of social media for emergency management purposes.

''(4) Recommendations to improve public awareness of the type of information disseminated through social media, and how to access such information, during a terrorist attack or other emergency.

''(5) Recommendations to improve information sharing among the Department and its components.

''(6) Recommendations to improve information sharing among State and local governments.

''(7) A review of available training for Federal, State, local, and tribal officials on the use of social media in response to a terrorist attack or other emergency.

''(8) A summary of coordination efforts with the private sector to discuss and resolve legal, operational, technical, privacy, and security concerns.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 317 the following new item:

''Sec. 318. Social media working group.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2014. As chairwoman of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I introduced this bill, along with Ranking Member PAYNE, Chairman MCCAUL, and Representatives PALAZZO and SWALWELL, in response to testimony we received at two social media hearings the subcommittee held last year.

Social media is transforming the way the Nation is communicating before, during, and after a disaster. There are countless examples from recent disasters of how citizens are turning to Facebook, Twitter, and even Instagram for public safety information to comfort survivors and request assistance. We have seen how vital social media is becoming in preparedness and response efforts, particularly during Superstorm Sandy and in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings.

I recently sent out tweets to inform my own constituents about a tornado warning and recommended that they follow local news outlets for the most up-to-date information. And just last week, FEMA, the National Weather Service, and emergency management agencies along the east coast used social media to alert citizens about Hurricane Arthur, the first named storm of the 2014 hurricane season.

This morning I had the opportunity, along with Chairman MCCAUL, to visit the American Red Cross' Digital Operations Center, the first ever social media center for humanitarian relief. I was impressed to hear that during Superstorm Sandy, the Red Cross analyzed over 2.5 million pieces of social data and sent over 300 different pieces of information to operation teams to help with decisionmaking.

Last year, the subcommittee held two hearings that focused on this new reality. One of the key takeaways from these hearings was that during and after a disaster there needs to be better communication between the public and private sector, specifically with how to utilize social media as a communications tool. H.R. 4263 addresses this recommendation by authorizing and enhancing the Department of Homeland Security's Virtual Social Media Working Group to ensure information sharing between the Department and appropriate stakeholders and the leveraging of best practices.

Additionally, this bill will increase stakeholder participation, particularly among the private sector and Federal response agencies, creating a ''whole community'' dialogue on this issue. The bill will require the group to submit an annual report to Congress highlighting best practices, lessons learned, and any recommendations.

Lastly, this bill will require the group to meet in person or virtually at least twice a year and will not be a financial burden on the Department.

In today's day and age where new social media platforms and technologies can change the game almost instantly, we must ensure our first responders are nimble enough to adapt to an ever-changing landscape. This group is but one way to help facilitate this.

The Committee on Homeland Security approved H.R. 4263 last month by a bipartisan voice vote. I certainly appreciate the manner in which my ranking member, Mr. PAYNE, has worked with me on passage of this with our committee. I urge Members to join me and the rest of our committee in supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2014.

The Internet has changed the world. It has changed how the government

serves its citizens, how businesses serve their customers, and how the public engages in activism.

□ 1715

The responses to the Boston Marathon bombings and Hurricane Sandy, which devastated my State, underscores the power and the potential of social media. After each of these devastating events, we saw the Internet used to galvanize ordinary citizens into action.

In the wake of the Boston bombings, Boston residents used Google Docs to let marathoners know that their homes were open to those who were unable to return to their hotels. After Hurricane Sandy, survivors posted the horrific images of homes washed away on Twitter and Facebook to help the world understand the strength of the storm. Survivors also used social media to reconnect with loved ones and to share information about which gas stations, grocery stores, and pharmacies were open.

In my district, the local utility PSE&G used social media to communicate with customers about how to prepare for the storm to mitigate damage and about power restoration afterwards. Public Service Electric and Gas' use of social media was so effective that it was recognized by J.D. Power and Associates as a ''best practice.'' And CS Week, a nonprofit that focuses on customer service for utilities, gave PSE&G an award for innovation and customer service.

Although PSE&G's use of social media was incredibly successful, there were important lessons learned that should be shared among organizations utilizing social media during a disaster response. For example, PSE&G exceeded the allowable number of tweets per day and needed to reach out to Twitter leadership for a temporary expansion of capacity. In addition to spikes in social media use during the disaster, PSE&G learned important lessons related to the tone of communications and the demand for information during a disaster.

H.R. 4263 would authorize the Social Media Working Group that sits with the Science and Technology Directorate to facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learned related to the use of social media during disasters. The measure would also ensure that the Federal Government and first responders continue to fully utilize the capabilities of the Internet and social media to communicate with more people during disasters.

I would like to congratulate Subcommittee Chairwoman BROOKS on the success of her efforts to ensure the way government officials and first responders communicate with the public before, during, and after disaster strikes keeps pace with evolving technology.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4263.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers as well, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen the rise in the use of social media both before, during, and after disasters. This legislation will help to ensure we are leveraging best practices, sharing and incorporating lessons learned for the use of social media in this area.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 4263, ''The Social Media Working Group Act of 2014,'' would establish within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) a social media working group.

The Social Media Working Group would provide guidance and best practices to the emergency preparedness and response community on the use of social media technologies before, during, and after a terrorist attack.

Today, people are relying more on Internet enabled communications to engage and be engaged in communications.

Since September 11, 2001, our nation has committed resources toward the preparation of our first responders and citizens in preventing, mitigating and responding to terrorist events.

As these efforts continue, we must keep up with the times. Part of that requires that Congress makes sure that the Department of Homeland Security and especially the Federal Emergency Management Agency can engage citizens in ways that they receive and send information.

In 2012, smartphones, most particularly phones running Apple Computer's iOS and the open source Android operating system, accounted for at least 40 percent of the mobile devices used in the United States.

In the first quarter of 2012, mobile phone consumers spent over $109 billion, while consumers of landline-telephone service spent $64.4 billion.

The Federal Communication Commission reports that this trend is expected accelerate as United States consumers participate in a worldwide trend towards mobile communication devices and away from traditional means of receiving and sending information.

Electronic tablet computers and e-readers, the other fully enabled portable Internet devices, smartphones are increasingly a resource for people to access information, share content, and communicate their views.

Social media is quickly emerging as a major source of information that citizens rely upon to receive news and engage government.

The number of people using social networking sites has nearly doubled since 2008.

In a 2011, a Pew Internet Center Research Project reported that 79 percent of American adults said they used the Internet and 59 percent of all Internet users say they use at least one of social networking service, such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or Instagram.

The reasons for supporting this bill are obvious and I ask my colleagues in the House to vote for its passage.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group Act.

Since I arrived in Congress, I have seen the destruction caused by man-made and natural disasters.

From the September 11th attacks—to Hurricane Katrina—to the mass shootings that have devastated communities across America, one truism that has repeatedly been identified is that early alerts and timely information saves lives.

Toward that end, the Committee on Homeland Security has worked hard to support the Department's efforts to harness all means of communication to ensure that that public can take appropriate action before, during, and after disaster strikes.

To date, Federal efforts have focused on the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, and the Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System.

But, as we have seen during recent disasters, social media allows the government and private sector to disseminate useful information to hundreds of thousands of people.

I support the innovative use of social media in disaster preparedness and response because it has the ability to make more people safer, faster.

It can also help first responders work more quickly and more efficiently.

That said, we must work to implement practices to ensure that social media is used appropriately and effectively, and that the information distributed is reliable.

It is critical that information after a disaster must be accurate. There needs to be guidance and policies in place to ensure that widely-distributed disaster-related information is accurate, or to correct the information when it is not.

I am hopeful that H.R. 4263 would provide a forum for government officials and the private sector to come together to address this and other challenges related to the use of social media during disasters and to share best practices.

I congratulate Subcommittee Chairwoman BROOKS and Ranking Member PAYNE, Jr. on their work to ensure that government officials and first responders take full advantage of the technology available to communicate with the public during a disaster.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4263, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. PAYNE. 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.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS ACT

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4289) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable

communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4289

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 ''Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act'' or the ''DHS Interoperable Communications Act''.

SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES IN RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.

Section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4) of subsection (a), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', including policies and directives to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among the components of the Department''; and

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

''(d) INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'interoperable communications' means the ability of components of the Department to communicate with each other as necessary, utilizing information technology systems and radio communications systems to exchange voice, data, and video in real time, as necessary, for acts of terrorism, daily operations, planned events, and emergencies.''.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a strategy, which shall be updated as necessary, for achieving and maintaining interoperable communications (as such term is defined in subsection (d) of section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2 of this Act) among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, including for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies, with corresponding milestones, that includes, at a minimum the following:

(1) An assessment of interoperability gaps in radio communications among the components of the Department, as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) Information on efforts and activities, including current and planned policies, directives, and training, of the Department since November 1, 2012, to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among the components of the Department, and planned efforts and activities of the Department to achieve and maintain such interoperable communications.

(3) An assessment of obstacles and challenges to achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department.

(4) Information on, and an assessment of, the adequacy of mechanisms available to the Under Secretary for Management to enforce and compel compliance with interoperable communications policies and directives of the Department.

(5) Guidance provided to the components of the Department to implement interoperable communications policies and directives of the Department.

(6) The total amount of funds expended by the Department since November 1, 2012, and projected future expenditures, to achieve interoperable communications, including on equipment, infrastructure, and maintenance.

(7) Dates upon which Department-wide interoperability is projected to be achieved for voice, data, and video communications, respectively, and interim milestones that correspond to the achievement of each such mode of communication.

(b) SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL.—Together with the strategy required under subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate information on any intra-agency effort or task force that has been delegated certain responsibilities by the Under Secretary relating to achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department by the dates referred to in paragraph (9) of subsection (a), and on who, within each such component, is responsible for implementing policies and directives issued by the Under Secretary to so achieve and maintain such interoperable communications.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 220 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and biannually thereafter, the Under Secretary for Management shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the status of efforts, since the issuance of the strategy required under section 3, to implement such strategy, including the following:

(1) Progress on each interim milestone referred to in paragraph (9) of subsection (a) toward achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department.

(2) Information on any policies, directives, guidance, and training established by the Under Secretary.

(3) An assessment of the level of compliance, adoption, and participation among the components of the Department with the policies, directives, guidance, and training established by the Under Secretary to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among such components.

(4) Information on any additional resources or authorities needed by the Under Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4289, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, Mr. PAYNE. I am happy to be an original cosponsor of this important legislation, which the Committee on Homeland Security also approved last month by a bipartisan voice vote.

This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to include, among the responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security's Under Secretary for Management, achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the Department's components.

H.R. 4289 addresses the findings and recommendations of a November 2012 DHS Office of Inspector General report, which stated that the Department does not have the appropriate oversight or governance structure to ensure communications interoperability among its own components.

The Department has been in the forefront on working with stakeholders to provide our Nation's first responders with the resources and tools needed to have effective interoperable communications. Now the Department needs to practice what they preach. It is vital that the Department's own components are able to effectively communicate day to day and, most importantly, during emergencies.

In order to ensure the Department is taking the necessary steps to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities, H.R. 4289 requires the Department's Under Secretary for Management to submit an interoperable communications strategy to the Department of Homeland Security no later than 120 days after enactment.

I applaud the ranking member for his work and leadership on bringing this to the floor.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of H.R. 4289, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act.

Mr. Speaker, when I began my work on this subcommittee last year, I was shocked to learn how much money had been spent on interoperable communications since the September 11 terrorist attacks. Nationwide, we have spent over $13 billion to achieve interoperable communications at the State and local level, and we are not there yet.

Given the degree of attention that the Federal Government, in general, and DHS, in particular, have devoted to interoperability, I was surprised to learn that DHS has not achieved Department-wide interoperability.

Police officers and firefighters from Newark to Jersey City and across the

10th Congressional District of New Jersey never leave my office without reminding me how important interoperable communications are. Nevertheless, according to a November 2012 inspector general report, DHS has invested over $430 million into communications capabilities for its 123,000 radio users since 2003, but Department ''personnel do not have reliable interoperable communications for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies.''

Indeed, the inspector general testified before the committee in May that in 2012 it asked 479 DHS field radio users to access and use the specified channel to communicate. Only one of those 479 radio users—one of 479—could get on the common channel. That is a 99.8 percent failure rate.

The problem is not technology. Instead, the inspector general found that the Department had not established and implemented protocols to ensure that components put practices in place to achieve interoperability.

H.R. 4289, the DHS Interoperable Communications Act, which I introduced with my colleague on the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, Chairwoman BROOKS, requires that certain actions be taken by DHS leadership to drive components in the field towards interoperability. The legislation directs the Under Secretary for Management to issue policies and directives related to interoperability, develop a strategy to achieve DHS-wide interoperability, and report to Congress biannually on the Department's progress.

Interoperable communications capabilities are critical to the mission DHS carries out and to first responders across the United States. DHS must lead by example.

Toward that end, I was encouraged that the Department's acting Under Secretary for Management, Chris Cummiskey, expressed his commitment to addressing this issue when he appeared before the subcommittee last month. It is my hope that this legislation will bolster his efforts and make it clear to everyone in the Department that Congress is looking to DHS to achieve interoperability.

Before reserving my time, I would like to thank Subcommittee Chairwoman BROOKS for working with me on this measure. We have found that there are many issues in terms of this matter, and we have worked in a bipartisan manner to make sure that interoperability is achieved.

I would also like to thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their help in addressing this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we have looked at this issue. We continue to talk to first responders throughout my district and throughout the Nation. We know that these issues around homeland security are bipartisan, and we have been able to work on this committee in a manner which we all have the same goal, which is to make sure this Nation is safe and the homeland is secure.

I urge my colleagues to support improving the interoperable communications at DHS by voting for H.R. 4289. Our communities are safer when DHS has the capabilities necessary to effectively carry out its mission. Mr. Speaker, we always have to make sure that we keep our first responders safe.

Mr. Speaker, interoperable communications capabilities are essential to DHS' ability to carry out its mission on a day-to-day basis when disaster strikes. H.R. 4289 would put DHS on the path to achieving cross-component interoperable communications, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure. We must protect our protectors. Our first responders deserve the ability to communicate with each other.

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that the various component agencies of the Department of Homeland Security are able to communicate on a daily basis, and particularly in times of crisis. As the ranking member has pointed out, it is not only our first responders, but all of our Federal agencies that deal with crisis daily.

Right now, numerous components, including being led in part by ICE, FEMA, and CBP, are working together to respond to the influx of unaccompanied alien children across our southern border. They must communicate together with one another. It is so important as they address this crisis. This is just one example of the latest reason why communications interoperability must be achieved and maintained between and among Department of Homeland Security's components.

I urge all Members to join the ranking member and myself in supporting this very important bipartisan legislation.

□ 1730

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me just indicate that I have just arrived and I wanted to support all of the bills, including yours.

If I might just make one comment about the preclearance bill, which we have all worked very hard on. I want to thank Mr. PAYNE and Mrs. BROOKS for their leadership, and just make the point that we have worked in a bipartisan manner in Homeland Security very effectively.

I also wanted to make mention in particular of the bill that I worked on extensively, H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act, and to indicate that this is a bill in which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish and conduct preclearance operations. It is imperative, as we seek to push out our Nation's borders.

So we have had a vigorous discussion about how you utilize these preclearance sites. I think it comes to mind with some of the sites in the Middle East. And in light of where we are today, with TSA having to put in place new requirements because of the potential threat, I think this is a very positive step, as I do of all the bills, including ones dealing with interoperability, which we dealt with during the tragedy of 9/11.

I want to again thank Ranking Member PAYNE and the full committee chair and ranking member for their leadership.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Reclaiming my time, I reiterate that I urge all Members to join Ranking Member PAYNE and I in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

The gentlewoman from Texas has been very involved as well on the issues involving the unaccompanied alien children and interoperable communications issues. I appreciate her comments, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 4289, the ''Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act.''

One of the major lessons of the September 11th attacks was that operable and interoperable communications are imperative to an effective response.

Simply put, when law enforcement and other first responders have interoperable communications during an incident or disaster, lives are saved.

As a Nation, we have invested over $13 billion on interoperable communications. However, the goal of achieving interoperability continues to evade us—even at the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal agency that is in charge of driving efforts to achieve interoperability at the Federal, State, and local levels.

In November 2012, the Office of the Inspector General reported that DHS' interoperable communications capability was deficient.

For example, of the radios examined during the OIG's audit, only 20 percent of them were set up to use the common channel.

The Inspector General recommended that stronger Departmental governance be established to ensure communications policies are fully implemented.

At the time, DHS explicitly rejected the OIG recommendation that a stronger governing structure be established and, instead, insisted that its existing structures were sufficient.

Nevertheless, the interoperability problem at DHS persists to this day.

This past May, Inspector General John Roth appeared before the Committee on Homeland Security and said: ''I am frankly concerned that as we speak today a Secret Service agent in New York can't get on his radio and talk to a Federal Protective Service officer in New York or a CBP officer in El Paso can't talk to a Homeland Security Investigations Agent in the same city.''

H.R. 4289 would require the Department to undertake the planning and oversight necessary to ensure that achievement of interoperability within DHS.

I would like to congratulate Subcommittee Ranking Member PAYNE, Jr. and Chairwoman BROOKS for their commitment to addressing this critical issue. I wish them success in their efforts and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4289.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 4289, the ''Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act,'' which will help ensure the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) achieves cross-component interoperability.

This bill implements several recommendations contained in a 2012 report of the DHS Inspector General on the status and quality of interoperable radio communications.

A major finding of the report is that DHS has spent over $430 million in the past 9 years for communication purposes but it still does not ''have interoperable communications for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies.''

The IG report also found that 99% (478 out of 479) of radio users surveyed could not find the DHS common channel because the components did not ''effectively inform them'' of the correct channel.

That is why it is important that we vote today to implement the following specific recommendations from the report:

1. Create a structure with the necessary authority to ensure that the components achieve interoperability.

2. Create a structure with the necessary authority to ensure that the components achieve interoperability.

Because the mission of DHS is to ensure that our homeland is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards, effective communication within the organization is crucial.

According to the IG, the reason for this lack of communication is that DHS's efforts to achieve department-wide interoperable communications capability have been undermined by excessive reliance upon on Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) and voluntary participation by communications task forces and working groups.

This means that various agencies within DHS do not have a standardized set of policies regarding radios and the department's leadership has not been successful in enforcing adherence to those policies by all department components.

Although the IG urged DHS to implement a stronger enforcement structure, DHS has not adopted this recommendation, insisting instead that its existing structure is effective.

Plainly, it is not.

H.R. 4289 follows the recommendation from the report and ensures that DHS can achieve cross-component interoperability by:

Directing the Undersecretary to submit to Congress a strategy for achieving Department-wide interoperability within 120 days of enactment.

Report to Congress within 220 days, and biannually thereafter, on the progress of efforts to implement the Department-wide interoperability strategy.

Since its founding, the Department of Homeland Security has overcome many challenges as an organization but much more progress must be made regarding effective inter-operable communication between the federal, state, and local agencies.

Athough not a panacea, H.R. 4289 is a step in the right direction because it will help improve DHS' overall functions so that it can more effectively protect our people.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4289.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. 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.

TAKING ADDITIONAL STEPS TO ADDRESS THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE CONFLICT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113–128)

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

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the ''order'') taking additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006 (E.O. 13413).

In E.O. 13413, it was determined that the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability and was addressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1596 of April 18, 2005, Resolution 1649 of December 21, 2005, and Resolution 1698 of July 31, 2006, constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. To address that threat, E.O. 13413 blocks the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to E.O. 13413 or determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to meet criteria specified in E.O. 13413.

In view of multiple additional United Nations Security Council Resolutions including, most recently, Resolution 2136 of January 30, 2014, I am issuing the order to take additional steps to deal with the national emergency declared in E.O. 13413, and to address the continuation of activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the surrounding region, including operations by armed groups, widespread violence and atrocities, human rights abuses, recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers, obstruction of humanitarian operations, and exploitation of natural resources to finance persons engaged in these activities.

The order amends the designation criteria specified in E.O. 13413. As amended by the order, E.O. 13413 provides for the designation of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

To be a political or military leader of a foreign armed group operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that impedes the disarmament, demobilization, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or reintegration of combatants;

To be a political or military leader of a Congolese armed group that impedes the disarmament, demobilization, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or reintegration of combatants;

To be responsible for or complicit in, or to have engaged in, directly or indirectly, any of the following in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

Actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Actions or policies that undermine democratic processes or institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

The targeting of women, children, or any civilians through the commission of acts of violence (including killing, maiming, torture, or rape or other sexual violence), abduction, forced displacement, or attacks on schools, hospitals, religious sites, or locations where civilians are seeking refuge, or through conduct that would constitute a serious abuse or violation of human rights or a violation of international humanitarian law;

the use or recruitment of children by armed groups or armed forces in the context of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

the obstruction of the delivery or distribution of, or access to, humanitarian assistance;

attacks against United Nations missions, international security presences, or other peacekeeping operations; or

support to persons, including armed groups, involved in activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo or that undermine democratic processes or institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, through the illicit trade in natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Except where intended for the authorized support of humanitarian activities or the authorized use by or support of peacekeeping, international, or government forces, to have directly or indirectly supplied, sold, or transferred to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or been the recipient in the territory of the Democratic Republic of

the Congo of, arms and related materiel, including military aircraft and equipment, or advice, training, or assistance, including financing and financial assistance, related to military activities;

To be a leader of (i) an entity, including any armed group, that has, or whose members have, engaged in any of the activities described above or (ii) an entity whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413;

To have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, logistical, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of (i) any of the activities described above or (ii) any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413; or

To be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and the United Nations Participation Act as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *July 8, 2014*.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4263, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4289, by the yeas and nays.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4263) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 19, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 369]

YEAS—375

Amodei
Bachmann
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
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)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—19

Amash
Barton
Bridenstine
Broun (GA)
Conaway
Fincher
Hartzler
Hensarling
Jones
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lankford
Lummis
Massie
McClintock
Mullin
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Stockman

NOT VOTING—38

Aderholt
Bachus
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Campbell
Capps
Carter
Cassidy
Costa
Culberson
Deutch
Doyle
Fortenberry
Gerlach
Graves (MO)
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Kind
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
Maloney, Carolyn
Marchant
McCarthy (NY)
McNerney
Miller, Gary
Neugebauer
Nunnelee
Pastor (AZ)
Perlmutter
Polis
Rahall
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Royce
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sherman
Westmoreland

□ 1857

Messrs. BRIDENSTINE, RICE of South Carolina, AMASH, FINCHER, and HENSARLING changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. PETERS of California and MEEKS changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4289) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, 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 gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 0, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 370]

YEAS—393

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
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 (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
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
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
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, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—39

Aderholt
Bachus
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Campbell
Capps
Carter
Cassidy
Coffman
Costa
Culberson
Deutch
Doyle
Fortenberry
Gerlach
Graves (MO)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Kind
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
Maloney, Carolyn
Marchant
McCarthy (NY)
McNerney
Miller, Gary
Neugebauer
Nunnelee
Pastor (AZ)
Perlmutter
Polis
Rahall
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Royce
Rush
Sherman
Westmoreland

□ 1904

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.

FEMCO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

(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 recognize FEMCO, a small business located in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, which later this month will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1964, FEMCO began as a technical services company catering to the coal industry. During the past two decades, the company has diversified to keep pace with the growing demand in oil and gas, construction, recycling, and industrial manufacturing.

Over the years, FEMCO has relied upon a strong local workforce, which includes welders, engineers, mechanics, business managers, and support staff, among other positions. These talented professionals manufacture and rebuild a wide range of technical components, including drilling rigs for the energy industry, balers, shears, and shredders for the recycling and scrap industry, and also sustain a full-service support team for a wide array of industries that rely on immediate technical expertise and support.

Today, FEMCO is a strong base of economic support for the Punxsutawney area and has over 130 employees.

I want to offer my praise to FEMCO for 50 years of constant innovation and offer my thanks to the extraordinary men and women who work to make their continued success possible.

ADDRESSING THE TRADE DEFICIT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration appears to be negotiating the latest job-killing trade deal, as happened under the prior two Bush administrations and the Clinton administration with NAFTA.

Our Nation can't employ the nearly 20 million unemployed and underemployed citizens without addressing what is happening to growing imports and lessening exports.

Here is a bumper sticker: Out of a Job Yet? Keep Buying Foreign.

That was on a car in Michigan as we came back here today.

In 2013, America imported—get this—$369 billion in petroleum products alone, $309 billion in automotive vehicles, and $533 billion in consumer goods, which are not completely offset by exports. We are exporting jobs and importing products from other places.

Think of the jobs we could create here if we could really live the slogan, ''Made in America.''

For every $1 billion in goods exported, our economy creates 5,000 jobs; but for every $1 billion in goods imported, we lose 9,000 jobs. That is why we have been in the hole for the last 25 years.

Our middle class is shrinking. People are struggling out there. They can't make ends meet. We have a budget deficit because we have a trade deficit. America doesn't need any more job-killing trade deals.

HAMAS MUST BE STOPPED ONCE AND FOR ALL

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share an email from a friend who is in Israel with his wife right now. He writes:

> Hamas has been sending rockets into Israel for days now trying to kill any Israeli they can—120 in the last 2 days.
>
> Just a few minutes ago, the red alert was sounded. Thank God Congress wanted to build the Iron Dome, as it brought down that rocket.
>
> Will we hear the red alert tonight as we sleep? Will we get to the bomb room in time? What about tomorrow night?
>
> Speak out on the floor of the House: Hamas must be stopped once and for all.

My friend, Hamas must be stopped once and for all. President Obama, please say these words with us: Hamas must be stopped once and for all.

EQUALITY FOR WOMEN

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, 22 years ago, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor stated:

> The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives.

Over the past week, that fact has not only been lost by the Supreme Court, it has been under attack. The Court's decisions undermine women's ability to pursue economic opportunity and equality.

Tonight, thousands of people are rallying in Boston to protect these basic rights. I stand in solidarity with them. We will not back down and will not accept anything less than full equality in our access to health care, the workplace, and the ability to determine the trajectory of our own lives.

This esteemed body would do well to heed Justice O'Connor's words, because the women of America will settle for no less.

□ 1915

PRESIDENT OBAMA NEEDS TO VISIT THE BORDER

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the President needs to come to the Texas border. There is a crisis occurring there.

I just returned from a trip to McAllen. The situation is grave. The influx of people is putting a strain on our resources and threatening our system of public health.

Last week marked my second trip to tour the processing and holding facilities. I know other Members of the Texas delegation have made the trip as well. But President Obama, despite being in Texas for fundraising this week, refuses to come to the Texas border.

The President's remarks from the Rose Garden last week did little to deter Central Americans from sending their children to the Texas border. His message was correct, but his tone was wrong. The President needs to be clear and direct. He needs to send a clear and direct message to the parents in Central America: Don't send your children across the deserts of Mexico into Texas.

As a Texan, I felt compelled to make this trip, but I realize my influence in this realm is limited. The President has the bully pulpit. The President can make the point.

The President of the United States needs to come to the border and speak in a clear and direct fashion to the parents of Central America.

HELP THE CHILDREN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over the last week, besides wishing this wonderful Nation a happy birthday over the Fourth of July, I spent time in Brownsville, Harlingen, and McAllen visiting the detention centers. Most importantly, I saw the faces of innocent children who have come because of fear for their lives.

In a hearing in Homeland Security, I listened to State officials and to a bishop from El Paso who indicated that the world is watching. These children need our help. They are not America's enemy. They are not a threat to national security.

I want to thank those many cities who have offered places. I believe the President is right to seek the amount of money to enforce the border and to provide more judges, more immigration lawyers, and resources for these cities for these children. I believe that we have it in our heart to do it, and we can protect the border.

I will say as well, Mr. Speaker, that children come in all sizes. I want to say that the crisis in Nigeria with the kidnapped girls still remains on our minds—#bringbackourgirls. Let us put an end to the terrorism of Boko Haram, and let us help children wherever they are.

SKILLS ACT

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, each year, hardworking American taxpayers send $18 billion to Washington for Federal job training and workforce development programs. While training unemployed Americans is a worthy goal, even after spending billions of dollars, only a fraction of workers receive and complete the necessary training to get a job.

That is not only an unacceptable return on investment, Mr. Speaker, but that is an unacceptable outcome for the millions of Americans who are trying to get ahead in this economy.

A bipartisan majority in the House and Senate are working to take action to close the skills gap that is keeping Americans from filling the nearly 4 million American jobs right now. This week, the House will finalize work on a bill that originated in this Chamber. We will vote on final passage of the SKILLS Act, which modernizes and reforms Federal job training programs to be more efficient and effective.

This bipartisan action is a true jobs bill. I hope this serves as a starting point for further Senate action on the dozens of other jobs bills waiting in that Chamber that would invest in our Nation's competitiveness.

MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, 48 years ago this August marks my first practice as a football player for the famed Meridian, Mississippi High School Wildcats. After almost a half century, I still remember the fragrance of freshly cut dew-covered grass juxtaposed against the pungent odor of skin balm and the human stink of a sweaty locker room.

1966 was the first year of our newly appointed head coach, Bob Tyler, from a small town in north Mississippi. My initial thought and first reading of him was a Meridian Star news article in which he was quoted as saying he believed in maintaining a high level of physical conditioning. I immediately knew that meant we would be running our butts off. And we did.

Our first August practice was everything I expected, and much more. We practiced twice a day, sometimes three times a day, first in shorts and then in full pads. Temperatures approached 100 degrees, with 100 percent humidity. Prayers for a quenching rain usually went unanswered.

Coach Tyler kept some of the existing assistants such as Jerry Foshee and

the late Earl Morgan, and brought in new ones, including Charles Garrett and Robert Turnage. Charles McComb, Jim Redgate, Don Evans, and Doug Marshal were also assistants under Tyler.

August, 1966, practices under Coach Tyler and staff seemed unique, even from the beginning. The level of organization, the level of excitement of over 100 young men coming out to join our team, and the professionalism and commitment to a strong work ethic and Christian principles were evident from the beginning.

There was also something else quite unique in the history of the football program. After the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Meridian, Mississippi, deep in the segregationist South, began to slowly integrate its public schools.

That first Tyler August of 1966, we were joined by James Williams, the first black athlete in the Wildcat football program's history. The following year, several more African Americans, including Robert Bell, a defensive tackle, joined us. Not very tall, but very wide and athletic, Bell proved to be quite immovable, and hitting him seemed like slamming into rebar filled with concrete. He went on to play for Mississippi State.

Our relatively unknown head coach then, Bob Tyler, led Meridian High to a fully undefeated season in his first year. The championship game was also quite unique in a couple of ways. Our opponent, the Jackson Provine Rams, still ran the old single-wing offense popular during the 1930s. The secret to Provine's success was high school coaches of the 1960s had no experience defending against the—even then—archaic style of football.

Bob Tyler had an old secret weapon, too, which was defensive line coach Earl Morgan, who played college football during the single-wing era. He knew exactly how to destroy it.

The other surprise of the game was a touchdown from the very first play of scrimmage when a ''long bomb'' was lobbed from Bob White to George Ranager. Meridian High won the game and the Big Eight championship, equivalent to today's 6–A championship.

The 1967 season under Tyler went much the same way. We had another perfect season, except for a tie game with Columbus. Nonetheless, we went to the State championship and defeated Biloxi High to make it two State championships in a row.

With such a sterling resume, Bob Tyler received considerable notice from colleges, as you can imagine. SEC coaches pursued him, and the great Johnny Vaught, head coach of Ole Miss, recruited Tyler to become assistant at Tyler's alma mater and favorite team ever.

It was rumored that Vaught was grooming Tyler to succeed him as head coach. Vaught ultimately retired with health problems, and Tyler left for the opportunity to coach under the legendary Bear Bryant of the famed Crimson Tide. It wasn't long before Bob got his shot to become head coach of an SEC football team. He went on to Mississippi State, where he found great success during his 5-year tenure.

Bob Tyler was not only noted for his coaching, but for the talent he developed. Smylie Gebhart, a great defensive end, went on to become an All-American at Georgia Tech. David Bailey, a wide receiver, went on to set reception records under Bear Bryant. George Ranager caught the winning touchdown for Alabama in the famous 33–32 shootout with Ole Miss in 1969.

Coach Charles Garrett, Tyler's right-hand man, took the helm for the 1968 season and had big shoes to fill. With Tyler promoted to the SEC, Garrett proved he had what it takes. Meridian High School had a third undefeated regular season, but lost out in the State championship rematch against a very fast Biloxi High School team.

Garrett developed stars, too. In his 3 years as an Ole Miss running back, Greg Ainsworth ran for 1,361 yards and 17 touchdowns. Mac Barnes, Garrett's quarterback for the 1969 season, became a coaching star in his own right. He went on to coach Meridian High championship teams as well.

Mr. Speaker, though of mediocre athletic ability, I gained tremendously from my experience as a Meridian High Wildcat under both Bob Tyler, Charles Garrett, and their very able assistant coaches. Any achievements I have made in my life and career must be credited to a large extent to what I learned on the practice field—concepts such as personal discipline, commitment to excellence, personal sacrifice for a unified team goal, preparation for success, and the meaning of teamwork.

Morris Stamm said:

> It is a commitment to a bigger goal, an opportunity for a young man to learn more than blocking and tackling.

Don May offered this:

> My life lessons learned from the MHS football days proved positive. Hard work and dedication can enable an individual to accomplish any goal and achieve success throughout a lifetime. Applying those lessons to my career and personal relationships has helped me achieve things I would not have thought possible.

I now look forward, Mr. Speaker, to the scheduled gathering with many of my teammates and coaches of the Meridian High Wildcats who coached or played under Tyler during the football season of 1966 and 1967. Therefore, I now hereby declare the period of 1966 and 1967 to be the ''Coach Bob Tyler Era.''

What is likely to be our final roll call will be held on August 23, 2014, Meridian. Amazingly, most of the coaches and players, including Tyler himself, after nearly a half century, are still living and will attend the reunion.

Some have gone on to glory before us, however, and will miss that final roll call and we will miss them. They include coaches Earl Morgan and Byron McMullen, as well as players such as Smylie Gebhart, David Bailey, Mike Cumberland, David Murray, Gary Saget, Maurice Ross, Mike Magee, Woodson Emmons, and possibly others.

Mr. Speaker, I now close with these words.

To a man, each of my brother Wildcats, I am sure, feel as I do that every moment of the hard work, sweat, pain, and sometimes disappointment was worth it, and we are all better men because of it. Such a common experience even a half century ago bonds us together forever. Indeed, we were then, as we are today, and always, even when we no longer answer that roll call, will be known as the Meridian High Wildcats, a true ''band of brothers.''

Mr. Speaker, today I want to express a heartfelt tribute to the leaders of our Wildcat band of brothers—Coaches Bob Tyler, Charles Garrett, and all Wildcat coaches, living and not, and to all of my brother players living and not—for all you have done for our town, our school, and especially for me.

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

□ 1930

AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM WITHIN A CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 50 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives and to take up these topics that I appreciate your attention to.

As the other Members disperse across this Hill and over to their offices and as their staffs are tuned in on television and for those who are here in person, we have got some serious issues to discuss. This country has been led down a path that has been, I think, in the end, destructive to our Republic, and it is important that we focus on these issues that are getting out of hand.

We are a great country. For the Fourth of July, I sent out a tweet that morning to celebrate the Fourth of July: ''Happy Independence Day.''

The United States of America is the unchallenged greatest nation in the world, and we derive our strength from Western civilization, Judeo Christianity, and free enterprise capitalism. There are many other components to those three parts that I mentioned. Of course, as I send out that message, there are those who disagree.

First, they don't think of America as an exceptional nation. They don't believe in American exceptionalism. Our President makes the statement that: oh, yes, I believe in American exceptionalism in the way the British believe in British exceptionalism and

the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism.

That is an entirely different concept. There are many countries out there that are proud of who they are, and they should be. They are proud of their nationalities. They are proud of the history of who they are. Borders, culture, and language are what tie a country together.

The other countries that see themselves as such and are proud to be so, as the British and as the Greeks are, are not like the United States of America. They do have borders, they do have culture, they do have language, but none of them were formed around an ideal, an ideal of God-given liberty.

None of them were formed around the idea of the rule of law. None of them have a bill of rights like we have a Bill of Rights, where you can look at the pillars of American exceptionalism and read most of them as you read down through the first 10 amendments, our Bill of Rights.

Pillars of American exceptionalism: freedom of speech, religion, the press, and the right to peaceably assemble and petition the government for the redress of grievances—there are four pillars in one, in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The right to keep and bear arms is another pillar of American exceptionalism. Whatever our pain is as the result of people who are dying due to gun violence—and if I counted the casualties right, in Chicago, over the Fourth of July weekend, it was 14 murdered and 82 wounded in gun violence. It is a product of lawless people who are violating gun laws.

They don't respect their gun laws, but we have the right to keep and bear arms because it is an obligation to keep our society in a position where we can defend against tyranny; yet some don't understand that. They think, somehow, the Second Amendment is about having the right to defend ourselves or the right to hunt or the right to collect or the right to target shoot.

All of those things are ancillary benefits that come along with the Second Amendment, and they are necessary so that we continue the culture of respect for arms and gun safety, but the real reason that we have the right to keep and bear arms is to defend against tyranny.

So far, we haven't seen a tyrant emerge in America who has brought about the need to utilize our Second Amendment, to defend ourselves from a tyrant who would lord over us and our God-given liberty.

Now, history moves on, and different personalities emerge, so I couldn't rule that out for the future, and I couldn't rule it out, actually, for the current either, Mr. Speaker.

With all of these pillars of American exceptionalism—the First Amendment, the Second Amendment, the property rights that used to exist with utter clarity in the Fifth Amendment, but, because of the Kelo decision, have been somewhat eroded—and along through our protection against double jeopardy and a quick and speedy trial and a right to face a jury of our peers and the powers of the Federal Government that devolve down to the States or the people respectively in the Ninth and 10th Amendments—we couldn't have built a country without these.

We couldn't have built a great country, Mr. Speaker, if we didn't have that foundation that I mentioned in the beginning—if we didn't have the core of Western civilization that emerged here on this continent at the dawn of the industrial revolution, if we didn't have the age of reason that accompanied old English common law, which is a descendant of Roman law, which is a descendant of Mosaic law—if we hadn't had those pieces, America would have never been, just as if we were not a Judeo-Christian nation, with a sense of morality and a sense of justice, a sense of forgiveness, a sense of redemption—yes, and a sense of confession.

If we hadn't had those pieces that are part and parcel of our culture and our civilization, America would have never been. We wouldn't have held together, and we wouldn't have been formed in the first place, so we wouldn't have sustained ourselves through all of these trials and tribulations of the centuries in the 238 years since the founding of our Republic.

That is how important this country is; yet we have many who don't understand this, many who refuse to believe the reality of history that has brought us to this point, many who don't respect this reality of history.

When I say that our Founding Fathers were almost universally of a solid faith—in fact, of a solid Christian faith—I hear from the other side of the aisle over here that: no, they were deists, they really had a different way of looking at this.

Thomas Jefferson a deist? Go look at the memorial. You will find more references to God in the Jefferson Memorial than you will see as typos in there, and there are two typos.

Thomas Jefferson was a moral and a religious man, and it anchored much of what he did as was true for all of our Founders. They were not atheists, they were not agnostics, they were not deists. They were rooted in a strong faith and a deep understanding of history, and they understood the flow of history.

On one of my trips out here to Washington—before I came here, Mr. Speaker, to serve in this Congress—I went to the National Archives. There was a long line waiting to see the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, which are on display underneath glass at the Archives today—8 inches of glass in between there and 8 inches of.

It is that Declaration of Independence in which our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. As I waited to walk through there to see the original documents—for me, it was the first time—I read through the display that was at the National Archives. This was a display of artifacts from the Greek city-state era.

There, I learned with the real examples before me of how the Greek city-states had the purist form of democracy, at least at the time, and that men of age had an opportunity to speak and to have their voices heard with their votes in the Greek city-states, but they had a problem with this pure form of democracy, and our Founding Fathers understood this.

They learned that, if it is just the masses, if the majority can rule over the minority and if there are no foundational or fundamental rights, then it is the tyranny of the majority that rules over the minority.

There was also the tyranny of the demagogues, the demagogues that had perfected their artful oratory in such a way that they could move the masses in an emotional way, often against the best interests of the Greek city-states.

When a demagogue emerged who drove the city-state in a direction that wasn't prudent, but was emotional and put the city-state at risk, then they had the Greek blackball system. The blackball system was that they would all line up to vote. There would be a gourd here or a piece of pottery here that had a little neck in it and enough room to contain all of the marbles, and there was a discard pottery as well.

When the Greeks decided they were going to see if they were going to banish a demagogue from the city-state, each one of those in the city-state who could vote—each one of these adult males—got a white marble and a black marble in his hand.

As they walked through—one of these potteries was the voting one, and the other one was a discard, and no one could tell whether they voted to keep this demagogue in our city-state by voting white or to banish this demagogue from our city-state by voting black.

It was maybe 100, maybe 1,000, or however many were there to vote in the Greek city-state—maybe several thousand. As they walked through, if three of them voted a blackball in the voting pottery—in that voting container—and discarded their marbles in the other one, if only three of them said banish this demagogue from the city-state, they would banish him for 7 years because he was a poisonous influence on their civilization, on their culture, and on their society.

That was one of the ways they held in check this raw, pure democracy that existed back during the Greek era, and our Founding Fathers understood that.

They understood also that these pure democracies had a way of essentially imploding and expiring. They understood that they had a limited lifespan—they thought, perhaps, a couple hundred years, so they didn't devise a democracy, Mr. Speaker. America was not devised to be a democracy.

As a matter of fact, you can take a look here in this Constitution and read in here that it guarantees a republican form of government. That is a representative form of government. It is not that everybody goes to the city center—to the coliseum—and votes on national policy.

We had that proposal, by the way. Let's see. We had a Presidential candidate from Texas who pledged that we should actually go on the Internet and all vote these policies, so America could become close to a pure democracy. I didn't like that. I thought that that was a bad idea.

Our Founding Fathers had a bright idea. It was a good, solid, principled idea: give us a republican form of government.

When Benjamin Franklin walked out of the Constitutional Convention, a lady there asked him: What have you given us? His answer was: A republic, ma'am, if you can keep it.

The Republic is a representative form of government where you elect Representatives to come to the House and be reelected or not every 2 years and go to the United States Senate for 6-year terms, with the idea that we would be a quick reaction force here in the House and of a longer-term view, maybe a little cooling effect, over in the Senate, with the balance of these two bodies.

In article I of our Constitution, the most powerful and influential component of our three branches of government is Congress—the United States Congress. That is why it is article I. All legislative power exists here between the House and the Senate.

In article I, the legislative powers of the United States Government are here—here, Mr. Speaker, in this House and over at the other end of the Capitol building, which is through the rotunda—over to the United States Senate—all legislative powers, article I.

Our Founding Fathers started, when they drafted the Constitution, with article I because our power comes from God, and it is granted to those of us who represent this government from the people—of, by, and for the people of the United States.

Their powers that they derived from God are transferred here into this Congress, so that we can express their will and bring forth the policies that they believe are the best and most prudent for the United States of America. It isn't just our being a reactionary force—a barometer, a taking of the temperature of our constituents—and somehow come here and reflect that in national policy. That is not exactly the definition of our job, Mr. Speaker.

Here is what I owe my constituents—and I would entreat all of my colleagues to adopt this policy and philosophy—I owe everyone whom I have the honor and privilege to represent my best effort and my best judgment.

My best judgment includes be home; be among the people whom I have the privilege to represent; listen, listen, listen; take into account their concerns, their dreams, their aspirations, their grievances; and bring that back here with the best ideas that have emerged from that and couple with that the things that I am able to have the time to pay attention to on policy to analyze because I have the privilege to represent a lot of constituents who work for a living.

They are busy. They turn in 50, 60, 70, 80, or more hours a week. They do that to take care of their families. They do that to build a nest egg. They do that to prepare for their futures and, perhaps, for their retirements. They do that to build the capital so that they can reinvest, which creates jobs and increases the standard of living.

The people I have the privilege to represent are busy. They don't have time to spend 60, 70, 80 hours a week paying attention to public policy, but they do have time to pay attention to whether I am paying attention to public policy.

That is my pledge: my best effort and my best judgment, including incorporating all of their best judgments into the things that I can do and all of the other things that I have the opportunity to learn.

If I find myself at odds with the constituents in my district, it is time to have an eye-to-eye, heart-to-heart conversation. I should do what is right for God and country and State and district—in that order.

I have never found a conflict between that order of priority. When my mother was alive, I had told her: Mom, if there is a policy that is not so great for you, but that is right for America, sorry, but we are going to do what is right for America, and we are going to find another way to take care of you, Mom.

That is the way we need to do business in this country. We need to look to the long-term best interests of the United States of America.

We need to look back in our rearview mirror and say: How did we get here? What made us this great Nation? What were the principles that our predecessors adhered to that became such a foundational rock that we could be this unchallenged, greatest nation in the world? What were they? What are they? What are they that exist today? What are those principles that are being eroded, so that America isn't as strong in some of these areas as we used to be?

□ 1945

Do we still have this freedom of speech?

Well, maybe not quite, Mr. Speaker. And I say maybe not quite because this freedom of speech that used to compel us to utter the things that we believed to be true is now restrained by the political correctness, the political correctness where a CEO of a major corporation donated $1,000 to support a man or woman joined together in, hopefully, holy matrimony, and loses his job as a CEO because there are people that believe that marriage is something other than between a man and a woman.

That is not what you call a free speech. That erodes us all when you see that happen.

When you see the attacks that come—and I see them come primarily from the left. There will be people that will take issue with the tone of remarks or the word choices of remarks, but they aren't so much aggrieved by the actual function of what we are describing.

For example, there are people that don't like the way some of us talk about abortion. They don't like to be reminded that I and millions of Americans believe that human life is sacred in all of its forms, that it begins at a moment, and that is the moment of conception, and it needs to be protected with that great reverence for that sacred unique human life created in God's image from every moment of its conception until natural death. They don't like that kind of dialogue. You will never see a video of an actual abortion performed because the very sight of it is so appalling that the other side would object to the freedom of speech to demonstrate such a thing.

They don't like the idea that we call illegal immigrants ''illegal immigrants.'' They don't like the idea that they get labeled as ''illegal aliens'' or ''criminal aliens,'' but never mind that this is actually the legal term for those who are breaking our immigration laws.

Mr. Speaker, you will know that one of the top topics that we are faced with, as we went back to the Fourth of July, as we go across this country, is the immigration issue. It is in front of us now again.

It is not a new experience for a lot of us. We were at this topic at this time last year. We went through this debate in 2005, 2006, and 2007 before it finally died away and we bought a little bit more time to come back and revere and respect the rule of law again. But it has been so eroded.

Wherever I go, the immigration topic comes up, Mr. Speaker. And we are watching the video now of the images of people coming across the border, many of them at McAllen, Texas.

Now, I would take people back to what we have experienced in the past in that intense immigration debate that took place, started when President George W. Bush gave his amnesty speech, his comprehensive immigration reform speech.

My memory says that it was January 5, 2004. It was the launch of his reelection campaign. It was a calculation that he needed to reach out to the Hispanic community and, therefore, calculated that if he would grant some form of amnesty and start the process of legalizing people that are here illegally, that somehow they would embrace him as a Presidential candidate.

I think it was an overreaction to what they saw happen in the year 2000

when George W. Bush and Al Gore ran against each other, and when they got down to the recount in Florida, with 537 votes being the deciding difference between who would be the President of the United States and who would drift off into history, that election, I believe, they looked at the county-by-county election returns on which counties went for George Bush and which counties went for Al Gore and saw, I believe, what I know I saw, Mr. Speaker. It was the blue, southern tip of Texas. South Texas went for Al Gore.

Now, how could it be that a Presidential candidate of the stature of George W. Bush, a favorite son of Texas, a Governor of Texas, could lose such a big chunk of Texas on a county-by-county basis to Al Gore? I think they drew a conclusion that it was the Hispanic vote that he had not done very well with in Texas and decided this is how we are going to do better with the Hispanic vote, and so they turned it up.

They announced, after George W. Bush was reelected in 2004, that George W. Bush had carried 44 percent of the Hispanic electorate. But, upon further analysis, by the time you slice and dice and take that formula apart and put it back together, it comes down to an objective analysis that it couldn't have been 44 percent. It had to have fallen between 38 and 40 percent. Whatever that real number is, I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't 44.

But we then saw JOHN MCCAIN, who was long known as an ''open borders'' JOHN MCCAIN, run for President, and he picked up 31 percent of the Hispanic vote. So 7 percent—or 8 or maybe as much as 9 percent—of the Hispanic vote was lost between George W. Bush and JOHN MCCAIN. It never was 44. If it was, it was even a lot more. Then it was 13. But I am going to say instead that I will pick that number at 39 and say that JOHN MCCAIN watched an 8 percent drop in the Hispanic vote from George W. Bush's high watermark, where he reached out in a very positive and proactive way, down to JOHN MCCAIN at 31 percent.

Four years later, for the reelect of Barack Obama, Presidential candidate Mitt Romney came forward and he garnered 27 percent of the Hispanic vote. That is really not disputed. So he dropped 4 percent from the 31 percent of JOHN MCCAIN, the ''open borders'' JOHN MCCAIN, to 27 percent for Mitt Romney.

What happened, Mr. Speaker?

We ended up with an autopsy report that said that somehow it was a calamity, a free fall, a loss of a big chunk of the Hispanic vote because Mitt Romney had said a couple of words that seemingly allegedly had offended people, those two words being ''self-deport.''

Now, if the language is so sensitive that you can't use a term like ''self-deport'' without losing the Presidency, how in the world, Mr. Speaker, are we going to enforce the law? How are we going to reinforce the respect for the rule of law if we can't, in a delicate way, say, you know, if we really do enforce the law, a lot of people will decide that they don't have a legal presence here and they might decide they are happier if they would wake up in their home country. Somehow that is offensive to people?

Instead, I would say there has been a loss in the Hispanic vote, certainly not from 44 percent for George W. Bush but from, say, 39 percent down to JOHN MCCAIN. That is an 8 percent loss—31 percent for JOHN MCCAIN, 8 percent loss. Only a 4 percent drop from that down to Mitt Romney. Who knows which direction that is going to go, but it completely disregards, Mr. Speaker, the tens of millions of dollars that Democrats spent calling Republicans racists and getting a return on their investment by watching that be an effective, however sinful tactic it is.

I have watched this for a number of election cycles. I have watched it in my own race.

When you pit people against each other, Mr. Speaker, when you identify people and say you are in one class here, you are in another class here, you are in a group here, you are in a group over here—and the Democrats know. They will sort you out. They will say, well, your hair is blonde and your eyes are blue, so you belong here; and yours is dark and your eyes are brown, you belong over here; and you have a melanin content in your skin, and I am going to put you there.

We are all created in God's image, every one of us, and He has given us the distinction so we can tell each other apart. For us to identify those distinctions that are God-given identifying characteristics and use those to categorize people as something different than other people for political gain, Mr. Speaker, I believe is a sin. It is against the interests of this country, and we have fallen prey to those kind of tactics, and we have a President who falls prey to those kind of tactics.

I would remind you, when you had Officer Crowley and Professor Gates and that instance in Cambridge, Massachusetts, when the President jumped in on what looked like was a home burglary circumstance, upon review, Officer Crowley conducted himself just fine; Professor Gates got a little bit out of control. The President jumped in on something he never should have weighed in on and concluded that, because the professor was of one skin color and the officer was of Irish descent, that somehow there had to be some kind of racism involved rather than the humanity of an officer who puts his life on the line to bring our safety to us and to protect and preserve the rule of law. So the President, to get out of that deal, had to have a beer summit at the White House.

Well, that lasted a little while, until Arizona passed its S.B. 1070 law, which is their immigration law that was designed to exactly mirror Federal law—not exceed it, not go beyond it, but exactly mirror Federal law. And what happened? The President weighs in and says, well, you know, if are you a mother, a Hispanic mother taking your daughter out for ice cream, you could potentially be pulled over and checked for your papers. That was a statement that brought a focus on to race and ethnicity, and the law specifically prohibits such a thing, but he brought race into this equation again.

Now we have a President who has two of his family members who have received some form of amnesty, his Auntie Onyango and Uncle Omar. Auntie Onyango has now passed away, but she lived in public housing for a long time on the government dole. She was adjudicated for deportation at least once, perhaps more times than that. The President's presence in this country and hers in this country got her an amnesty.

So did drunken Omar, President Obama's uncle, who nearly ran over a police officer up in that same neighborhood and received his form of amnesty, too, because, after all, if you send him back to Kenya and he happens to be related to the President, somebody will kidnap him and maybe he becomes held hostage for profit. So we surely couldn't send somebody back, no matter how many times they had been adjudicated for deportation, no matter how much they were on the government dole, no matter what kind of an unexemplary citizen—well, a resident of the United States. I have to retract that citizen piece. A resident of the United States.

Illegal immigrants, the President's uncle, the President's aunt, they get asylum. They get amnesty. And the President reaches out and says, essentially to the world, we are not going to enforce immigration law. It is a progression on his part.

It was Bill Clinton that did the most deportations. In the year 2000, he had more deportations than anybody in history, before or since, more than George W. Bush, more than Ronald Reagan, more than George H.W. Bush. But those high deportations that took place under Bill Clinton diminished substantially under this President. They diminished under George W. Bush. They diminished again substantially under this President.

Mr. Speaker, this President has put the welcome mat out. He has essentially advertised to people in foreign countries: if you can get into America, you get to stay in America. That has been his policy. While they will announce that he has more deportations than anybody else, it wasn't true the moment they uttered that. It is not true today. The President has confessed that they count differently than any other administration.

We have a circumstance on the southern border that adopts involuntary return. If someone sneaks into America and they are caught at the border, they are offered a couple of options.

One of them is, well, today, we will take your prints and your picture. But if you will voluntarily return to your home country, then you will not be barred from coming back into the United States on either a 3- or a 10-year bar. That is the deal. So a lot of them take that voluntary return and go back to Mexico and try again.

In fact, we checked the records down at Nogales at the border station, and this was several years ago. They had a single individual that had attempted to come into the United States and had been caught 27 times. No penalty. Here are your prints. We will take your picture. We will send you back to Mexico. You can go. Sometimes they come back in the same day and they are caught again the same day.

We had testimony before the Judiciary Committee in the Immigration Subcommittee where the Border Patrol came before us, and I asked them: What percentage of illegal immigrants do you interdict, do you stop at the border? Their testimony said, well, perhaps 25 percent. Well, 25 percent is an abysmally low number, Mr. Speaker. Only 25 percent interdiction at the border.

Now, I go down to the border and I ask them down there, the Border Patrol, Customs, Border Patrol and ICE: What percentage are you interdicting here at the border? Are you getting—are you stopping 25 percent? They would laugh and say 10 percent has to come first. Ten percent was the most consistent number that I heard, sector after sector, agent after agent. They think they are stopping about 10 percent. One of the ICE supervisors said: I think it is 2 to 3 percent.

So this 25 percent number, even if we accept it, then you have to multiply it times four to come up with the number of people that are coming across our border. If we stop 25 percent, that means 25 people come across, there is really 100 of them. When you do the math, at the peak of our interdictions, which was during the Bush administration, that came to about 11,000 a night, 11,000 illegal aliens, criminal aliens coming into the United States across our southern border every night.

That traffic has slowed down a little bit because there are fewer economic opportunities. So that 11,000 was about twice the size of Santa Anna's army. Now the nightly border traffic is about exactly the size of Santa Anna's army.

Now, of course, they aren't all armed. In fact, very few of them are. But we are watching what is going on in McAllen as we are watching tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors come into the United States.

□ 2000

And that number was predicted more than 6 months ago by Chris Crane, the president of the ICE union, who has said, we are going to see more than 50,000—I believe the number he gave was actually 60,000—unaccompanied minors coming into the United States in the next year. Well, we have already crossed over 50,000. And for this full year, we are going to see that number—July, August, September—and that number is increasing. We think in the next fiscal year, it is predicted that it will be 120,000, not this 50,000 that we have crossed so far.

And, by the way, these unaccompanied minors, these are kids under the age of 18. These unaccompanied minors represent about 20 percent of the illegal aliens that are coming into America. And those are the ones that we catch.

So that is 100,000. Perhaps that number, approaching 120,000 illegal aliens that they catch, it is a number bigger than that. We have got a number that goes to some 300,000 criminal aliens to be interdicted in this fiscal year, and I think that number will go higher. That is one of those snapshot estimates. I am going to predict that it is going to be closer to 600,000.

But still, this President has refused to send people back. If you come into the United States, if you are able to set a foot in the United States, get into America, if you get into the interior, you are almost home-free. If you are not caught at the border, you are almost home free.

But something less than 2 percent of those who come into the United States who are interdicted, who get caught, are actually sent back home. And now, when you slice and dice that number down, you see the trend: that is going down to something like 0.1 percent that are faced with the enforcement of the law against them.

This is the wholesale destruction of the rule of law, Mr. Speaker. The wholesale destruction of the rule of law. This is a President who has rolled out the welcome mat and has sent the message across the continent, across the hemisphere and, actually, the world: if you can get into America, we aren't going to bother to remove you from America.

He has prohibited local law enforcement from enforcing Federal immigration law. He has gone to court to enforce such a thing. They have canceled 287(g) agreements, which are cooperative agreements between political subdivisions and the Federal Government so that local government could help enforce immigration law. He has sent his Attorney General hither and yon to file lawsuits against political subdivisions that simply want to enforce the rule of law and reflect Federal immigration law.

There is no other law that I know in this country that doesn't ask for, receive, and appreciate the full cooperation of all levels of law enforcement, whether they are city police, county sheriffs, whether they are State officers, criminal investigation personnel, or Federal officers of any kind. All levels cooperate at all levels, with the exception of immigration law, which has been carved out to be separate by this President.

And now we have a President that a year ago last summer, in the middle of the summer, some time in July, introduced what we call the DACA language, or the Morton Memos. And those memos are written in a bit of a—let's say a deft, convoluted, legalistic way, signed by John Morton, presented by Janet Napolitano. I promised her that she would be sued over them, and she is.

But these Morton Memos create four different classes of people. They grant an effective de facto. That is, they grant an amnesty to people that are in the United States. And it is the idea that if you came into America, and you were under the age of 18, you weren't responsible for your actions.

Some people on my side of the aisle will argue that you can't form intent if you are young. If you are too young to form an intent, then you can't be held accountable for breaking the law. I would point out, how young is that? Because a 2-year-old who reaches their hand in the cookie jar in my house knows that is wrong. And if you holler at them and say, Johnny, they will hide that cookie behind them and act like they didn't do anything wrong. You can't convince me that a 17-year-old can't form an intent when a 2-year-old can at the cookie jar and know it is wrong.

But this President somehow believes that if you came into this country before you were 18 years old, or at least say you did, that it was through no fault of your own that somehow your parents brought you in. And now, we have 50,000 kids from countries other than Mexico—Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras—who are being pushed up into the United States of America, who are attracted to come here. Why? Because of the powerful magnet of no enforcement of the law, no effective enforcement of the law here in the United States. The magnet of family members that have already been beneficiaries of no enforcement of the law.

We had a case that was decided in December of 2013. I introduced it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in the Judiciary Committee a couple of weeks ago. An illegal alien mother in Virginia had abandoned her 10-year-old daughter in Guatemala. She had hired a human smuggling coyote to smuggle her 10-year-old daughter across Mexico into the United States. They were supposed to deliver this child to this illegal home in Virginia. They were caught at the border. The human smuggler had charges brought against her. She had been in trouble for this same kind of activity in the past. So they brought charges for trafficking and human smuggling against the coyote, the human coyote. But the 10-year-old girl, what did she do with her? They loaded her up—she is an illegal alien, too—and delivered her up to Virginia, to her illegal alien mother into a household full of illegal aliens. ICE completed the crime. Immigration and Customs Enforcement completed the crime.

And when the judge rendered his decision on the prosecution of the human trafficker, he wrote that he had had a case like that in each preceding week in the previous month, at least four of those similar cases where ICE had completed the crime of human trafficking and had delivered this child—which may or may not be the daughter of the resident of the illegal household in Virginia—delivered this child into that household.

Now, that message went out, Mr. Speaker, all over Central America: If you are from somewhere other than Mexico, send your children to America. And they are coming across. They are climbing up on trains. They are riding that dangerous track. Some of them are walking. All of them are subject to being victims of the drug cartels and the violence. And yes, they are leaving violent countries.

The violent death rate in Guatemala, according to a Web site that tracks that, is 74.9 violent deaths per 100,000. The U.S. violent death rate is 6.5 per 100,000. That will tell you about the ratio of how much more dangerous it is in a place like Guatemala. Honduras, according to the United Nations report that just came out a few months ago, has the highest murder rate in the world, with 92 homicides per 100,000. But their numbers have grown in the last couple of years. They don't show the violent deaths rates as being that high.

But we do know by the U.N. records that eight of the 10 most violent countries in the world are in the Western Hemisphere. They are in Central America or northern South America, not Mexico.

America's violent death rate is 6.5 per 100,000. Mexico's violent death rate is 18.2 per 100,000. It is not quite three times that of the United States. But still, if you think of a country that has triple the violent death rate, and you send a lot of their young men here, there are going to be people in this country that die as a result of those decisions. And I am not picking on Mexico because it is far more violent south of Mexico, multiple times more violent south of Mexico.

In Honduras, there are 92 homicides per 100,000, compared to Mexico's 18.2. In Guatemala, the rate is 74.9 in violent deaths, not homicides. And in El Salvador, some years you don't get records because it is so violent there.

However, when you look at those countries and the homicide rates that they have, only Honduras has a higher violent death rate than Detroit. We should put this in perspective, Mr. Speaker. If we are going to move kids out of Central America to the United States of America because they live in a violent society, we dare not send them to Detroit because we would be putting them in an environment that is more dangerous than the one they left. But if you look at the universe of unaccompanied minors, let alone those who are accompanied coming into America that are getting this Presidential de facto asylum, you will see a reflection of what showed up in the Guatemala newspaper here a couple of weeks ago, a Spanish language newspaper, interpreted to say thus: 80 percent of the unaccompanied minors are male; 83 percent of the unaccompanied minors are the ages of 15, 16, or 17. When they turn 18, they are no longer an unaccompanied minor—15, 16, or 17.

Mr. Speaker, I would challenge anyone to go anywhere in the world and identify a demographic group of people that are more likely to become gangbangers, to be violent, to perpetrate and prey upon innocence, than those that come from the most violent societies in the world. Eight of the 10 most violent societies in the world are south of Mexico, and they are coming here as OTMs, ''other than Mexicans.''

If you pick 15-, 16-, and 17-year-olds from the most violent societies in the world and you drop them into another society by the tens of thousands and perhaps substantially more than that, there isn't any rational person that would think that there aren't going to be victims in the United States as a result of this policy.

And yet, the policy that I talked about, that had ICE completing the crime of hauling the 10-year-old illegal alien to Virginia to be rejoined with her illegal alien mother in Virginia, completing the crime, that has happened dozens or scores of times until now.

So now the President has his administration that is doing this thousands of times. They are taking these unaccompanied minors, housing them, coming through McAllen, in particular, but a lot of other places as well, putting them in temporary warehouses, loading them on buses and hauling them to places where they can process them. And then picking them up and, if they have a phone number in their pocket, some of them have a phone number memorized, wherever they say a relative or an extended family lives, ICE, or now Health and Human Services, delivers them there.

They pull up in front of a household. It might be a crack house. It might be a meth house. It might be a gangbanger's house. This is the address. They slide the door of the van open. Boom, out you go, you 17-year-old unaccompanied minor that we don't have a provision where we can deport you back to your home country. Let's see if we can get you to be a productive member of society by dropping you in this environment.

There are no checks and balances on this. There is no prudence to this. And, in fact, the ones younger than 14, they are not even printed. They don't have their fingerprints taken. They don't have their pictures taken. We don't know who they are. And about 50 percent of them were not born in a hospital so they don't have a birth certificate. They don't have a legal existence in their home country. There is not a way to track them. We don't know who we are handing them over to. We don't know who they are. We don't know if we pick them up next week or next year or 10 years from now if they actually were somebody that was processed through a warehouse in McAllen. These kids cannot be spread across this society in this fashion and infused across the illegal households in America. You grow more lawlessness, more lawlessness.

We are not relieving the pain and suffering. It is the parents that have abandoned their children. It is the parents that have endangered their children.

There was a little child in my district about 3 years old, a little girl who walked out of her house during the day. Her mother was working in the packing plant at night, and she needed to sleep during the day.

Yes, I trusted her mother was an immigrant—legal or illegal, I don't know. But this little girl wandered down the street several blocks. And somebody found this little girl and picked her up. And they looked around and asked questions and finally found out that, well, she came from this house where this mother was sleeping. So our Department of Human Services, our Iowa HHS, sat this mother down and said, this can't continue. You have got to care for this child. You can't let this child wander off on the street. Even while you are sleeping during the day—she needed to because she was working at night. But the child could not be left to wander because it is child endangerment. It is child abandonment. And they told this mother, you take care of your child, or we will take your child and put your child into foster care. And if you don't shape up, we will put this child into adoption so this child has a real chance in life.

We do not tolerate people who abandon or endanger their children in Iowa, and I don't believe we do that in any other State in this Union.

But the people who send their children across 1,000 miles of Mexico on the death train, exposed to drug cartels and human trafficking and the kind of slavery and exploitation that takes place on the victims that are coming up here, the parents who sent them along that path, they have abandoned their children. They have endangered their children. Over 1,000 miles of Mexico, not a few blocks down the street in a little safe Iowa town; 1,000 miles in Mexico.

□ 2015

And we, this great, benevolent Obama administration, will pick these children up and deliver them anywhere in America that they want to go because they have a phone number in their pocket, or an address that they memorized, and pull the van up in front of the crack house, open the sliding door and say, okay, here you are, fend for yourself? We should never put those children back in a household, an illegal household, never back into a law-violating environment.

These kids need to go home. There is another solution if we can't send them home. But putting them in these illegal households is not the right thing to do.

The President can solve this problem. Mr. Speaker, this is all in the President's head. The President sent out the advertisement that we are not going to enforce immigration law against you. He sent out the advertising that this government will take care of you, that we will make sure that you are living in a house where you have heat subsidy, rent subsidy, where you have food stamps, where you get an education, where you have health care, all paid for by somebody else, the sweat of somebody else's brow. And, by the way, now he wants $3.7 billion from Congress so he can hire every one of them a lawyer. Give them ObamaCare and hire them a lawyer, and now they will have everything that is the dream of every American—your own lawyer, your own government-issued health insurance policy, a rent subsidy, a heat subsidy, oh, and an Obama phone. Who wouldn't come to America if they believe all that is true? That is what this President is doing.

If he needed a place to put these kids back to their home countries, we have a bill. In fact, I have a bill here, and I will include it for the RECORD, Mr. Speaker.

H.R. _____

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 ''Keeping Families Together Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. REPATRIATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

Section 235(a) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', or in the case that a child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence cannot be determined, safely removed to a country described in paragraph (6)''

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by amending the heading to read as follows: ''RULES FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''who is a national or habitual resident of a country that is contiguous with the United States'';

(C) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by inserting before the period the following: '', or in the case that the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence cannot be determined, remove such child to another country described in paragraph (6)''; and

(D) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by amending the heading to read as follows: ''AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES'';

(ii) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''countries contiguous to the United States'' and inserting the following ''any foreign country that the Secretary determines appropriate'';

(iii) in clause (i), by inserting after ''last habitual residence'' the following: ''or removed to a country described in paragraph (6)'';

(iv) in clause (ii)—

(I) by inserting after ''last habitual residence'' the following: ''or removed to a country described in paragraph (6)'';

(II) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(v) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(vi) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) subject to clauses (i) and (ii), a child shall be returned to the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence, or in the case that the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence cannot be determined, removed to a country described in paragraph (6) not later than 5 days after a determination is made under paragraph (4) that the child meets the criteria listed in subparagraph (A); and'';

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''48 hours'' and inserting ''10 days'';

(B) by inserting after ''last habitual residence,'' the following: ''or removing the child to a country described in paragraph (6),'';

(C) by striking ''or if no determination can be made within 48 hours of apprehension,''; and

(D) by inserting at the end the following: ''If no determination can be made within 10 days of apprehension, the child shall be treated as though the child meets the criteria listed in paragraph (2)(A).''

(4) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting after ''last habitual residence,'' the following: ''and the safe and sustainable removal of unaccompanied alien children to countries described in paragraph (6),'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting after ''repatriate'' the following: ''or remove'';

(C) in subparagraph (C)(iii), by inserting after ''last habitual residence,'' the following: ''or safely and humanely removed to a country described in paragraph (6),''; and

(D) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking '', except for an unaccompanied alien child from a contiguous country subject to the exceptions under subsection (a),'' and inserting ''who does not meet the criteria listed in paragraph (2)(A)''; and

(ii) in clause (i), by inserting before the semicolon the following: ''not later than 5 days after the Secretary of Homeland Security makes the determination to seek removal of the child''; and

(5) by inserting at the end the following:

''(6) COUNTRY TO WHICH AN UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD MAY BE REMOVED DESCRIBED.—A country is described in this paragraph if—

''(A) the government of the country will accept an unaccompanied alien child into that country; and

''(B) the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, determines that—

''(i) there is no credible evidence that the child is at risk of being trafficked in the country; and

''(ii) there is no credible evidence that the child will be persecuted in that country.''.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, the title of the bill is the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, an amendment to it, and it addresses this topic. The topic is how we reach an agreement with the countries that are noncontiguous like Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras; just to be able to get an agreement to send their children back to their home country.

We can maybe direct this out of Congress if you get HARRY REID to go along with it, Mr. Speaker, but the President can do this on his own. All he needs to do is call up the president of any one of those three countries and say that you need to be on the tarmac in, say, Guatemala City airport; I am sending a planeload of your unaccompanied minors back. You repatriate them back into your country and your society. If you don't do that, we are going to freeze up the foreign aid, and we are going to freeze up the trade. We are not going to be subsidizing a country that won't cooperate and sends their children up here for us to put on the public dole.

The President can solve this thing. It wouldn't take one day to solve this. It has taken him 5½ years to create this problem. It is the President's problem. The President refuses to solve it. He just wants more money to expand government and hire more lawyers and more judges, but he has no intention of resolving this.

He is going to infuse tens of thousands—in the end hundreds of thousands—of people into America in an effort to turn Texas blue, to do what the Bush administration feared would happen if they didn't do that outreach in the first place.

I don't believe we should do identity politics. I think we should reach out to everybody and say that you are created in God's image, that is good enough for me. You are one of us if you want to work and earn your way, if you want to pay some taxes and carry your share of the load, because when you shoulder that harness, you make the load lighter for everyone else, and you increase the average per capita GDP of our people. When that happens, we all live better. But there are 104.1 million Americans of working age who are simply not in the workforce.

That is going in the wrong direction. And the last thing we need to do is have tens of millions of unskilled and especially illiterate people who are going to compete for the lowest skills jobs. This country is going exactly in the wrong direction. We need a President who will move this country in the right direction. The President can fix this problem he created. He can fix it. This Congress probably can't force the President to fix the problem, but the bill that I have just filed into the RECORD takes us a ways along that, Mr. Speaker, and judging from the time, I appreciate your attention.

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

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH INVESTMENT

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, we have just heard a very interesting 1 hour on an issue that is important, and

I would like to bring to this floor another issue that affects every American family either directly or indirectly, but in a very profound, and in most cases, a very sad, very sad way. One in five American seniors are affected by this disease called Alzheimer's.

I know it has affected my family. My wife's mother at the age of 92 died of Alzheimer's. She spent the last 2 years of her life living with my wife and me in our home, where we were able to provide care for her. I think that that is just one story among the millions of American families that are trying to find a way of dealing with this devastating disease.

In the last years of her life, my mother-in-law always had what seemed to be a bright outlook. She was never a complainer, and she always seemed to recognize her grandchildren, particularly the very young grandchildren. I will never forget a day where our youngest grandchild—her youngest great-grandchild—was climbing into bed with her, and my mother-in-law was, what I thought, was babbling. And that young child who could just barely speak was translating in a very real way what my mother-in-law was saying. It was my wife and I that were unable to understand. Just one moment in a long period of time that my mother-in-law lived with us in her final years.

This story is replicated time after time across America. One in five seniors will have Alzheimer's and will die of it.

If we take a look at the well known diseases that affect Americans, here is the death rate: cancer, clearly, clearly a problem. Heart disease, cancer, and stroke. Over the last 10 years, we are seeing a decline in the death rate for all of these well known and devastating diseases. We have seen the progress of research and the application of medical practices to these diseases, cancer, heart disease, and stroke, all declining, stroke by some 23 percent. HIV/AIDS, another devastating disease in this country, an incredible 42 percent decline in the death rate between 2000 and 2010.

And here is Alzheimer's, the same period of time, a 68 percent increase. My mother-in-law was one of the people that made up this statistic.

Deaths from major diseases. This is a clear indication of what happens when the public, acting through Congress, and governments, State, local, and private organizations, put their shoulder to the wheel and decide that it is time to do something about cancer, heart disease, stroke, and HIV/AIDS.

What is happening here? What is happening with Alzheimer's? Well, part of the answer is the aging population, the baby boomers. That is part of the answer, but it is not the complete answer.

What does this mean to the American taxpayer and the American families? It means it is a very, very expensive disease. In fact, it is the most expensive disease in America. Medicare, the principal source of health insurance for the elderly, 1 in 5 dollars in Medicare is spent on Alzheimer's, well over $240 billion a year for Medicare and Medicaid alone.

And where is this going? Well, here is where the costs are going. The cost of Medicare and Medicaid, 2010, $122 billion; 2022, $195 billion; 2050, $880 billion. So what are we going to do here? Well, we are going to spend an awful lot of money unless we get ahead of this devastating disease.

Looking at it another way, a different graph, same story, the skyrocketing cost of Alzheimer's care. This is not the peak, this is just where we stop counting in 2050. Baby boomers coming on and then this disease taking hold and literally bankrupting the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

So what do we do? Well, here is what we are doing, a neat little chart here, treatment shown here, this is the Medicare portion, this is the Medicaid portion. We are looking at a huge expenditure, $150 billion. This is from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Oh, down here, this is the comparison for research. This year, $566 million of research. Extraordinary expense, a lot of research, but not nearly enough to address the problem.

For example, back to that first graph that showed the decline in cancer research, HIV, heart—I wonder why it happened? Look where we are investing: cancer research, $5.481 billion; HIV/AIDS, $2.978 billion; cardiovascular, $2.15 billion; Alzheimer's, $566 million.

This is a very, very good graph. This is what happens when we invest in research and treatment protocols. Let me remind you of what those investments have meant. Cancer, decline in death rate; heart disease, decline in death rate; stroke, decline in death rate; HIV, decline in death rate. The major reason for it is the investment in research and treatment protocols. Cancer, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular, Alzheimer's.

So where are we going to go here? Are we going to stay with this and see an increase in Alzheimer's disease and death over the next years? Or are we going to go with something that can solve the problem? And that is investment, investment by the people of America and around the world in addressing this devastating illness for which today there is no cure, there is no way to slow down the progress, and we don't know when it is coming on until it is with us.

And so families across this Nation find themselves in a devastating situation. I would like to recount just one devastating situation. It was on National Public Radio in the Sacramento region. A gentleman from the State park system retired at the age of 65, thinking that he and his wife would be able to spend their next years traveling, enjoying themselves and the benefit of the years of work they had put in.

□ 2030

His wife was 1 year younger. No sooner had he retired, his wife came down with early onset of Alzheimer's. The result is a devastation in their family, obviously, to the lady. She doesn't even know today that she is married to her husband of 42 years, but he cares for her, day in and day out, every day, 24/7.

There are many pieces of legislation that are here in the Congress that deal with this caregiving situation. There is also legislation that would ramp up the research necessary to get at the disease to fully understand what it is all about and how we might treat it and prevent it. These pieces of legislation deserve our attention.

Joining me tonight is a colleague from California who is carrying one of those pieces of legislation, a woman who has spent her entire career—public and private—in Congress and in the California legislature, addressing the problems of health care, the problems of the underinsured and the underserved, an incredible woman who has her own story to tell.

Let me introduce to you MAXINE WATERS, my colleague from California.

Ms. WATERS. I would first like to thank my colleague from California, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, for this time, and I congratulate him for organizing this evening's Special Order on Alzheimer's disease.

JOHN, I would like to tell you that those charts that you just presented tell the story very clearly. It identifies the extent of this disease, and it also lays out that we need to do more with research.

We need to invest more in research, but you also showed, for those diseases where we have invested in, that they have reduced the death rates dramatically. I think your presentation needs to be seen by everybody because it does paint the picture of what is going on with this disease.

As the cochair of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, I know how devastating this disease can be on patients, families, and caregivers. The task force works on a bipartisan basis to increase awareness of Alzheimer's, strengthen the Federal commitment to improving the lives of those affected by the disease, and assist the caregivers who provide their needed support.

I am pleased that the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) has decided to take an active role in the work of the task force, and what a great job he has done.

Alzheimer's disease has touched millions of American families. However, most of us are probably unaware of the statistics behind the disease and the significant public health threat it poses to our Nation.

In the United States, someone develops Alzheimer's every 67 seconds. According to recent data, women have a one in six estimated lifetime risk of developing the disease at age 65, while the risk for men is nearly one in 11.

The Alzheimer's Association estimates as many as 16 million Americans over age 65 could suffer from Alzheimer's by 2050. It is now the fifth leading cause of death in California.

Right now, nearly 15 million people—mostly family members—provide unpaid care for individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia, a market value of more than $220.2 billion.

In California alone, approximately 1.5 million unpaid caregivers grapple with the tremendous challenges of Alzheimer's disease or dementia every day. Caregivers include spouses, children, even grandchildren.

Caregivers face a variety of challenges, ranging from assisting patients with feeding, bathing, and dressing, to helping them take care of their medications, manage finances, and make legal decisions.

I want you to know that I have friends who are taking care of both their father and their mother who have Alzheimer's. Caregiving is something that we have to pay attention to.

We have to give support to these families because not only is it a tremendous responsibility that so many people are taking on—as compared to caregivers for other diseases, Alzheimer's caregivers disproportionately report being forced to miss work, reduce work hours, quit their jobs, and change jobs due to caregiving demands. They are more likely to experience financial hardship, report health difficulties, experience emotional stress, and suffer from sleep disturbance.

These are just some of the reasons why I introduced the Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Act, H.R. 2975, last year. This bill authorizes grants to public and nonprofit organizations to expand training and support services for families and caregivers of Alzheimer's patients.

With the majority of Alzheimer's patients living at home under the care of family and friends, it is important that we ensure these caregivers have access to the training and resources needed to provide proper care.

The families and communities facing Alzheimer's also must deal with the difficult problem of wandering. According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 60 percent of Alzheimer's patients are likely to wander away from home. In addition to being distracting for law enforcement, wanderers are vulnerable to dehydration, weather conditions, traffic hazards, and people who prey on vulnerable seniors.

In fact, the Alzheimer's Association estimates that up to 50 percent of wandering Alzheimer's patients will become seriously injured or die if they are not found within 24 hours of their departure from home.

To combat this, I have introduced H.R. 2976, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, a small but effective Department of Justice program that helps local communities and law enforcement agencies quickly identify persons with Alzheimer's disease who wander or are missing and reunite them with their families.

The program is a valuable resource for first responders, and it enables law enforcement officers to focus their attention on other security concerns in our communities.

Of course, nothing can be more valuable for Alzheimer's patients, their families, caregivers, and communities than a cure for this terrible disease.

To that end, we must significantly expand the government's insufficient investment in Alzheimer's research. It is essential that Congress appropriate robust funding for cutting-edge research at the National Institutes of Health.

The private sector also has a role to play in funding Alzheimer's research, as do donations from concerned individuals. A simple way for Congress to encourage the public to contribute is to require the U.S. Postal Service to issue and sell a semipostal stamp, with the proceeds helping to fund Alzheimer's research at NIH.

This would be similar to the popular and successful breast cancer research semipostal stamp. A bill to do this, H.R. 1508, was introduced by now-Senator ED MARKEY prior to his election to the Senate, and I am working very hard to pass it.

So as we continue to search for a cure, our Nation is at a critical crossroads that requires decisive action to ensure the safety and welfare of the millions of Americans with Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

Together, let us commit to take every possible action to improve treatment for Alzheimer's patients, support caregivers, and invest in research to find a cure for this disease.

Once again, I want to thank my colleague, JOHN GARAMENDI from California, for organizing tonight's Special Order. It is important that we do as much as we can to educate the public, to gain widespread support, to make sure that we have the support that is necessary to get more funding for research.

You are doing a fine job of getting us focused. I appreciate that.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank Congresswoman WATERS. A couple of things come to mind as we were talking about the research effort.

We will very soon appropriate well over $80 billion—$80 billion—for ongoing military actions in Afghanistan. We make choices here, and it seems to me that we need to understand the import and the importance of the choices we make.

Now, that does not include the CIA and the State Department and the USAID—those are additional expenses over and above that the military will be using—at a time when, presumably, we are pulling out of Afghanistan. What would $1 billion of that $80 billion mean to the Alzheimer's research programs here in the United States?

Well, first of all, we shouldn't appropriate $1 billion because you can't ramp up that fast; but if we spread that over 2, 3, 4 years and go from $566 million to $1.5 billion, what could be accomplished?

I know that, in my own district in the Sacramento Valley, the University of California, Davis, has a very robust and breakthrough opportunity on brain research. I know in your own area of Los Angeles, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California are, together, operating major research programs on the mind, on the human brain, and how it is harmed, what is it that sets off Alzheimer's.

We can do this, but these are choices that your Representatives, the American people, your Representatives are making choices here in this House about how to spend your money. When one in five seniors comes down with Alzheimer's and we make a choice to spend $80 billion in Afghanistan, you should be questioning this. As to our rationality, are we making the right choice? I think not.

Let me just comment on your legislation, Congresswoman WATERS. Your Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act, H.R. 2975, I am thinking what it would have meant to Patty and I as we took upon the task of caring for her mother.

We really didn't know much about Alzheimer's and really didn't know much about the kind of care and the kind of reaction and different things we might do and she might do.

It would have been so helpful to us to have had that kind of information available, that kind of support. Now, we got through it very well. We had a lot of ability to search out information, and we are not unique, but I think the general public who is facing this personal crisis of a husband or a wife—and as you said, two out of three are going to be women—as they face that crisis, if they had the support that your bill would give to them, here is what you should expect, here is what you can do, here is where you can get help.

It is a good bill. We ought to pass it. We ought to pass this bill. So, Congresswoman WATERS, thank you for doing that. If you want to comment back on how you came to put this bill in, what was your motivation? How did you come to see it, from your own experiences? I know you have friends and, perhaps, even family that faced this situation.

Ms. WATERS. Absolutely. I have been watching for some time what caregivers go through in an attempt to provide the care that is needed by Alzheimer's patients, and you hit it on the head when you said: If only these individuals had had a little help in understanding the disease—what is it like? What is likely to happen? What can you anticipate? How should you react, and what can you do to get some help?

If that information simply was available, it would be of tremendous help to caregivers, but in addition to that, many of the caregivers put their own well-being at risk in so many ways.

Not only do they oftentimes have to lose time from work—which causes difficulties—but many times, the caregivers themselves have health problems that they are addressing that are exacerbated by the fact that they have additional responsibilities in giving care to their Alzheimer's relatives.

Yes, I have seen a lot of this, and I know the pain that families go through. As I saw my own mother age—and they said: Ms. WATERS, what you are seeing now is dementia.

I watched this very vibrant, energetic woman, who lived to be 97 years old, eventually go into a state of being that certainly was not the woman that I had known that had reared me, had been so energetic all of her life.

The lapses in memory and finally, toward the end, the inability to recognize her family was a very traumatic and heartbreaking thing to see.

□ 2045

So I want for every family the ability to deal with this. I want their government to be of help to them. As you have said, we have got to get our priorities in order. That $80 billion that you mention is a tremendous amount of American taxpayer money that is going toward an effort that most of us don't even understand. There is no reason that we should be in this situation.

I am looking at this chart, ''Investments in Health Research.'' That is shameful what I am looking at, only $566 million as compared to what we are putting into other diseases. We don't mind the money that is being put into other diseases. We see how it has reduced debt. We just want attention also to Alzheimer's. I think you have made it very clear this evening with the information that you have presented.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, this chart clearly shows—clearly shows—what happens when you make an investment: cancer, HIV, cardiovascular. I remember, 20 years ago, nobody thought you could solve HIV. It was there and it was going to devastate the entire planet, but research—research—paid off. While this disease is not under control and is still all too prevalent, there is an ability to stem the impact of it and to be able to live with that disease. We can make progress here.

I am just thinking again about your piece of legislation, about the kind of help that people need and, really, education beyond just what you have talked about in your bill. Every family goes through this in either their own family or a neighboring family in the early onset, early in the progress of the disease. The change in the way in which a person functions and works and interacts with the family is profoundly disturbing to the family, even more so if the family doesn't understand and doesn't know what is happening.

So the ability to diagnose Alzheimer's early becomes very, very important to the well-being of the family, as you said. If that family understands what is happening, they are better able to cope with a very, very difficult situation. If they have no idea and Mama or Dad just suddenly seems to be off in some strange and unimaginable direction, the family can be torn apart. I know we have seen this many, many places across the people that I have known over the years. But your bill ought to be law, and we ought to be funding those kinds of nonprofit and social organizations that can address and help an individual understand what is going on in the Alzheimer's situation.

Another one, your second bill dealing with the Patient Alert Program, I remember very well a situation that occurred years ago where a neighbor simply wandered off and it created a community crisis: Where did he go? Where is he? After a couple of days, it turned out to not be a devastating situation. Your bill would provide assistance in tracking and keeping track of and finding those men and women that will and have wandered off. This is very much a part of this illness. So thank you for introducing these pieces of legislation.

My plea to my colleagues here is let's focus on this. There are many, many things we focus on here. All too often it is just political one-upmanship. This is not a Democratic issue; it is not an Republican issue. This is an American issue affecting nearly every American family. I like your legislation. I would hope the President would have this on his desk tomorrow morning, would sign this and get the help that people need.

There are several other pieces of legislation that are also introduced. I would like to introduce my colleague, who is carrying a piece of legislation on this matter, and yield to him for his exposition. So if you would care to join us, we will hear from, actually, the other side of the aisle. It is a bipartisan 1-hour, so please.

Mr. ROSKAM. Thank you very much. I want to thank you for yielding and thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

To your point, Alzheimer's is a devastating illness, and it is absolutely ravaging our Nation. Five million Americans are suffering from it, and the cost of Alzheimer's is in the billions and billions and billions of dollars. In fact, there are some estimates that suggest it will be in the trillions of dollars between 2010 and 2050.

There is some good news and there is some hopeful news that we are on the verge of some new treatments, but we need effective coordination to ensure that the money is spent on research that is being utilized effectively. The devastating cost of this disease is proof in the numbers.

Nearly 1 in 5 Medicare dollars is spent on a person with Alzheimer's and other dementias. This year, the total cost of Alzheimer's will be $214 billion, including $150 billion on Medicare and Medicaid expenditures, and this will skyrocket in the years ahead.

This is not just a dollars-and-cents issue. Yes, it is very important, and, yes, we discuss dollars and cents in this Chamber and we all bring strong feelings and strong opinions, but setting aside, for a moment, the dollars-and-cents issue, this is inextricably linked to the health of our families, to the health of our communities, and the burden that goes not just on the person who is struck with Alzheimer's, but the burden on the caregiver and the family that has to come along. It is an overwhelming thing. Frankly, it is too overwhelming to bear alone.

So we all have stories of either family members or people that we are close to or people that we knew. I think fondly of a schoolteacher and a Sunday school teacher of mine growing up who was struck down by this disease. To watch her just atrophy over the years was an incredible heartache, and to watch her family come around and love her and care for her and do everything they could to lift that burden and to bear that burden alongside from her.

Now we have an opportunity. We have an opportunity in this Chamber to do something that is transformational, that brings us all together, that brings a sense of hope and optimism and possibility about trying to wrestle this disease to the ground. What an incredible time to see the science come together in ways that transcend normal partisan politics, and we can put those things aside and really cling to this notion of giving hope to people.

I want to thank the gentleman for his leadership. I want to thank him for his attention in driving this issue and to bringing all of us together around it. I definitely, on behalf of myself and my constituents in Illinois' Sixth Congressional District, want to be part of the solution moving forward.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank you so very, very much.

One of the challenges that I find in the House, there are 435 of us, and I never had the opportunity to work with you directly on committees. We just are not on the same committees, so I hardly know you, but I already like where you are headed. I like the way in which you speak to this issue and the way in which you show your compassion. I really look forward to working with you. These are bipartisan issues.

If you just hang on a few seconds, there are about seven bills that have been introduced thus far. Representative MARKEY, who is now a Senator, introduced H.R. 1507, which I think one of our colleagues has picked up here. That deals with the Social Security Act and makes this illness, a comprehensive Alzheimer's disease diagnosis, part of the Medicare program.

There is a bill introduced by a Republican, Mr. GUTHRIE. It is the Alzheimer's Accountability Act. This one basically says, okay, there is a plan. How are we doing with the plan? What is the plan to deal with Alzheimer's research, the support necessary? And it would require that a report be prepared

every year so that we can keep track of progress or lack thereof. I like that bill because I think accountability is really important for us. Ultimately, these will be our decisions.

You can jump in on any one of these you may be involved in.

Mr. ROSKAM. I am a cosponsor of both of those pieces of legislation, one authored by a Republican, one authored by a Democrat.

I think the point is there has got to be a sense of clarity. We have limited resources here. There is an incredible upside in the outyears in particular if we wrestle this disease to the ground and that notion of a holistic approach, because that is really what you are talking about. You are talking about not taking a rifle shot, not saying, well, let's do this, that, or the other thing, but, instead, take a step back, look at it in its entirety; let's use the full weight and influence of research dollars and health care dollars on the Federal side and leverage this to the best of our ability.

If you begin to think that way about some of these problems and we begin to think about, well, what is it that brings us together, there is real optimism here. Unfortunately, people look at Congress and say why can't you people get along and so forth, yet they don't see maybe some of this type of work where we are able to come together and we are able to represent constituents who are struggling mightily under this.

I think both of those bills that you referenced, I am honored to cosponsor them and to support the Members that are playing a leadership role. One of the things that you and I can do as Members of Congress is to bring attention to things and to talk to our colleagues and to lead our districts and to persuade people and try and bring people together.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, we are doing some of that tonight.

There is another one. This issue is not an American issue. This issue is a worldwide issue. Every society, every ethnic group in the world faces Alzheimer's, some more severely than others. There is another piece of legislation introduced by CHRIS SMITH, who is the cochair of the Alzheimer's Caucus here in Congress. This one is H. Res. 489, the Global Alzheimer's resolution by Mr. SMITH. It says it is the policy of the U.S. Government to encourage and facilitate the following efforts concerning Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. This goes to the World Health Organization and other nations that are involved in research, the sharing of knowledge and research.

We can, as you just said, leverage, leverage what we are doing with what is going on in other countries—certainly the European countries; we know China is doing a lot of research on this—together the whole world facing a common issue, and perhaps we can find a much better and a faster solution.

Mr. ROSKAM. Can you imagine what it would be like if, instead of waiting for this disease to wake up with a slow awakening or a realization that either you have been struck with Alzheimer's yourself or you are observing this in a loved one, if, instead, there is a day that would come in the future where there was a cure for this and you are able to anticipate it and say: Look, you don't have to walk this journey. You don't have to walk that difficulty and that turmoil and bear that burden. There is something that, based on the work that people did in 2014 and the predecessor years and all the incredible progress that has been made, that there is some day in the future. That was sort of pie-in-the-sky talk a few years ago. That is not pie in the sky anymore. That is a possibility.

If we are advancing this legislation that you referenced earlier, the legislation on a global basis that brings in worldwide partners that Congressman SMITH is advocating, the cumulative effect of all of those things can lead to, really, a transformational moment.

Mr. GARAMENDI. No doubt about it. There is research going on all around the world. Major drug companies are involved. Countries are doing their own research. It is all possible.

One other bill that I would like to bring up, this one is introduced again by CHRIS SMITH, and this is called the PACE Pilot Act. This is a program for all-inclusive care for the elderly, which currently helps those over 55, to provide a continuity of care and comprehensive care for them. It is more than just Alzheimer's. We know that nursing home care is extraordinarily expensive. This is an effort to try and keep people in their home with appropriate care and support.

So this is another piece of the puzzle, together with the two bills that our colleague MAXINE WATERS had introduced, giving us a package of legislation that we ought to work on.

The other piece of legislation which is not among these bills is the annual appropriation bill. Last year, we increased Alzheimer's research by $100 million, a very, very good thing.

□ 2100

But, again, we could do much more. And if we were to do that, I am convinced we would be able to advance the knowledge, the early detection, and, as you said a moment ago, a cure for this devastating illness. It is there. The only thing we need is to focus our attention and the world's attention on this, put the money into research, and then we can see a solution.

If you would care to wrap up, I have had my say on this.

Mr. ROSKAM. I want to compliment you and say thank you to the gentleman from California for your leadership on this issue, your leadership on the Alzheimer's Task Force, and your bringing people together on both sides of the aisle and trying to leverage resources, be wise in how we do this, but recognizing the responsibility that you and I and our colleagues have—and that responsibility is to do everything that we can to try and alleviate this burden and ultimately drive towards a cure.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Representative ROSKAM, it is a pleasure working with you this evening. We will call this a beginning, working across the aisle on a program that affects everyone and every family in this Nation.

We can deal with Alzheimer's. We just need to put our shoulder to the wheel and push forward with the programs that we know are successful, many of them introduced by our colleagues here. I, too, am happy to be a cosponsor of all of these pieces of legislation.

So much for this night on this very, very important piece of legislation. We will come back to it in a few weeks and see what progress has been made in perhaps the appropriations process or in the passage of these pieces of legislation.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we have had our discussion this evening on this important illness, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of travel delays.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on July 7, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2388. To take certain Federal lands located in El Dorado County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July 9, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the second quarter of 2014, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PATRICK CONROY, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 11 AND MAY 19, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Rev. Pat Conroy	5/12	5/13	Turkey		1,530.00		(3)				1,530.00
	5/14	5/14	Jordan		403.00		(3)				403.00
	5/15	5/17	UAE		1,608.00		(3)				1,608.00
	5/18	5/18	Italy		325.00		(3)				325.00
Committee total					3,866.00						3,866.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

REV. PATRICK CONROY, June 18, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO CANADA, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 6 AND JUNE 9, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Bill Huizenga	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		1,481.00				2,378.00
Hon. Bill Owens	6/6	6/8	Canada		598.00		0.00				598.00
Hon. Tom Petri	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		985.00				1,882.00
Hon. Paul Tonko	6/6	6/8	Canada		598.00		0.00				598.00
Janice Robinson	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		985.00				1,882.00
Joske Bautista	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		985.00				1,882.00
Eric Jacobstein	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		985.00				1,882.00
Committee total					5,681.00		5,421.00				11,102.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BILL HUIZENGA, June 24, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO LITHUANIA, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 28 AND JUNE 2, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Mike Turner	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		8,924.00				9,532.00
Hon. Tom Marino	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		8,924.00				9,532.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		8,924.00				9,532.00
Janice Robinson	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		5,962.00				6,570.00
Jeff Dressler	5/29	6/2	Lithuania		1,216.00		5,962.00				7,178.00
Ed Rice	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		5,962.00				6,570.00
Committee total					4,256.00		44,658.00				48,914.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER, June 26, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Paul Ryan	4/20	4/22	Japan		374.00		(3)				374.00
	4/22	4/23	South Korea		120.00		(3)				120.00
	4/23	4/23	China		331.00		(3)				331.00
Karen Robb	4/12	4/18	Tanzania		1,236.00		6,817.50				8,053.50
Committee total					2,061		6,817.50				8,878.50

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation

HON. PAUL RYAN, Chairman, June 18, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

6251. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Charles R. Davis, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6252. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Brigadier General John P. Horner, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6253. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Keith C. Walker, United States Army, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6254. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter notifying that the Department intends to assign women to previously closed positions in the Navy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6255. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting

the 2011 Workplace and Equal Opportunity Survey of Reserve Component Members; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6256. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRA, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Integration of National Bank and Savings Association Regulations: Interagency Rules [Docket ID: OCC-2014-0006] (RIN: 1557-AD75) received May 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6257. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting the Bank's report on export credit competition and the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6258. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Spirulina Extract; Confirmation of Effective Date [Docket No.: FDA-2012-C-0900] received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6259. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revisions to Rules Authorizing the Operation of Low Power Auxiliary Stations in the 698-806 MHz Band; Public Interest Spectrum Coalition, Petition for Rulemaking Regarding Low Power Auxiliary Stations, Including Wireless Microphones, and the Digital Television Transition; Amendment of Parts 15, 74 and 90 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Low Power Auxiliary Stations, Including Wireless Microphones [WT Docket No.: 08-166] [WT Docket No.: 08-167] [ET Docket No.: 10-24] received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6260. A letter from the Chairman, Southeast Compact Commission for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management, transmitting the Commission's 2012-2013 Annual Report and Annual Audit; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6261. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-16, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6262. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-25, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6263. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Corrections and Clarifications to the Export Administration Regulations: Conforming Changes to the EAR Based on Amendments to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations [Docket No.: 140221165-4165-01] (RIN: 0694-AG11) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6264. A letter from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting the Commission's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6265. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6266. A letter from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, transmitting the 2013 management report and statements on system of internal controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6267. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6268. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6269. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Atlantic Ocean; Ocean City, MD [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0056] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6270. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; BMA Media Group Fireworks, Presque Isle Bay, Erie, PA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0258] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6271. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Fifth Coast Guard District Fireworks Display Cape Fear River; Wilmington, NC [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0148] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6272. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Jones Beach Air Show; Atlantic Ocean, Sloop Channel through East Bay, and Zach's Bay; Wantagh, NY [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0250] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6273. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Belt Parkway Bridge Construction, Gerritsen Inlet; Brooklyn, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0471] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6274. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Stuart Sailfish Regatta, Indian River; Stuart, FL [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0089] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6275. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Elizabeth River, Elizabeth, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0285] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6276. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0134] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6277. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Captain of the Port Boston Fireworks Display Zones, Boston Harbor, Boston, MA [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0503] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6278. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Blairsville, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0731; Airspace Docket No.: 13-ASO-18] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6279. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the final report on the Medicare Gainsharing Demonstration; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6280. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Application of the General Welfare Exclusion to Indian Tribal Government Programs That Provide Benefits to Tribal Members (Rev. Proc. 2014-35) received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. DAINES (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 5020. A bill to amend the Indian Land Consolidation Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to contract with eligible Indian tribes to manage land buy-back programs, to authorize that certain amounts be deposited into interest bearing accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself and Mr. SHUSTER):

H.R. 5021. A bill to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Science, Space, and Technology, Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 5022. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve dental health care for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama (for himself and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 5023. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide additional points to competitive service entrance exam of preference eligibles applying for positions at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MOORE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 5024. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to credit prospectively individuals serving as caregivers of dependent relatives with deemed wages for up to five years of such service; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 5025. A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, to condition the receipt of certain highway funding by States on the enactment and enforcement by States of certain laws to prevent repeat intoxicated driving; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 5026. A bill to prohibit closing or repurposing any propagation fish hatchery or aquatic species propagation program of the Department of the Interior unless such action is expressly authorized by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 5027. A bill to promote energy savings in residential and commercial buildings and industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5028. A bill to establish grant programs to provide for the establishment of a national hate crime hotline and a hate crime information and assistance website, to provide training and education to local law enforcement to prevent hate crimes, and to provide assistance to victims of hate crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ESTY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 5029. A bill to provide for the establishment of a body to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the domestic science and technology enterprise and support United States foreign policy goals; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. MICA, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. GARCIA):

H.R. 5030. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13500 SW 250 Street in Princeton, Florida, as the ''Corporal Christian A. Guzman Rivera Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Ms. ESTY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 5031. A bill to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H. Res. 657. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States support for the State of Israel as it defends itself against unprovoked rocket attacks from the Hamas terrorist organization; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 658. A resolution expressing support for a whole child approach to education and recognizing the role of parents, educators, and community members in providing a whole child approach to education for each student; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ENYART, Mr. WALZ, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. FOSTER):

H. Res. 659. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit the Committee on Ethics from waiving any requirement that Members, officers, and employees of the House include information on reimbursements for travel in the financial disclosure reports such individuals are required to file under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978; to the Committee on Rules.

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. DAINES:

H.R. 5020.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 5021.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1, Clause 3, Clause 7, and Clause 18.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 5022.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To raise and support Armies and to provide and maintain a Navy, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clauses 12 and 13 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama:

H.R. 5023.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 ''To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces'' and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 5024.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 5025.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5026.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is constitutionally appropriate pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (the Spending Clause). The Supreme Court, in South Dakota v. Dole (1987), reasoned that conditions and limitations on funds were constitutional and within the power of Congress under the Spending Clause. Thus, conditioning the use of federal funds in order to direct appropriate spending goals and purposes are constitutionally permissible. As the spending is national in scope and pertains to all National Fish Hatcheries, and the conditions are clear, the legislation is constitutional.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 5027.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution provides Congress the authority to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper to carry into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5028.

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 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 5029.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 5030.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution: ''The Congress shall have Power to establish Post Offices and post Roads''

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 5031.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 32: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 50: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 118: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 217: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 270: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 279: Mr. KEATING, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 281: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 425: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 463: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 494: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 543: Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 692: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 702: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 715: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 920: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 958: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 1020: Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 1125: Mr. LOEBSACK and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1129: Mr. ROSS and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 1179: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 1225: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 1226: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 1239: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 1250: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 1252: Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1289: Mr. MEEKS and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 1318: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 1339: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 1354: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 1449: Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 1461: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1462: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1507: Mr. GRIMM.
H.R. 1563: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1594: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 1795: Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 1812: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1827: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 1852: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 1893: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 1905: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 1918: Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 1998: Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 2012: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 2084: Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 2116: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 2144: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ
H.R. 2313: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2315: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 2317: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2376: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 2415: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 2453: Mr. HOLDING and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2500: Mr. MCALLISTER.
H.R. 2502: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 2529: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2536: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 2538: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 2543: Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 2553: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 2607: Mr. MICA, Mr. ROSS, Mr. DENT, and Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 2638: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 2647: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 2673: Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 2697: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 2734: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2745: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 2791: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 2852: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 2856: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2869: Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 2874: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2955: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3040: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 3077: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 3082: Mr. COTTON and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 3229: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 3245: Mr. SCHRADER.
H.R. 3318: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 3320: Mr. CASSIDY and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 3367: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 3391: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 3485: Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 3490: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 3531: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 3556: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 3579: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 3690: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 3710: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 3712: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 3717: Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 3899: Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 3930: Mr. COHEN and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 3978: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 3991: Mr. SCHRADER and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 3992: Mrs. ELLMERS and Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 4041: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4103: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 4119: Mr. POCAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 4122: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 4188: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 4190: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 4208: Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 4234: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 4250: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 4252: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 4333: Mr. MICHAUD and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4351: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4365: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 4385: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4395: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 4411: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 4423: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4427: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 4450: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. HANNA, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 4462: Ms. HAHN.
H.R. 4469: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 4510: Mr. HANNA, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DENT, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 4577: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 4590: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 4605: Mr. COOK and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 4608: Mr. BLUMENAUER
H.R. 4612: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H.R. 4623: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4625: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 4651: Mr. VELA.
H.R. 4653: Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 4678: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 4706: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 4720: Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 4749: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 4771: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 4775: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 4781: Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 4782: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 4783: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 4790: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4792: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 4808: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 4814: Ms. BASS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. NEAL, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4837: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4853: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 4864: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 4882: Mr. ROSS and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 4885: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 4920: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 4934: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4942: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4948: Mr. ENYART, Mr. JONES, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 4962: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 4964: Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 4965: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 4966: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4970: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 4971: Mr. HURT, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BARBER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GARCIA, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 4979: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 4988: Mr. JONES and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 4999: Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 5002: Mr. NEAL.
H.J. Res. 68: Mr. HONDA.
H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. RUSH.
H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. MEADOWS.
H. Con. Res. 95: Mr. CRAMER.
H. Res. 35: Mr. RIBBLE.
H. Res. 109: Mr. HONDA and Mr. RANGEL.
H. Res. 281: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H. Res. 456: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. GOODLATTE.
H. Res. 480: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, and Mr. GRIMM.
H. Res. 536: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H. Res. 587: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 588: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H. Res. 612: Mr. STIVERS.
H. Res. 620: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. TERRY, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. ADERHOLT.
H. Res. 621: Mr. NEUGEBAUER and Mr. FLEMING.
H. Res. 623: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RUNYAN, and Ms. DELAURO.
H. Res. 644: Mr. MARINO.
H. Res. 652: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. STEWART.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. ELLISON

AMENDMENT NO. 7: 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.''.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. MURPHY OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 8: Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 7, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. FLEMING

AMENDMENT NO. 9. 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 the salary of any officer or employee to carry out section 301 of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 16421a; added by section 402 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111–5)).

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MRS. WALORSKI

AMENDMENT NO. 10: Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $500,000)''.

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $500,000)''.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 11: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals:

(A) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or

(C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds $3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. BLUMENAUER

AMENDMENT NO. 12: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act for Project 99–D–143, Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, may be used for any purpose other than placing the facility in cold standby.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. BLUMENAUER

AMENDMENT NO. 13: Page 19, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $9,808,000)''.

Page 21, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $14,712,000)''.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MS. TITUS

AMENDMENT NO. 14: Page 59, beginning on line 8, strike section 506.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MS. TITUS

AMENDMENT NO. 15: Page 24, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $150,000,000)''.

Page 59, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $150,000,000)''.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MRS. LUMMIS

AMENDMENT NO. 16: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 3112(d)(2)(B) of the USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h-10(d)(2)(B)) and all public notice and comment requirements under chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, that are applicable to carrying out such section.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. KILMER

AMENDMENT NO. 17: Page 28, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $59,658,000)''.

Page 29, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $59,658,000)''.