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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 20, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG COLLINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

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

We come to the end of a week where we have welcomed the newly-elected Members of the House who will join the 114th Congress, honored a great world statesman in Vaclav Havel, and voted on the first of many difficult bills to be considered at the end of the 113th Congress.

We now approach a week during which all Americans will gather to remember who we are: a Nation generously blessed not only by You, our God, but by courageous ancestors, faithful allies, and the best good wishes of people everywhere who long for freedom, who would glory in the difficult work of participative government, and who do not enjoy the bounty we are privileged to possess.

Bless the Members of this assembly and us all, that we would be worthy of the call we have been given as Americans. Help us all to be truly thankful and appropriately generous in our response.

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

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NO AMNESTY OR BENEFITS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this summer's crisis on the border was the result of President Obama's 2012 decision to grant amnesty to some illegal immigrants. Now, the President is planning to grant amnesty to every illegal in the country—almost—millions more. To make matters worse, these illegal immigrants may also become eligible for government benefits. That is just wrong.

What the President is doing is illegal. Hardworking American taxpayers didn't sign up to foot the bill for unlawful, illegal immigrants.

Mr. Speaker, the President is ignoring the American people, our Constitution, and our way of government. America is a country of laws, not men. My constituents are outraged at the President's imperial actions. American people want, need, and deserve a President who respects and follows the Constitution.

On behalf of my outraged constituents, I am fully committed to stopping this illegal action.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

WESTERN NEW YORK PUMMELED BY SNOW

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 days, the western New York community has been pummeled by unrelenting lake-effect snow. Areas of the city of Buffalo and surrounding suburbs were blanketed in over 5 feet of snow, and it continues to fall.

Stranded in cars and trapped in homes, people are unable to access potentially necessary emergency services. Over 150 miles of the New York State Thruway closed, and thus far, the storm has claimed the lives of eight people.

Snowstorms are a routine part of western New York winters, but even with advance notice, storms of this capacity are nearly impossible to prepare for.

I applaud the leadership of Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Mayor Byron Brown, and Governor Andrew Cuomo. Their emergency management teams have been hard at work and will not rest until the snow has been cleared and everybody affected is safe.

However, it is not just those trained for emergencies that have turned out.

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Neighbors helping neighbors shovel and dig out are common sights around western New York. The city of Buffalo once again proved itself to be The City of Good Neighbors.

TARPON SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL OUTDOOR ENSEMBLE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my alma mater, Tarpon Springs High School, and its outdoor ensemble for winning the 2014 Bands of America championship.

This is their sixth championship in 14 years, Mr. Speaker. They have won a total of 11 grand championships in Bands of America regionals in Georgia and Florida. The Tarpon Springs marching band has also been dubbed Grand Champions at the Seminole Sound Spectacular for the past 13 consecutive years.

The Sponger band, named for the early 20th century sponge divers who migrated from Greece to Tarpon Springs, Florida, are the single most dominant and accomplished marching band in Florida.

Congratulations to the students; the band leader, Kevin Ford; and the parents involved in this year's championship. ''Go, Spongers!'' Mr. Speaker, I am so proud.

ACA OPEN ENROLLMENT

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Affordable Care Act. Over 8 million Americans have signed up for private health insurance plans for 2014, almost 20,000 in the district I represent.

Overall, the number of uninsured residents in our district has declined by 8 percent. 33,000 people in the district purchased quality, affordable care through the new health insurance marketplace. 11,000 young adults were able to continue coverage through their parents' plans. For 84 percent of those enrolled in the health insurance marketplace, the cost of the average plan was reduced to $72 a month.

Unfortunately, 52,000 individuals who would otherwise have health insurance remain uninsured in our district because Texas did not expand Medicaid.

The open enrollment period for 2015 through the marketplace began Saturday, November 15. I encourage all Americans to take advantage of the opportunity to access quality, affordable coverage and enroll.

Please, for your family and for our community, we need more people insured so they have that certainty.

JONATHAN GRUBER GRANT

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Jonathan Gruber, ''smart'' MIT professor, ObamaCare architect, who has had to apologize for repeatedly calling the American voters stupid, has received millions of taxpayer dollars from Federal and State governments.

He now has an NIH—National Institutes of Health—grant that adds up to $2 million. This grant is for an analysis to determine how people choose their Medicare part D prescription drug plan. That might be something good for CMS and HHS to know, but it is far from the real kind of medical research we expect NIH to be doing.

Just a few weeks ago, the Director was saying they lacked enough money to fund Ebola vaccines. That was before it became widely known that they were funding a grant for Swedish massage for rabbits and other outrageous grants.

We expect NIH to fund groundbreaking medical research to prolong life, develop medicines, to cure and treat diseases, not economic research by a man who is now infamous for insulting the American public.

Dr. ANDY HARRIS and I wrote the Director with questions about this grant. I hope we hear soon before another check goes out the door.

AURORA STAFF WENT ABOVE CALL OF DUTY DURING EMERGENCY OUTAGE

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the air traffic controllers and FAA safety and technical employees who went above and beyond the call of duty surrounding the recent emergency situation in Aurora, Illinois.

Following unprecedented circumstances, the Chicago center staff kept the surrounding air space operational, safe, and efficient during the 17-day outage. On several different days during the outage, Chicago O'Hare, which serves my constituents in the 14th District, was the Nation's busiest airport.

Controllers from two dozen facilities around the Midwest and also the FAA Command Center worked together to keep the flying public safe and the system operating at close to capacity.

The air traffic controllers, technical operations personnel, and management at Chicago center and in all facilities throughout the Midwest and the National Airspace System have proven why the United States has the safest, busiest, and most efficient system in the world.

The public should be proud of the teamwork and professionalism that they demonstrated as they met a difficult challenge and kept America safe.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE OVERREACH

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to illegal immigration, President Obama has long said that he has no legal authority to extend executive amnesty. Now, I don't say this very often, but you know what? I agree with him.

His job as President is to enforce the laws that Congress has passed, but now, President Obama seems to have forgotten that he is not a king. President Obama's plan to extend executive amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants is an unacceptable abuse of power that goes against the will of the American people. As the President said himself, ''That's not how our democracy works. That's not how our Constitution is written.''

President Obama should abandon this planned executive overreach and work with Congress to secure our borders and strengthen enforcement of the existing immigration laws.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

STANDING WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA ON EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this is not the first year or the second year or the third year of the administration. In actuality, we are going towards the end of the term of this administration.

From my perspective as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security Committee and the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security on the Committee on the Judiciary, every single year, this administration has extended its hand of collaboration to this Congress to intervene in the desperate lives of those who have been stolen from their children, deported, or families that have been disunited, if you will, wanting to be reunited.

I stand with the President tonight as he gives his message to America that we are a humanitarian country and that ''under my constitutional authority, as can be documented by scholars across this Nation, I have the authority to be merciful to give humanitarian relief,'' citing the U.S. v. Arizona case in 2012, when Justice Roberts said that the President has the authority for humanitarian relief.

Every difficult decision, unfortunately, in this Nation, from freeing the slaves to making the armies or the militaries integrated, took courage from Presidents. Lyndon Baines Johnson had courage when he signed the

Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

Mr. President, you are doing the right thing. I stand with you on exercising your executive authority. We need mercy for these people who are desperate.

PROMOTING NEW MANUFACTURING ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4795, Promoting New Manufacturing Act.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 756 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4795.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0914

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4795) to promote new manufacturing in the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD).

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, President Obama has made it very clear that if the U.S. Congress does not pass legislation that he has said that is a priority for his administration, that he intends to accomplish his goals by the use of executive orders and through regulations. Today, with H.R. 4795, we are here to address a specific problem caused by regulations coming out of EPA relating to the Clean Air Act.

We know that announcements have been made for manufacturing expansions in the United States amounting to about $135 billion. But we also know that EPA has gone into a pattern of when they issue new regulations, it takes them sometimes years to come up with guidances so that State EPAs and manufacturing applicants for clean air permits will know what is required to meet the new regulations. Because of the lack of clarity and the time of meeting timely guidances, it creates great confusion and uncertainty for the States and for the specific manufacturing facilities trying to meet these requirements.

To give you an example, the last ozone rule that was adopted by the EPA in 2008, the guidance for people trying to meet those requirements of that regulation still have not been issued. So we find ourselves in a situation where these new regulations are creating great obstacles to economic growth in the United States, and I think all of us recognize that economic growth has been quite stagnant for some time.

We have had many hearings on this issue, and we hear from people on a regular basis that one of the reasons that they can't get new plants built is because of the uncertainty, the lack of clarity, the lack of guidance from the EPA when they come out with new regulations.

Anyone that follows EPA is quite aware that they are particularly aggressive in new regulations. They have come out with new regulations on the Clean Air Act on a regular basis for the last 4 years. And so once again we find ourselves with lack of clarity, lack of guidance from EPA.

This legislation, which was introduced by Mr. SCALISE, simply says to EPA, if you come out with a new regulation, simultaneously you must provide the guidance for the States and the individual applicants who will be required to obtain permits to build their manufacturing facility. So that is what this bill is all about.

I think it is a commonsense piece of legislation, and obviously all of us want to create new jobs. We have companies out there today with a lot of cash who want to produce these, build these new plants, but because of bureaucratic difficulties, lack of clarity, and lack of guidance on a timely basis from the EPA, it makes it extremely difficult to do.

So that is why we are here today to discuss this legislation. I think it is very important that we adopt this legislation.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This has been a fascinating week in terms of the environment. We started it with the President orchestrating one of the truly groundbreaking breakthroughs in carbon emissions and getting the Chinese, for the first time, to agree to limit their carbon emissions, setting new standards for the United States.

Then this week, in the Congress, we basically have three bills that are the equivalent of saying, through statute, to polluters, ''Smoke 'em if you got 'em.'' I mean, three bills that represent one of the worst trifectas I have ever seen, and I come from horse racing country.

Yesterday we voted on a bill that, in the title, suggests that we are somehow improving the science behind the environment, and basically what it did was limit the ability of EPA to have scientists as part of the decision-making process. Today we are discussing the so-called Promoting New Manufacturing Act, and, as we heard from my good friend from Kentucky, the goal of the legislation is to facilitate a manufacturing renaissance in the United States by expediting air permits for new facilities.

But the premise of the bill is very flawed: new manufacturing facilities aren't being held back by clean air requirements; weakening the Clean Air Act won't create jobs; and the specific provisions of this bill will slow down permitting, not speed it up. In truth, this bill is yet another Republican attempt to weaken the Clean Air Act protections and attack EPA's authority to reduce harmful air pollution.

The Clean Air Act requires major new or expanding sources of air pollution to obtain permits with pollution limits before the facilities start construction. It is a lot easier and less costly to minimize air pollution when you are designing and building a facility compared to cleaning up existing facilities.

These pre-construction permits are based on a simple principle: a new facility should not increase local air pollution above levels that are safe to breathe. The bill before us violates this principle by creating a permitting loophole, allowing new facilities to obtain permits under old, less protective air quality standards unless EPA promulgates new regulations or guidelines.

This provision is bad for existing manufacturing in the United States. The permitting loophole would actually impose new costs on the manufacturing sector rather than help it. The bill allows new facilities to pollute more than their fair share, leaving the existing manufacturers to make up the difference.

In areas struggling to clean up their air, like in my district in Louisville, Kentucky, this effectively shifts the responsibility and cost of pollution control to existing manufacturing facilities. This provision does not make economic sense. Furthermore, in all of the limited testimony pursuant to considering this bill, there was not one company identified that actually said they would build a manufacturing facility if they could do it under older guidelines.

I am kind of amused that the Republicans now want the EPA to issue nationwide guidelines, when their ideology says States are better prepared to deal with issues at their own level; and, in fact, States, under the existing law, have done a very, very good job of creating guidelines and strategies for meeting problems with pollution in their jurisdiction.

So, for a wide variety of reasons, this bill doesn't accomplish what its title suggests, and we urge its defeat.

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I might say that during the time we had the hearing on this legislation, we had several State representatives from the State EPA come in and testify, and they all were talking about the absence of timely implementation guidance from EPA produces a lack of clarity.

Both the Colorado, Arkansas, even the National Association of Clean Air Agencies wrote a letter to EPA on September 4, 2013, complaining about this.

Now, I would remind everyone, this bill does not do anything about the science, trying to diminish the importance of science and coming forth with new regulations. All it does is says that if EPA comes out with a new regulation under the Clean Air Act, they must provide the guidance to the States and to the entities who want to build new plants.

I might also say that the American Chemistry Council, particularly, raised this issue with us—and through their membership—of companies trying to build new manufacturing plants and meeting great difficulty because of the lack of clarity.

I might also say, all of us are very much concerned about climate change, but I don't think America has to take a backseat to any other country in the world. Our CO_2 emissions are the lowest that they have been in 20 years.

I might also say, we find ourselves today, because of regulations from this administration, being one of the only countries in the world where you cannot build a new coal-fired plant to produce electricity because the technology is not available to meet the stringent emissions standard unless you are going to spend huge sums of government money, as they are in the Kemper plant in Mississippi.

By the way, the standard was set for that regulation, the emission standard, based on the Kemper plant, which is still not in operation. It is about 2 years overdue, is way over cost, and all the entities involved in it said that kind of plant would never be built again without huge government dollars involved.

We would like to get back to a situation in America where, on energy projects, we use private money. I notice that Google recently was involved in the Ivanpah Solar facility out west, one of the largest in the world. They used a lot of government loans to build that plant, and now Google and other companies are coming back to the government and applying for grants to help pay off the loans.

So this is a commonsense piece of legislation. It does not change the science; it simply provides additional clarity.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I thank my colleague from Kentucky for yielding to me.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4795. It was my hope to resolve the issues of this bill during the committee. Unfortunately, that was not the case.

H.R. 4795, the Promoting New Manufacturing Act, could be a solution to a longstanding problem. The problem relates to Federal permitting, in this case, New Source Review permits.

While the majority of permitting takes place at the State level, the EPA plays a critical role in the permitting process. When EPA promulgates a final National Ambient Air Quality Standard, called NAAQS, States and industry must respond through implementation and application, respectively.

EPA should work as quickly as possible to offer States guidance on how to implement these new standards. Lack of guidance can lead to significant permitting delays as industry is forced to submit incomplete New Source Review applications.

While I will support the intent of the bill, I can't support the bill itself. H.R. 4795 is ultimately a lengthy delay in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards implementation; and then a NAAQS standard cannot be implemented, and this bill does not reflect current negotiations over that NAAQS implementation.

Until this point, the administration and the EPA have indicated a willingness to work on this issue. Further, EPA has not proposed these new National Ambient Air Quality Standards, so I see this bill as a solution to a problem that doesn't yet exist.

I want EPA to be transparent and work with the industry, and H.R. 4795 does not support a collaborative working relationship.

Additionally, the New Source Review permitting and the construction of new facilities are important to the economy, but we must also have a balance between economic growth and the protection of public health. The bill, unfortunately, does not strike that balance effectively, and, for that reason, I am unable to vote in favor of it.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the time offered by the gentleman from Kentucky.

If experience has taught us anything over the past two decades, it is that the Clean Air Act has been a success. New businesses have started, the economy has grown, and the air is cleaner and, beyond that, healthier for all of us.

□ 0930

The adjustments to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards Act are about a large body of research on the impacts of air pollutants on human health and the environment. H.R. 4795 assumes we cannot continue that record of success. The predictions of dire consequences to our economy before and after Congress adopted the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act have never materialized. We have, however, grown our economy and have achieved cleaner, healthier air for everyone. So, contrary to its title, this bill does nothing to promote manufacturing. It is simply another of many attempts to undermine the Clean Air Act.

Instead of bringing this partisan bill to the floor—yet another bill that has no chance of becoming law—we could be working together on legislation that would reinvigorate our domestic manufacturing sector. We could pass pending tax legislation or, better yet, tax reform, which would provide the certainty, provide the fairness, and provide the clarity that everyone needs and deserves. If it were enacted, this bill before us would be more likely to cause confusion and legal challenges than to generate new manufacturing jobs.

States develop comprehensive implementation plans that take account of all possible pollution sources and balance the needs of all stakeholders in the effort to achieve cleaner air. H.R. 4795 would allow a new facility to operate under less strict air quality standards than existing facilities if the EPA has not issued all final regulations and guidance required for any type of facility that would be covered by a newly established standard.

If the Agency would call a standard into question by issuing guidance at a time after a regulation is finalized, why would the Agency ever do that? Guidance is useful for the regulated community. As new or unique situations arise, the Agency can work with applicants to find the most appropriate and most cost-effective means for moving a project forward under the law.

It seems to me that we want to simplify the regulatory process, not complicate it, and to encourage communication and flexibility, not stifle them. We should ensure that regulations are implemented fairly and consistently, and we should facilitate communication and encourage the Agency to work with regulated entities.

H.R. 4795 is going to result in greater confusion, more legal challenges, and a less flexible regulatory process. H.R. 4795 will not provide more jobs, and it will not deliver clean air. I reject the notion that clean air and economic progress are incompatible. They simply are not. H.R. 4795 is a bad bill, and I urge its defeat.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, it is now my great honor to yield such time

as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), one of the truly great champions of the environment who has ever served in this body.

Mr. WAXMAN. I thank my colleague for those generous comments, and I am pleased to be here today to express why this bill should not pass.

Mr. Chairman, the bill is called the Promoting New Manufacturing Act. We would all want to do that—what a nice title—but the bill does not live up to the title.

The bill does not do anything to promote manufacturing, and it does not do anything to improve the permitting process for new and expanding facilities, but it does weaken air quality protections. It allows more pollution, and it threatens public health. Now, let me explain why I reached that conclusion.

The Clean Air Act requires a new or an expanding source of air pollution to obtain permits with pollution limits before the facility starts construction. These pre-construction permits ensure that a new or an expanded facility will not increase local air pollution to levels that violate National Ambient Air Quality Standards, which are based on public health.

When the EPA issues a new, more protective air quality standard to reflect the latest science, permit applicants have to meet the new standard and show their emissions will not increase the amount of pollution that will then end up harming public health. This bill, H.R. 4795, creates a loophole in this process.

The bill says that, if it is a new or an expanding facility, they can apply for a permit based on the old air quality standard, which is not adequate to protect the public health, unless, they say, the EPA has been able to jump over a new procedural hurdle that they set with this legislation requiring new regulations on permitting. In effect, this bill could give new sources of pollution amnesty from new air quality standards. This amnesty provision could have serious, real-world consequences. The amnesty provision would force the States and the EPA to issue permits for facilities that pollute more than they would under current law. In fact, this bill would allow new facilities to degrade air quality to levels that are not safe to breathe.

This loophole is also bad for business because, if you are not getting the reductions from new sources, you are going to have to get those reductions from existing sources. It is shifting the burden from the new sources onto existing facilities. It raises pollution control costs overall because the whole doctrine under the Clean Air Act, which has long been recognized, is that it is generally far more efficient and cost-effective to build pollution controls into a facility upfront rather than adding them later, but this bill does the opposite.

When we had our hearing, Representative DINGELL asked the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources from the State of Delaware whether creating this loophole in the Clean Air Act would do anything to expedite permitting at his agency. He responded with a categorical ''no.''

The California Air Resources Board argues this bill would actually slow the permitting process.

It wrote:

> Waiting for the U.S. EPA to develop guidance will result in unnecessary delays and public health risks because permitting agencies appear to be barred from issuing permits consistent with the new, more health-protective air quality standards until the U.S. EPA provides guidance.

If we really want to expedite the permitting process, we should give the EPA and the State and local agencies more resources. This bill does not add a single penny more to the EPA or to State and local permitting agencies to hire more staff to review and process these permits. That is what the agencies need.

States don't need more loopholes. They don't need more lectures about so-called ''red tape.'' They need more money and more people, but instead of providing these resources, House Republicans have voted repeatedly to slash funding for environmental protection. Punching holes in the Clean Air Act won't help these cash-strapped agencies work any faster, but it will make the air dirtier. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this legislation.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, may I ask how much time is remaining on both sides?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) has 23 minutes remaining, and the other gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN), who has been a real leader on this issue.

Mr. STUTZMAN. I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for his work on this particular issue that is really important to the Third District in Indiana.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Promoting New Manufacturing Act.

For too long, the Obama economy has remained weak, and the American worker has suffered the consequences. Too many people are struggling to find work and to provide for their families. They want to know when things are finally going to pick up.

We in Congress have a responsibility to help create an economic environment that allows individuals to succeed and businesses to grow, and we can achieve that kind of success by cutting back on job-killing regulations, by removing bureaucratic red tape, and by increasing transparency. That is what this bill today is all about.

As a Representative from Indiana, I understand that a strong manufacturing industry is absolutely critical to our national and local economies. The Third Congressional District, the place that I call home, is one of the top manufacturing districts in the entire country. This bill will not only bring new opportunities to Hoosier families but to families all across America.

Strengthening our manufacturing industry should not be a partisan issue, and, today, we have an opportunity to stand together and support legislation that will help create jobs and move our economy in the right direction.

I would like to thank Whip SCALISE, Chairman UPTON, and the members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce for their hard work on this issue, and I would urge my colleagues to support this particular legislation.

Mr. Chairman, finally, I would say that some of the top issues that I hear from folks as I travel across the district back home in northeast Indiana are those of regulations and the effect of Washington, D.C., bureaucracy and red tape. The impact that it is having on jobs in Indiana and across the country is hurting, and they need relief.

Again, I would definitely urge my colleagues to support this particular legislation. Let's start taking the boot off of the American economy, and let's let it and its families succeed.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I close my side of the argument, I would like to take this opportunity, once again, to thank my colleague Mr. WAXMAN for his incredible service to this body and to the country over the last several decades.

One of the first things I did when I was elected to Congress in 2006 was to call Mr. WAXMAN to ask if I could serve under his leadership on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee because I respected him so much. He has been a phenomenal mentor to me, as he has been to hundreds of other Members of Congress over the years, and I think the country owes him a great debt of gratitude.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say, in the spirit of his championing of the environment, what we have seen again this week, not just with this bill but with the two other bills in the last 2 days, is kind of a ''wolf in sheep's clothing'' approach to the environment—dressing legislation up with very, very nice-sounding titles that essentially do exactly the opposite of what they are intending to do.

This bill, far from promoting manufacturing, will make it much more difficult for the EPA to set rules, and in the process, it will not accomplish anything in encouraging manufacturing. I don't know of one businessperson who would say, ''I am going to build a plant that I, otherwise, would not build because I get to build it under old pollution rules.'' Most businesspeople are very forward looking. They look for opportunities not to exploit the environment. They look for opportunities to

make money because they have a vision. Virtually every good businessperson I know these days understands that building facilities that have the latest technologies and the cleanest technologies is the way to make money and to make sound business decisions.

For all of those reasons, as Mr. WAXMAN laid out in very clear terms, this bill does not promote manufacturing. It will do, actually, the opposite, so we urge the defeat of the legislation.

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I might say that I certainly agree that the owners of these manufacturing plants do not want to build new plants while using old rules. They want to use the best technology, but they want clear guidance from the EPA about what it should be because, when they don't have that, they find themselves involved with lawsuits with all sorts of environmental groups on a regular basis.

I might also say that there are many reports out there relating to manufacturing—I am just going to read from a few—that state that one of the key factors for investor confidence is a timely and efficient permitting process that is matched to current technologies.

Ken Weiss, global managing partner for Environmental Resources Management, which has extensive experience in the permitting process, testified:

> We routinely advise clients that obtaining a PSD permit can take anywhere from 1 to 3 years and that a minimum of 12 to 18 months need to be allowed in the project schedule.

□ 0945

The President, himself, acknowledged in his latest State of the Union speech this year that projects were being delayed and that there is a need to ''cut red tape'' to get factories built. And that is what this legislation is about. We are not telling EPA what the regulations should be. We are not telling EPA to disregard science. We are simply telling EPA, with all of their expertise, that when they issue the new regulation, that they provide clear guidance for the States and the companies and the individuals and the entities that want to build these new plants with new technology. That is what this legislation is all about.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chair, America is on the verge of becoming an energy superpower. Not only do we possess more energy than any other country, but we are capable of using that energy to accomplish great things.

Perhaps most important of all to manufacturing states like Michigan, we can use our energy advantage to reverse the gradual decline in American manufacturing that has been going on for decades and create a real resurgence in the years ahead. The Promoting New Manufacturing Act will help us achieve that goal and continues our efforts to build the Architecture of Abundance.

The U.S. has all the ingredients to strengthen our domestic manufacturing dominance. We have the affordable energy supply to run our factories, especially our growing abundance of natural gas. We have private investors willing to invest billions of dollars on new projects in America. We have a workforce that is second to none but many of whom need jobs. And we have the technical knowledge to build manufacturing facilities that are the cleanest and most efficient in the world. All we need is a regulatory process that will allow it to happen.

We all know about Keystone XL, which despite our best efforts, is still caught up in red tape. I wish I could say that bureaucratic nightmare is an isolated incident, but sadly, it isn't. Potential future manufacturing facilities face a similar regulatory maze that can delay projects for years on end or stop them outright.

We want to be a world leader in manufacturing, not in red tape. I am glad the President identified the potential of new American manufacturing in his State of the Union address, and acknowledged that there is red tape that needs to be cleared away. Passage of H.R. 4795 will help make this goal a reality.

The Promoting New Manufacturing Act is a good starting point. We know changes to National Ambient Air Quality Standards are on the horizon, which will ultimately have an impact on how much of this manufacturing renaissance we can actually get permitted into existence. This bill takes some very sensible steps toward a more transparent and timely process for air permits under EPA's New Source Review program. It increases transparency by making more information publicly available on these permit applications, and gives the states and permit applicants the critical information they need to ensure that when it comes to air quality standards, future implementation rules and guidance documents are developed, proposed, and finalized in a timely manner.

I hope that we can all agree that the current regulatory process leaves room for improvement. I urge my colleagues to support our pending manufacturing renaissance and to support this constructive legislation.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4795

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 ''Promoting New Manufacturing Act''.

SEC. 2. BUILDING AND MANUFACTURING PROJECTS DASHBOARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, with respect to fiscal year 2008 and each subsequent fiscal year, publish in a readily accessible location on the Environmental Protection Agency's public Website the Agency's estimate of the following:

(1) The total number of preconstruction permits issued during the fiscal year.

(2) The percentage of such preconstruction permits issued within one year after the date of filing of a completed application.

(3) The average length of time for the Agency's Environmental Appeals Board to issue a final decision on petitions appealing decisions to grant or deny a preconstruction permit application.

(b) INITIAL PUBLICATION; UPDATES.—The Administrator shall—

(1) make the publication required by subsection (a) for fiscal years 2008 through 2013 not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) update such publication not less than annually.

(c) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In carrying out this section:

(1) With respect to information to be published for fiscal years 2008 through 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency's estimates shall be based on information that is in the Agency's possession as of the date of enactment of this Act, including information in the RACT/BACT/LAER Clearinghouse database.

(2) With respect to information to be published for any fiscal year, nothing in the section compels the Environmental Protection Agency to seek or collect any information in addition to the information that is voluntarily provided by States and local air agencies for the RACT/BACT/LAER Clearinghouse database.

SEC. 3. TIMELY ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE TO ADDRESS NEW OR REVISED NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS IN PRECONSTRUCTION PERMITTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In publishing any final rule establishing or revising a national ambient air quality standard, the Administrator shall, as the Administrator determines necessary and appropriate to assist States, permitting authorities, and permit applicants, concurrently publish regulations and guidance for implementing the standard, including information relating to submission and consideration of a preconstruction permit application under the new or revised standard.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF STANDARD TO PRECONSTRUCTION PERMITTING.—If the Administrator fails to publish final regulations and guidance that include information relating to submission and consideration of a preconstruction permit application under a new or revised national ambient air quality standard concurrently with such standard, then such standard shall not apply to the review and disposition of a preconstruction permit application until the Agency has published such final regulations and guidance.

(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) After publishing regulations and guidance for implementing national ambient air quality standards under subsection (a), nothing in this section shall preclude the Environmental Protection Agency from issuing subsequent regulations or guidance to assist States and facilities in implementing such standards.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to eliminate the obligation of a preconstruction permit applicant to install best available control technology and lowest achievable emissions rate technology, as applicable.

SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON ACTIONS TO EXPEDITE REVIEW OF PRECONSTRUCTION PERMITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report—

(1) identifying the activities being undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency to increase the efficiency of the preconstruction permitting process;

(2) identifying the specific reasons for delays in issuing—

(A) preconstruction permits required under part C of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7470 et seq.) beyond the one-year statutory deadline mandated by section 165(c) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7475(c)); or

(B) preconstruction permits required under part D of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.) beyond the one-year period beginning on the date on which the permit application is determined to be complete;

(3) describing how the Agency is resolving delays in making completeness determinations for preconstruction permit applications;

(4) describing how the Agency is resolving processing delays for preconstruction permits, including any increases in communication with State and local permitting authorities; and

(5) summarizing and responding to public comments concerning the report received under subsection (b).

(b) PUBLIC COMMENT.—Before submitting each report required by subsection (a), the Administrator shall publish a draft report on the Website of the Environmental Protection Agency and provide the public with a period of at least 30 days to submit comments on the draft report.

(c) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section compels the Environmental Protection Agency to seek or collect any information in addition to the information that is voluntarily provided by States and local air agencies for the RACT/BACT/LAER Clearinghouse database.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) BEST AVAILABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''best available control technology'' has the meaning given to that term in section 169(3) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7479(3)).

(3) LOWEST ACHIEVABLE EMISSIONS RATE.—The term ''lowest achievable emissions rate'' has the meaning given to that term in section 171(3) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7501(3)).

(4) MAJOR EMITTING FACILITY; MAJOR STATIONARY SOURCE.—The terms ''major emitting facility'' and ''major stationary source'' have the meaning given to those terms in section 302(j) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7602(j)).

(5) NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARD.—The term ''national ambient air quality standard'' means a national ambient air quality standard for an air pollutant under section 109 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7409) that is finalized on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(6) PRECONSTRUCTION PERMIT.—The term ''preconstruction permit''—

(A) means a permit that is required under part C or D of title I of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7470 et seq.) for the construction or modification of a major emitting facility or major stationary source; and

(B) includes any such permit issued by the Environmental Protection Agency or a State, local, or tribal permitting authority.

(7) RACT/BACT/LAER CLEARINGHOUSE DATABASE.—The term ''RACT/BACT/LAER Clearinghouse database'' means the central database of air pollution technology information that is posted on the Environmental Protection Agency's Website.

The CHAIR. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part C of House Report 113–626. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. WAXMAN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part C of House Report 113–626.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of my colleague from California (Mr. MCNERNEY), I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 3(b), strike ''If the Administrator fails'' and insert

(1) STANDARD NOT APPLICABLE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), if the Administrator fails

At the end of section 3(b), add the following:

(2) STANDARD APPLICABLE.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to review and disposition of a preconstruction permit application by a Federal, State, local, or tribal permitting authority if such authority determines that application of such paragraph is likely to—

(A) increase air pollution that harms human health and the environment;

(B) slow issuance of final preconstruction permits;

(C) increase regulatory uncertainty;

(D) foster additional litigation;

(E) shift the burden of pollution control from new sources to existing sources of pollution, including small businesses; or

(F) increase the overall cost of achieving the new or revised national ambient air quality standard in the applicable area.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, subsection 3(b) creates a loophole in the Clean Air Act that allows new facilities to meet old air quality standards. This means more pollution will enter the air, and it will be harder to clean up. When one facility is allowed to pollute more, other facilities in the area will have to invest more to reduce their emissions. That is not fair. That is not good for the economy. This loophole harms public health, burdens existing facilities, and creates regulatory uncertainty.

If one is unwilling to remove the loophole from the bill entirely, then we should at the very least give State and local permitting authorities the opportunity to opt out, and that is what this amendment does.

We know States have concerns about this provision. We heard strong concerns from the State of Delaware at the hearing on this bill. In my own State of California, the California Air Resources Board wrote to the committee last week to express their serious concerns about this legislation, and this provision in particular. CARB wrote that ''the provisions proposed in this bill would not increase efficiency, would result in additional delays in permitting, and would pose increased public health risks.''

They, in other words, made two key points. First of all, CARB explained that States don't need EPA guidance to issue permits under a new air quality standard. They said, ''For decades, permitting authorities have successfully implemented their programs in response to every new standard U.S. EPA has promulgated. In fact, permitting agencies have historically been the advisers to U.S. EPA on the guidance that it ultimately issues.'' They point out that the bill effectively requires EPA to issue '''one size fits all' permit guidance that could not realistically take into account the uniqueness of every jurisdiction.''

CARB also explained that in regions with severe air quality issues, barring the States from issuing permits consistent with new, more health-protective air quality standards will ''result in unnecessary delays and public health risks.'' CARB highlighted that ''this is particularly an issue for vulnerable and already overburdened populations, such as in disadvantaged communities.''

All of California's San Joaquin Valley is in extreme non-attainment for air quality standards. This bill threatens the flexibility needed by the regional air pollution control district, the flexibility that has led to 2013 being the cleanest year on record in this region. This bill would take a step backward in that progress.

Let's not make State air pollution regulators' jobs harder by constraining their flexibility and imposing counterproductive requirements. At least let's give them a choice.

The amendment simply says, if a Federal, State, local, or tribal agency determines that adopting this loophole will increase air pollution that harms human health, slow issuance of permits, increase regulatory uncertainty, create new regulation, shift the burden of pollution control to small businesses and other existing facilities, or increase the cost of achieving breathable air, then that agency may opt out. The agency does not have to issue a permit that exempts a new facility from meeting protective air quality standards.

If you don't think the bill's Clean Air Act loophole will cause these problems, then States wouldn't opt out, and you shouldn't object to this amendment. But just in case the States we have heard from are correct, let's provide a safety hatch to make sure that we aren't harming public health and making air pollution permitting more difficult.

I have heard my colleagues, especially on the Republican side of the aisle, say over and over again, We don't need one size fits all. We need to let localities make some of these determinations. And I agree, in this case particularly, that if they see, given their circumstances, a reason why they don't want to follow this new regime that would be created by this legislation, let them opt out. Let them decide at the local level how to proceed.

For that reason, I urge passage of the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chair, this amendment basically would eliminate section 3(b), or make it applicable in a different way of the legislation, which really would defeat the whole purpose of this bill.

As I said in the beginning, this is very simple. We are not telling EPA what the regulations should be. We are not telling EPA not to use science. We are simply telling EPA, when you come out with a new regulation, you must provide the guidance for the States and for the entities that are trying to build new plants to create jobs in America. So this amendment would simply change that process.

All of us understand and recognize the great contribution that has been made by the Clean Air Act, but yet anytime we try to come up and we try to amend the Clean Air Act, it is almost like we are touching the Holy Grail.

Things change over time. As I said, the EPA has been so aggressive with so many regulations, they are not providing the guidance for clarity so that entities can invest dollars to create jobs. Obviously we want to balance a good, clean environment, but we also want a healthy economy. That is what this legislation is designed to do.

And with as much admiration and respect that I have for the gentlemen from California, Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. MCNERNEY, I do oppose this amendment and ask that the Members not adopt it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. WHITFIELD

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part C of House Report 113–626.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I offer my amendment.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, after line 10, insert the following:

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of a State, local, or tribal permitting authority to impose more stringent emissions requirements pursuant to State, local, or tribal law than Federal national ambient air quality standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chair, as I have said repeatedly, the intent of this bill is to ensure that when the EPA issues new air quality standards, the Agency provides timely guidance about how to comply with the new standards in the permitting process.

Now, at the hearings that we have had and in individual discussion with other Members, people have argued that section 3(b) of this bill would prevent a State or local permitting authority that wanted to impose the new standards, even in the absence of EPA implementing regulations and guidance, from doing so. So that was not the intent of the bill, and this amendment clarifies that.

So if you have a State like California or even Delaware, which are the two that I can think of, that would like to go on and impose the new standard without the guidance, then this amendment ensures that they have the opportunity to do that. So that is what this amendment does. It is simply a clarification.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, the reason I qualified it is because I see no reason to oppose the amendment. It is not objectionable. But it doesn't actually fix the bill's four problems.

Subsection 3(b) of the bill gives new sources amnesty from compliance with a new or revised air quality standard until EPA issues rules and guidance on the implementation of the air quality standard.

The provision effectively creates two classes of sources. New sources would be permitted under the outdated and less protected air standard, but existing sources would be permitted under the updated, more protective standards. This amendment doesn't affect this requirement in any way.

The Whitfield amendment says that States can set their own more stringent air quality standards under State law. I don't disagree with that. Section 116 of the Clean Air Act already gives the States the right to adopt more stringent air quality standards. It has been in the Clean Air Act for decades. That is fine as far as it goes, but it doesn't address our concern with subsection 3(b).

If my colleagues are in favor of State flexibility, they should either oppose the underlying bill entirely or support the State opt-out amendment. The Whitfield amendment does not provide them any relief from the loophole and procedural burden envisioned under the bill.

I don't object to this amendment as it doesn't make the bill worse. It doesn't make it worse, but it doesn't make it better. I would urge my colleagues to oppose the bill, even if this amendment is adopted.

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The gentleman from Kentucky has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chair, I would just remind everyone that even if EPA fails to do its job, the bill makes clear that nothing relieves new facilities of their obligations to install the best available control technology in attainment areas and the lowest available emissions rate technology in non-attainment areas.

I would also say that while my amendment allows those States who want to go on and implement the new regulation without the guidance, they can do that; but on the other hand, our legislation is designed to protect those States and those entities who find that they are unable to interpret the new regulation. And because of that uncertainty, it has been the experience of many companies, when they build new facilities with technology under new regulations, they end up being sued over it frequently.

So this legislation is about common sense. This amendment allows those States that want to implement the stricter standard, they have the ability to do that. I would urge the adoption of this amendment and the passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim 1 minute just for clarification for the RECORD.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, Mr. WHITFIELD mentioned that the National Association of Clean Air Agencies would like timely implementation guidance. That is true. But just yesterday, they wrote a letter making clear they oppose this bill.

I insert in the RECORD the letter that came under the signature of S. William Becker, National Association of Clean Air Agencies.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN AIR AGENCIES,
Washington, DC, November 19, 2014.

Hon. ED WHITFIELD,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WHITFIELD: At a hearing before the House Rules Committee earlier this week, you spoke in support of H.R. 4795, the Promoting New Manufacturing Act. In your testimony, you seemed to imply that the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) favors passage of this legislation.

I am writing to clarify that NACAA has never expressed support for H.R. 4795. Although we appreciate the Committee's desire

to encourage the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue implementation guidance for new and revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in a timely manner, we do not believe that public health should be sacrificed in promoting that goal.

Many of our members are very concerned by the provision in Section 3 of the bill that would allow facilities seeking pre-construction permits to conduct air quality analyses based on outdated air quality standards, should EPA fail to issue implementation guidance concurrently with the promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS. They believe this would likely cause substantial adverse health impacts and undermine public confidence in permitting programs that were designed to protect public health. In addition, agencies have expressed concern that the bill could cause unnecessary regulatory uncertainty, as well as unfairly shift the burden of reducing emissions to existing facilities, where it is far less cost-effective to do so.

Accordingly, NACAA cannot support this legislation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

S. WILLIAM BECKER.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. WAXMAN

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1 printed in part C of House Report 113–626 by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 183, noes 225, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 529]

AYES—183

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

NOES—225

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

NOT VOTING—26

Bachus
Campbell
Cassidy
Clay
Clyburn
Culberson
Dingell
Duckworth
Fincher
Fortenberry
Green, Al
Hall
Hinojosa
Holt
Horsford
Matheson
McCarthy (NY)
McKeon
Nadler
Negrete McLeod
Pastor (AZ)
Poe (TX)
Richmond
Rush
Smith (WA)
Wagner

□ 1030

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 529 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 529, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4795) to promote new manufacturing in the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 756, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. KUSTER. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Kuster moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4795 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

At the end of section 3, add the following new subsections:

(d) PROTECTING CHILDREN AND SENIORS FROM EXPOSURE TO DANGEROUS AIR POLLUTANTS.—Subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to the review and disposition of a preconstruction permit application if—

(1) the new or revised national ambient air quality standard protects children and seniors from exposure to dangerous air pollutants, including any air pollutant that causes cancer; and

(2) the preconstruction permit application is for a source that is located within 5 miles of a school, day care facility, hospital, or nursing home.

(e) PROTECTING SMALL BUSINESSES AND AMERICAN JOBS.—Subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to the review and disposition of a preconstruction permit application for a source if subjecting the source to the existing national ambient air quality standard would result in higher costs or job losses for small businesses that—

(1) are subject to the new or revised national ambient air quality standard; and

(2) are located in the State or nonattainment area involved.

Ms. KUSTER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the motion.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New Hampshire is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

Mr. Speaker, we can all agree on the importance of revitalizing the American manufacturing sector. We need to work across the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, to support manufacturing workers and businesses, so that more products across this planet can be stamped ''Made In America.'' That is why I am a proud supporter of the Make It In America agenda.

We need to pass this agenda which will help more businesses manufacture goods in America, so more families can make it in America. For example, we need to work with the Senate to permanently extend the research and development tax credit. This tax credit will help companies like Airmar in Milford, New Hampshire, a world leader in ultrasonic sensor technology.

We need to expand Trade Adjustment Assistance and invest in workforce development, like the $2.5 million Department of Labor grant recently awarded to Nashua Community College. This funding will help teach students the skills needed for advanced manufacturing careers, so that a graduate with a 2-year associate degree can leave school and walk into a good job that pays $45,000 a year.

We need to pass long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, to help companies like Boyle Energy in Concord, New Hampshire, ship American-made products around the world.

These are the policies that will promote new manufacturing jobs, and they deserve bipartisan support. Unfortunately, the bill before us today is not a commonsense bipartisan proposal for strengthening manufacturing; instead, it would tie the hands of our public health officials and make it harder to advance lifesaving rules to protect our air and our lungs from pollution.

That is why I am offering my motion, which would provide two exemptions from this bill. First, my motion would exempt rules that protect children and seniors from cancer-causing pollution within 5 miles of a school or nursing home, and second, my motion would protect small businesses from any job losses or increased costs resulting from this bill.

Whether you support or oppose the underlying bill, every Member of this body should be able to vote to protect the health of children and seniors and to protect small businesses.

I urge support for my motion. I urge my colleagues to move on from these partisan proposals and instead work to find bipartisan ways to strengthen American manufacturing without putting our air quality or public health at risk.

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit because I strongly support American manufacturing, and that is what our bill is about. It is about getting Americans back to work.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle want to talk about protecting seniors. The biggest threat we hear about seniors right now is the President's health care law that cut hundreds of billions of dollars out of the Medicare program.

Why don't you work with us to repeal that law and replace it with reforms that actually strengthen Medicare and help seniors? That would be a really good place to start.

Now, let's talk about jobs, Mr. Speaker, because that is the focus of this bill, and this is a bipartisan piece of legislation. What we are trying to do is actually support some of the things the President himself has talked about.

The President said that he wants to cut red tape. Do you know what this bill does, Mr. Speaker? It cuts red tape.

The President says he wants to be the most transparent President ever. We would actually like to help him fulfill that promise. In our bill, we actually require transparency from the EPA to actually start proving what they are saying that they want to do with actual science.

If you look at what has been holding back our economy, so many States will tell you, when they are trying to issue permits, it is agencies like the EPA that are holding back their ability to create jobs and issue permits that would result in higher air quality standards.

Ironically, the motion to recommit that they are bringing forward would actually make it harder to implement higher air quality standards.

We have had testimony in committee, Mr. Speaker, from companies that have told us that they are right now delayed by years, in some cases, in the permitting process to build new or better plants to create thousands of jobs in America because the EPA will come up with rules and guidelines; yet they won't even show States or industry groups how they can achieve this in the real world.

There is this parallel universe, Mr. Speaker. You have got the EPA coming out time and time again with rules and regulations that cannot be implemented in the real world, and then you have got people that are trying to create jobs in America saying, ''The biggest thing holding us back from creating good American jobs is these crazy radical rules coming out by the EPA and other agencies like it.''

Mr. Speaker, we have got a choice to make, here in this Chamber and across this country. The President says he wants to create jobs; yet he comes out with rules with those agencies like the EPA that are the biggest impediment to us creating jobs in America.

The President says he wants to be transparent, and yet he refuses to be transparent, and a bill, like our bill here today, says he has to be transparent. Show us how you are expediting the permitting process. He talks about that. It is time to walk the walk.

He says he actually wants to remove that red tape. Well, do you know what, Mr. Speaker? In our bill, we hold the President to his promise by removing that red tape.

We ask ourselves today: Do we want to get our economy moving again? I say ''yes.'' Do we want to cut the red tape the President promises but doesn't deliver? I say, ''Yes. Let's cut that red tape.''

Do we want to get our economy moving again? I say, ''Let's create those jobs, get our economy moving again, and get these radical agencies that are slowing down job growth in our country out of the way.''

Let's vote down this motion to recommit, pass the underlying bipartisan bill, and get the economy moving again.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 189, noes 223, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 530]

AYES—189

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

NOES—223

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

NOT VOTING—22

Bachus
Campbell
Cassidy
Costa
Dingell
Duckworth
Fincher
Fortenberry
Gardner
Green, Al
Hall
Hinojosa
Holt
King (IA)
Matheson
McCarthy (NY)
McKeon
Nadler
Negrete McLeod
Poe (TX)
Richmond
Smith (WA)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1050

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 530 had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 238, noes 172, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 531]

AYES—238

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

NOES—172

Adams
Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)

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

NOT VOTING—24

Bachus
Campbell
Cassidy
Costa
DeSantis
Dingell
Duckworth
Fincher
Fortenberry
Gardner
Green, Al
Hall
Hinojosa
Holt
Matheson
McCarthy (NY)
McKeon
Nadler
Negrete McLeod
Poe (TX)
Richmond
Smith (WA)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1058

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 531, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I missed the following votes:

Waxman/McNerney Amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4795. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

H.R. 4795—Promoting New Manufacturing Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during November 19–20, 2014. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Wednesday, November 19, 2014: rollcall No. 526, Kennedy of Massachusetts Part B Amendment No. 2—"yea;" rollcall No. 527, On motion to recommit with instructions—"yea;" rollcall No. 528, H.R. 4012 Secret Science Reform Act of 2014—"nay."

Thursday, November 20, 2014: rollcall No. 529, Waxman of California Part C Amendment No. 1—"yea;" rollcall No. 530, On motion to recommit with instructions—"yea;" rollcall No. 531, H.R. 4795 Promoting New Manufacturing Act—"nay."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5114

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove myself as a cosponsor from H.R. 5114.

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

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS AT MARYSVILLE-PILCHUCK HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am joined today with my colleagues from Washington State to ask you, at the end of my comments, to ask for a moment of silence because, on October 24, the Marysville, Washington, and Tulalip communities were violently ripped apart by a tragic shooting at Marysville-Pilchuck High School. Four students and their assailant have died, and one student was seriously wounded.

Now, as the father of two teenage boys, my heart breaks as I consider the families who were given the worst news imaginable as a result of this horrible event.

Healing is a difficult process, especially as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday. Marysville and Tulalip and the surrounding communities have shown their strength, however, and their resilience by celebrating these young people and giving thanks for their lives, although those lives were cut terribly short—the lives of Zoe Galasso, Gia Soriano, Shaylee Chuckulnaskit, Andrew Fryberg, and, yes, a celebration of even the life of the shooter, young Jaylen Fryberg.

Our thoughts are also with Nate Hatch and his family as he continues to recover.

We all want to thank our first responders and the Marysville-Pilchuck High School staff and leadership for their quick action on that sad day. We want to thank the Tulalip leadership for their resiliency and the faith communities throughout the area for opening their buildings and their arms to the grieving population. Everybody involved deserves our thanks and deserves our prayers.

For our first responders, you put yourselves at risk to keep our children safe, and I know I speak for our whole community when I thank you for your service and your bravery.

I want to commend the strength of the community leaders during this incredibly difficult time. And my colleagues and I want to continue to send thoughts and prayers to students, teachers, and families of the Marysville and Tulalip communities.

So, with that, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the House, and we all ask the House, to observe a moment of silence as we remember these young people whose lives ended far too soon.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT JEFF GREENE

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I do rise today in memory of Union County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Jeff Greene, who died yesterday in a tragic motor vehicle accident in Monroe, North Carolina.

Sergeant Greene was a 10-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office and managed the offices responsible for gun permits, for fingerprinting and the sex trafficking registry. He was also a veteran, having served honorably in both the United States Air Force and the United States Marines.

Sergeant Greene was a family man, and I would ask my colleagues to remember his wife, April, his daughters, Nicolle and Allison, and his five precious grandchildren in your prayers.

Sergeant Greene was committed to serving his community both as a law enforcement officer and as an active volunteer. He will be greatly missed.

May we honor all like Sergeant Greene and remember to pray daily for them, these brave men and women who faithfully work to protect our communities.

REMEMBERING BILL McCAMMON

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember retired Alameda County Fire Chief Bill McCammon, who passed away on October 13.

Bill lived to serve, and he served all who lived in Alameda County. He devoted his life to keeping our community, State, and Nation safe.

After serving the Dublin-San Ramon and San Leandro fire departments, Bill took over as the first fire chief of the

Alameda County Fire Department in 1993. With Bill at the helm, the fire department took on new responsibilities and doubled in size. He added new divisions, too, including a hazardous response team and a water rescue program.

When Bill tragically passed away, he was still working to protect his community, as executive director of the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority. It is this organization that provides for the interoperable communications for dozens of agencies within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

We should all be thankful for Bill's many years of dedicated service to the East Bay. My deepest condolences go out to his wife, children, family, and friends.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

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

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday is National Adoption Day, a day in which people and organizations from across the Nation come together to bring awareness to a truly admirable cause, and one that has become very close to my heart.

Last year, our family was blessed to adopt twin girls, Ivy and Lynnette. These girls have become one of life's greatest blessings to my family, and Christie and I truly cannot imagine life without them.

People come to us all the time and say, You are going to be such a blessing to these girls; and I can tell you, these girls are a bigger blessing to Christie and me than I can ever even say.

Right now, our country is needing adoptive families. There are nearly 400,000 children in the United States without permanent homes, and the 30,000 a year that will age out of foster care programs will face unlimited hurdles that will limit their success.

So this Adoption Day, I challenge Members of this body to do their part, promoting awareness of adoption throughout their districts. If we want to create a brighter future for our Nation, ensuring that every child has a safe home and a loving family is a great place to start. I believe this is a cause we can all agree is worth the effort.

STOP MILITARIZING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this is not the kind of vehicle that you want to see cruising the streets of your neighborhood. This is not a police cruiser. And while walking the streets of your neighborhood, you don't want to see these kinds of military-garbed officers patrolling your neighborhood on routine patrol.

When you militarize your police department, you get a militarized response to peaceful and lawful citizen protests.

If you don't want to see the continued militarization of your police departments through the 1033 National Defense Authorization Act program, then support my legislation, the Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act, H.R. 5478.

TROOP REWARDS

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional organization from the Tampa Bay area.

Troop Rewards is a group that helps our veterans heal from the psychological stresses of war and reunites them with their families in a safe and relaxing environment.

In 2009, the founder of Troop Rewards, Tom Burkett, received a phone call from a private first class overseas inquiring about the cost of returning home to Clearwater Beach and having a short rest with his family.

Tom replied, How can you be charged anything when you have spent the last year risking your life for our country?

This donation was the first of many for Mr. Burkett, and it inspired him to start the nonprofit Troop Rewards organization. Since then, Troop Rewards has helped more than 100 military members readjust to life after deployment by reintegrating them with their family in a moment of rest and relaxation through the foundation's recovery vacations. With destinations ranging from Maine to Florida, returning military troops have the opportunity to spend time with their family—a reward they have rightfully earned.

Mr. Speaker, Troop Rewards reflects one of our highest priorities as a nation: to repay a debt owed to those who have sacrificed so much for us.

I rise today to commend Troop Rewards and their many partners in this effort, including the Sandpearl Resort in Clearwater, Florida, and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

May God bless these fine organizations, and may God bless our troops.

EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of November as Epilepsy Awareness Month. Each year, more than 200,000 people are diagnosed with epilepsy, yet research for this condition remains vastly, vastly underfunded, impeding scientific advancements for better treatments and a potential cure.

We are extremely lucky to have organizations like the Epilepsy Foundation and the Matty Fund active in Rhode Island. They help raise awareness, provide support, promote safety, and improve the quality of life for children and families living with epilepsy.

The Matty Fund is the product of two loving and dedicated parents who, sadly, lost their 5-year-old son, Matty Siravo, on Mother's Day 2003 following a grand mal seizure. The Siravos honor their son's memory every day by continuing to raise awareness about epilepsy.

I am so proud to represent such an inspiring family, and I hope everyone will take a moment to reflect on what they can do to support epilepsy awareness, not just in November, but every day of the year.

REMEMBERING NIEVES OLEMBERG

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to recognize and remember a wonderful woman from south Florida who was taken from this Earth too soon, Nieves Olemberg.

Nieves passed away last month at age 79 following a tragic car accident. She is survived by her loving husband, Isaac; their children, Roberto, Lily, Hannah, and Lisette; and grandchildren, Rachel, Aaron, Jacqueline, David, Daniel, and Samuel.

Beyond her noted devotion to her family, Nieves was a pillar of the south Florida Jewish community. She was a founding member and president of Hadassah's Inter-American Chapter, and was also actively involved with the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and the Hebrew Academy.

Nieves will be greatly missed, but her generosity and kindhearted soul will forever leave an enduring imprint on our community. May her memory be a blessing.

NEW YORK BAR ASSOCIATION'S LAW, YOUTH AND CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New York State Bar Association's Law, Youth and Citizenship Program on its 40th anniversary.

In 1974, the LYC was established to promote citizenship and law-related education in schools throughout New York State, imparting knowledge to 5,000 students per year for more than four decades.

Under the current leadership and the tireless efforts of Director Eileen Gerrish, the LYC engages students in one of the primary statewide education programs of its kind.

Although the institution officially turned 40 in October, this is truly a year of celebration as the school continues to meet its mission and improve communities in New York's capital region.

Along with the teachers, the civic leaders, and the students touched by this work, I congratulate the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program and wish them another 40 years of excellence in civic education.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

(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, as a former rural health care professional for three decades, I rise today to recognize National Rural Health Day.

National Rural Health Day is an opportunity to ''Celebrate the Power of Rural'' by honoring the selfless, community-minded, can-do spirit that prevails in rural America.

Rural families and communities face unique health care challenges, including accessibility issues, a lack of health care providers, and the needs of an aging population suffering from a great number of chronic conditions.

Today we take the opportunity to showcase the efforts of rural health care providers, State Offices of Rural Health, and other rural stakeholders to meet those challenges.

I am proud to represent Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, which includes rural communities in 24 percent of Pennsylvania's landmass. Rural communities are a great place to live and work, which is why nearly 62 million people call them home.

Our rural hospitals are the economic foundation of rural communities, providing good-paying jobs and access to affordable and accessible health care. Thank you to those that dedicate themselves to serving the health care needs of their neighbors in rural America.

□ 1115

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

(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, this Saturday, November 22, we recognize National Adoption Day, which is a time to celebrate over 4,500 adoptions out of foster care in the United States in the last year.

While that statistic represents positive news for a number of children and families, estimates show that there are still nearly 150 million orphans worldwide, many living in institutions, shelters, or out on the streets. Additionally, reports indicate that international adoptions in the United States have plummeted by over 62 percent in the past 9 years as a result of our Nation's broken adoption system.

As a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, I have committed myself to working towards sustainable, pro-family policies that help facilitate the process of giving a home to every child.

One of those policies is the Children and Families First Act, H.R. 3323. This legislation aims to remove burdensome regulations that slow the adoption process and bolster our international diplomacy centered on child welfare and adoption.

While Congress may be entering the so-called lameduck period, it is my hope that leaders in both Chambers will bring this important bill to the floor so we can begin the process of aligning our Nation's policies with the fundamental truth that every child deserves to grow up in a loving family.

PRESIDENTIAL OVERREACH

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, the American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly. They want Congress and the President to work together in a bipartisan manner to deliver real solutions to the problems facing our country, one of which is our broken immigration system. So it is profoundly disappointing that the President has decided to ignore the will of the American people and act unilaterally to provide legal status and work permits to millions of people who have violated our immigration laws and are living in the United States illegally.

We are a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws, and so there is a right way to reform our immigration system and a wrong way. Bypassing Congress, ignoring the Constitution, and issuing a unilateral executive order is the wrong way. It is unfair to those who immigrated to this country legally for the President to fail to do his duty to take care that the laws are faithfully executed.

The Constitution and the rule of law matter. Instead of issuing yet another overreaching executive order, the President should join good faith Congressional efforts to solve this problem. The House has already passed bipartisan legislation to secure our border, which is what my constituents tell me is the most important first step.

So I call on the President to follow suit. Stop dividing the American people, follow the Constitution, and work through the legislative branch to reform our immigration system the right way.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 119

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, November 20, 2014, through Friday, November 28, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2014, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, November 20, 2014, through Friday, November 28, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, December 1, 2014, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 3. (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after concurrence with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the Senate shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today on a motion offered pursuant to this order, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, November 24, 2014, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 119, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

KEEPING AMERICA SAFE FROM EBOLA

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because I want to talk about a piece of legislation that I am dropping with a colleague from the Senate, Senator RUBIO. It is H.R. 5746. Its title is Keeping America Safe from Ebola.

Now, I know a couple weeks ago, Ebola was in the headlines everywhere and we couldn't stop talking about it. Every newscast was filled with more and more information about Ebola. There was a great concern around not only our country, but around the world about this disease that was so lethal and what were we going to do to stop it.

Well, I didn't know that much about Ebola, so what I decided to do was go back and look in and find out as much as I could about Ebola and find out how we ever became even knowledgeable of Ebola.

I found out that there was a doctor in 1976 by the name of Dr. Peter Piot. He is a Belgian doctor. He discovered the Ebola virus in 1976. In fact, my staff and I said: Okay, we know Dr. Piot discovered Ebola. We know he knows about this virus. Let's find out from him the true information that we need to have. If this is such a dangerous disease, if this is such a dangerous virus, if it is so lethal, shouldn't we try to find out everything that we can about Ebola?

And so I contacted Dr. Piot. He was in London. Let me just tell you who he is.

Dr. Peter Piot is not only a doctor, but he has a Ph.D. He is a clinical microbiologist. He is the director of the legendary London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. He is the former Undersecretary General of the United Nations and a former executive director of UNAIDS. He lives in London, and he has spent his entire life studying infectious diseases.

Despite the fact that when he was in med school and he had said: I am going to study infectious diseases, he was told: You don't have to worry about infectious diseases. I don't know why you would even be concerned about infections diseases. The world is no longer being troubled with or being threatened with infections diseases, Dr. Piot thought: That doesn't make sense. There is no reason for us not to continue to study.

So he did study. In 1976, as I have already told you, he is the doctor that discovered the Ebola virus.

Now, you may wonder, so what was our conversation like?

I said: Well, Dr. Piot, I just want to tell you, here in the States, we are very concerned now about Ebola. In fact, we have written about Ebola. We have said this is a Paul Revere moment when people have to really understand that there is something coming that we are not ready for.

Dr. Piot said to me: You know what, Mr. KELLY, I am glad you called me, because let me tell you a little bit more about Ebola. Let me tell you that right now what the world is looking at, and not just your country but the world is looking at a dress rehearsal for the next great virus. It is true that this one is very lethal, but this is tactile. In other words, you have to come in contact with it some way. But it is constantly mutating, as are other viruses.

And I said: Okay, Doctor. Because our idea was, first of all, you must isolate those who have this disease.

He said: That is right.

I said: Well, I can remember growing up, if you had the mumps or the chicken pox or the measles, the first thing you were told is you can't go to school. You have got to stay home, because you don't want to carry this into a school or with your friends. So we would stay home. They would isolate us from the general population. Even though we were children and we would only go outside and play, they said, No, not until you are clear. It just seems so basic.

He said: It is absolutely basic. We must contain it to West Africa. We cannot let it get beyond those shores.

Now, because of who we are today and the technology we have today, we can be sitting in this wonderful House this afternoon and we can be in Rome tonight. We can be halfway around the world in a very short period of time. It is not like the old days where these diseases, these viruses were carried and it took months for them to get from shore to shore and from country to country. It now can travel very quickly. It mutates very quickly.

So I said to Dr. Piot: What else should we do?

Number one, isolate. Number two, quarantine.

I said: I have heard of quarantines.

He said: Well, you should have heard of quarantines. Back in Italy, when the bubonic plague broke out, they took people who were infected and they put them on an island. They left them there for a quarantine, or 40 days. They were then allowed to come back in if they survived, to enter the general population.

Isn't it amazing that during those days everybody understood you must isolate, you must quarantine. Why? So you don't infect the general population. It is so basic. But yet we are trying to struggle today to find out how do we contain this disease, this lethal disease? What can we possibly do?

The answers, my friend, are so obvious.

The other thing that Dr. Piot talked about—I want you to think about this. Dr. Piot discovered the Ebola virus in 1976. Fast forward, 1986, 1996, 2006, and now 2014. It has been almost 40 years since Dr. Piot discovered the Ebola virus. In those 40 years, we have not developed a vaccine to inoculate people against the Ebola virus.

It is unthinkable that at this time in human history we are still playing around trying to figure out what we should do. The answer is it better be politically correct or we can't possibly do it.

So we are going to risk entire populations. We are going to risk infecting people that have absolutely no contact but come in contact because somebody is able to travel the world freely—somebody wasn't isolated, somebody wasn't quarantined because it doesn't fit our political agenda. This makes no sense.

This administration appointed an Ebola czar. That is as far as it went. We have got an Ebola czar. We don't have an Ebola agenda. We don't have an Ebola strategy. We don't have anything to combat this very lethal virus.

What is it going to take to wake this country up?

And I would just suggest that while it is no longer a headline, it is still very important—not just to every citizen of this great country, but every citizen of the world. And so the answer is to isolate. The answer is to quarantine. The answer is to develop a vaccine.

The problem with developing a vaccine, there are at least four vaccines that are available right now. Dr. Piot told me the greatest advances have been made by our Department of Defense. The United States Department of Defense has made the greatest progress in developing a vaccine for Ebola.

□ 1130

I said: Then why don't we just bring it out?

He said: It has not been tested on humans.

I said: That doesn't make sense.

He said: Of course it doesn't make sense, but that is how these infectious disease concerns work.

I said: So what would the process be?

He said: We have tested it on monkeys. We haven't tested it on humans.

The biggest thing when it comes to a vaccine is what dosage should we be giving. You have to give the right dosage in order to defeat the disease.

Now, think about if we develop a vaccine. We can now talk to the medical providers, and we can talk to the doctors and nurses that go into these infected areas and say: We are going to inoculate you. You are not going to come home with this lethal disease.

How basic is that?

Then the question is: So what are we waiting for? Why are we not developing this today? Why are we not fast-forwarding this? It is because there is a new headline.

Now, we are going to talk about immigration. Forget about Ebola. That is by the wayside. The election, that is ancient history. It was 2 weeks ago. We

are not going to worry about that, but we are going to worry about immigration today. We are going to turn our backs on a discovery that will save thousands and thousands of lives. We are going to turn our backs on science that we know to be true and on a cure that we know is there. We are at the threshold right now.

I want to read from Dr. Piot's book because there were several things that really struck me. He not only worked on the Ebola virus, he also worked on the AIDS virus.

He said: Perhaps, most important, I have seen over and over and over again how a catastrophe like AIDS brings out the very best and very worst in the human species, regardless of whether a person is well-educated or illiterate. These experiences largely compensated for the numerous—coming to a cure for AIDS.

This is what he said: These experiences largely compensated for the numerous—and just translate Washington into this—brain-killing meetings that I had to endure during my tenure at UNH, where I learned not to be guided by the modern plague, the quarterly result, the short-term view, but to focus on the ultimate goal of saving as many lives as possible.

What he is saying is forget the politics. Keep your eye on where it is you are trying to go. Let's fix this problem. Let's save as many lives as possible.

As I finished up the book, Dr. Piot finishes it this way. He says: Above all, the history of AIDS is one of refusing the inevitability of death because of a lack of treatment, defeat, prejudice, and the institutional obstacles in moving mountains beyond familiar territory. It is perhaps the strongest example of global altruism out of a rational necessity in our evermore interconnected world.

As I talk to you today, H.R. 5746 and a bicameral piece of legislation which is crafted with Senator RUBIO from the Senate, all we are asking for is to please wake up. Understand that this is truly a Paul Revere moment for the world.

As I talked to Dr. Piot, he said: Mike, this is a dress rehearsal, and I am going to send you my book so you can see why I feel the way I feel.

The title of his book is ''No Time to Lose.''

How many times in our lives have we looked back and we said, ''If only I had known, I would have fixed it. If only I knew what was going to happen if I didn't act, I would have fixed it''?

My friends, there is truly no time to lose. The vaccine is right on the threshold of being available to us, but it is not just Ebola that I worry about, and it is not just Ebola that this country should worry about, and it is not just Ebola that the world should worry about. It is what is coming.

Believe me, we have not seen the end of infectious disease. We have not seen the end of lethal viruses that will cripple us, as a Nation, and could become the weapon of bioterrorists that would use it at any cost without any regard for human life.

We have the ability right now, within our hands, within our grasp, to develop a vaccine in order to defeat this horrible virus. All that I would ask is that we come together in this House, the American people's House—it is not a Republican House, not a Democrat House, but the American people's House—to once again conquer a disease that could infect not only our own American citizens, but the citizens of the world.

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

EBOLA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, my dear friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) is exactly right. We haven't heard the last of Ebola. It will continue to mutate. It will continue to be a threat.

As this President is sending around 3,000 or so of our military members to west Africa—and they have been told they are going to be given gloves and masks and are urged to wash their hands and feet several times a day—basically, what that says is the men and women who have sworn and pledged their lives to protect ours are not going to be adequately protected by this administration. The rules of engagement already put our military at risk, and now, we are going to send them to Ebola-infested countries.

The initial report said, initially, our military will not be seeing Ebola patients, but they are certainly going to come into contact with people who have had exposure to Ebola.

I recall our President George W. Bush—a good man, a smart man, a witty, clever gentleman, despite what some might say—but he asked after 9/11, in essence, who would have ever dreamed someone would fly a plane into a building like a bomb? My thought immediately was, ''Well, actually, Tom Clancy wrote about that several years ago.'' It was not a radical Islamist as had happened on 9/11/2001.

The late Tom Clancy had quite an imagination, but he did his homework in amazing fashion. Some have said his books had too much detail in them, but one of his latter books had research going on in Africa with the strain of monkeys that is the one strain that is believed and has support for having been transferred through the air instead of through liquid body fluids.

In the fiction novel, Clancy had somebody working to develop that strain into a mutated strain, since it mutates constantly into one that people could pass through the air, and then it was used to infect our military or expose our military and many Americans.

Basically, in his fiction novel, that allowed radical Islamists to take over much of the Middle East, while our military had been exposed to Ebola and much of it was quarantined.

There are many things Tom Clancy has written about that I hope and pray never happen. That is one of them, but since some things that Tom Clancy's mind dreamed up as a fiction writer novel actually came to fruition, we shouldn't think for a minute that if Clancy could dream it up, our enemies could as well.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. GOHMERT. I have been on the border many nights, all hours of the night, and I have seen people just as they have finished crossing. The first time I went, I expected I would see people crossing in droves, not realizing the coyotes—the paid employees of the gangs, drug cartels that bring people across—they don't want to get caught because if a drug cartel or gang employee gets caught by one of the Texas boats running up and down—I say Texas boats because our administration has not provided any Federal boats in the area most crossed down south of McAllen.

There are no Federal boats down there. It is an area where Texas has stepped up and provided a number of boats that are zipping up and down the river, and you can hear them coming.

The coyotes don't want to be caught. They know if the Texas DPS catches them, they will destroy the raft, and that will put the coyote in very deep trouble for getting caught, so they don't want you to see them crossing.

As the State of Texas has placed DPS officers, Texas Rangers, game wardens up on the high bank—even in the dark, with just the least bit of light at all, you can see their silhouettes—and coyotes won't cross, again, if they think they are about to get caught.

Once across, groups anywhere from eight to 90 will immediately look for someone to surrender to unless, of course, they are like the people I have seen fleeing down there, who apparently had drugs or something they didn't want to be caught with.

It is an open border, far too open, and now, before the border is secured, with talk of amnesty and legal status that our Border Patrolmen have assured over and over again causes a massive surge, a massive influx of people trying to get to the United States, just the President or anyone in Washington talking about amnesty or any type of legal status helps lure Central Americans and others to their demise, girls to being raped, sold into sex trafficking. Many make it across; some don't.

I would think the most compassionate thing that the government of the United States could do is, number one, secure the border so that families are not tempted to send their little children, little girls up with other people, paying gang members to bring

them up, who frequently rape them as they come to the U.S.

A good neighbor would not only secure their border, but then we would help Mexico and Central American countries, as we did Colombia, to overcome the drug cartels.

Colombia had made great strides I think, largely in part, because they had a President like President Uribe whose parents had both been assassinated. As one of our Federal agents in Colombia told me some years back, the toughest job they had back then was keeping Uribe alive because he was so courageous and so determined to defeat the drug cartels.

Well, they kept him alive. With our help, some British help and some other help, the drug cartels were placed on the run. Coca fields were eliminated. It is still an ongoing battle they face constantly.

If Mexico elects the right leader, then the United States Government should be a friend that helps them create an environment where people want to stay and work because many of the people come and they would love to remain in their country if it wasn't so dangerous and there was work.

We can't take every person who resides in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, or Honduras. We can't take every person without destroying the country that is the magnet, that is the shining light on the hill.

□ 1145

As a very precious, wise, and elderly West African told me when I was over there:

> We were so excited when you elected your first black President, but ever since he has been President, we have seen America get weaker and weaker. At least from what we see, it appears you are getting weaker and weaker. We need you to spread around in Washington that you have got to stop getting weaker because it doesn't just affect you. We are Christians, and we know where we are going when we die, but we have no hope of a secure life and a safe life unless America is strong and is an intimidating force to the forces of evil around the world.

Forces of evil will not go away. They will be with us until the end of time, and America makes a difference when we stand strong. We don't even have to send people, just the threat, as a former Ambassador from Israel said:

> America is not a serious threat to take out Iran's nuclear capability, and, in fact, quite the opposite. Everybody realizes America now is no threat to Iran. And since America is no threat to Iran, and Iran knows it, the world knows it, then Israel is more at risk than ever before.

It is true in West Africa as Boko Haram gets more powerful, radical Islamists that want to take out Americans—and America is the Great Satan. It is true in North Africa, it is true in the Middle East, in Asia, in Russia, and in Europe: we need a strong America.

And instead, though the official unemployment numbers have been shown to come down, when you cook the books by not including the massive millions of Americans who are adults, who could work, who are not institutionalized, and they have given up hope of finding a job. They have tried so long they are not counted in the unemployed. They are unemployed, but they are not counted as unemployed because they have given up looking. They have lost hope. That is absolutely tragic.

I mentioned an article from September previously, but this report from CNS News on September 5 says that a record 92,269,000 Americans 16 and older did not participate in the labor force in August as the labor force participation rate matched a 36-year low of 62.8 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Well, the article goes on to mention that that has happened six times in the past year, and, again, that matches the all-time high of nonparticipation, matching that set during the malaise days of the Carter administration. Back then, there was double-digit inflation, double-digit unemployment officially, and double-digit interest rates. People were hurting in America.

Now people are still hurting. They are hurting across the country. That is why people are so desperate for sales. No telling what Thursday, Thanksgiving, the day after will look like. People are so desperate for sales because the data indicates on average people are taking home less than they did when compared with the rate of inflation.

So we have a President whose administration has tied the Carter administration for the highest number of American adults who have given up hope of finding a job.

Just as we get this news that the Obama administration continues this year to tie the Carter administration for the all-time high of Americans who have given up hope of finding a job, we get the story today, an article from The Daily Caller, that Obama's amnesty will add as many foreign workers as jobs since 2009. Because, Mr. Speaker, think about it: over 92 million Americans have given up hope of finding a job. That has tied the Carter administration. When this President in this economy says to people who have come illegally into this country, I am going to grant you 5 million or so permits to work, then it will put this President in a category all by himself. He will no longer be tied with the Carter administration as presiding over the highest number of Americans giving up hope of finding work. It will propel him into a league all of his own because it only makes sense that if you are giving 5 million legal work permits to people who are here illegally, they will then be able to offer their services cheaper than union workers and other workers who are here getting a proper wage, and it will displace millions more Americans from the jobs they currently hold.

You can anticipate that, not immediately, but in the months ahead if the President does this unconstitutional act because he is tired of waiting on Congress to change the law the way he has dictated, and he has decided to dictate new law to America. Well, that is unconstitutional, and it is illegal. But the good news for the President is it will propel him out of the tie with the Carter administration for the most Americans giving up hope of finding employment and get him to the all-time high that will likely remain for as long as there is an America.

Well, this article from The Daily Caller today points out that:

> President Barack Obama's unilateral amnesty will quickly add as many foreign workers to the Nation's legal labor force as the total number of new jobs created by his economy since 2009.
>
> The plan, expected to be announced late November 20, will distribute 5 million work permits to illegal immigrants and also create a new inflow of foreign college graduates for prestigious salaried jobs, according to press reports.
>
> Obama has already provided or promised almost 1 million extra work permits to foreigners, while his economy has only added 6 million jobs since 2009.
>
> Under the President's new amnesty plan, ''up to 4 million undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for at least 5 years can apply. An additional 1 million people will get protection from deportation through other parts of the President's plan,'' according to a November 19 report in The New York Times.
>
> The 5 million total was attributed to ''people briefed on his plans,'' the Times reports.
>
> The 5 million work permits will add to Obama's prior giveaways, which have provided work permits to almost 1 million foreigners.
>
> Since 2009, the U.S. economy has added only 6 million jobs, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Further, it says:

> Not all the 5 million illegal immigrants who get permits will work, and many are already working under fake names or for cash. However, their new work permits will allow them to compete for jobs now held or sought by blue-collar Americans, including the many African American and Latinos who voted for Obama in 2008 and 2012.

It would seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that if the President wants to do something about the massively unfair high unemployment rate for African Americans who are legal citizens that the thing to do would not be to give 5 million work permits to people that are illegally here so that they can knock more African Americans and more Hispanics out of the jobs they legally currently hold because they will work cheaper, probably without requirement for health benefits.

My dear friend, STEVE KING, had invited me to Iowa, and I was visiting with a businessman there about their meatpacking plant where they had felt like, gee, they had to have illegal aliens doing the work because they were just jobs that Americans wouldn't do. And after a raid on their plant and illegal aliens were arrested, he reported that it turned out those were jobs that Americans just would not do at that price. But by raising the wages a couple of dollars and providing health care benefits, amazingly, they could

find Americans who would do that job. So it seems that as this story is replicated around the country, there are not so many jobs that Americans won't do; it is that there are jobs that Americans won't do at the market rate. So that is why you see so many millionaires and billionaires, many of them massive Democratic donors, who are—and some Republican donors, including the National Chamber of Commerce; my local chambers aren't pushing like this—but they say we want and we need this massive influx of unskilled laborers to do these jobs Americans won't do. They don't finish the sentence and say ''these jobs Americans won't do at what we would like to pay them.'' They require more in order to be hired, which skews the living wage that workers in America are getting paid and skews it downward.

So that under the Obama administration, Americans have really been hurt, and that was reflected in the results of the election. I know there are many Democratic friends who said they don't understand why Americans that came out and voted didn't feel better about the economy. Well, try talking to them because they make it very clear, they haven't had a raise in years. They have lost health care benefits because of ObamaCare. They have had deductibles. Some have told me: Mine went from a $500 deductible, which was really tough, to $5,000, which I just can't ever meet because I can't spend $5,000 extra to cover the deductible of my new ObamaCare policy.

So, yeah, the old joke was always, Well, I am from the government, and I am here to help you. It is one of the most frightening lines in America. It is no longer a joke. It is quite scary when you look at what the government has done to people. And then as this article points out, for the Obama administration to, using their terminology, create 6 million jobs—because as we know the President and also Hillary Clinton have said, you businesses, you didn't create those jobs. Oh, no, you weren't the one that put your capital at risk, that took out a loan, that is paying more in taxes for the police and for the roads than anybody else. No, you didn't build that company that you risked your sacred honor and everything you hold dear on. You didn't create that; the government did that. We did that for you.

Well, that is the way socialists generally start talking.

□ 1200

Having been an exchange student to the Soviet Union back when it was the Soviet Union, I saw what happens to a country that has to live under that for decades. So even in the 1970s, I could see, wow, I don't want their health care. Thank goodness we have free market health care. Of course, that was back before insurance companies and the government skewed the cost of health care.

So when I was being told this week by a parent that the bill they got for their child having stitches in a medical facility was $4,500, well, I did enough work with and for health insurance companies and people who had claims with health insurance companies that I know good and well that the top health insurance companies, they wouldn't pay $4,500. You get a bill for $4,500, they probably don't pay $500 for that bill.

So why shouldn't an American who can't afford an insurance policy under ObamaCare, why shouldn't that American be able to pay $500 cash instead of being hit with a $4,500 bill, and then the health institution says hey, since you are going to pay cash, we will cut you a real deal, we will knock off 20 percent. So yes, we will save you a bunch of money. And you will still pay several times more than what the insurance company would pay.

The bill I proposed, even though there are those in ignorance who say Republicans didn't have any solutions, one of the parts of my health care bill would require every health care facility and provider to post the costs. And if you are giving a different rate to the insurance company than you do to an American paying cash, you have to post it and let everybody see, because only then would you ever get back to having some competition.

The doctors that we used to go to in my hometown have passed away now, but my late mother, a very, very smart lady, was always looking for a bargain. I remember one time I asked: Why are we going to this doctor instead of the one we went to last time?

Well, he raised his rates, and you know good and well this doctor is as good as the other one.

When is the last time somebody said that? I'm going to a different doctor because the other one raised his rates. People don't even know what doctors charge because it has been so skewed.

You want to fix the health care system, one thing that should be required is that there actually be truth in the charges of health care. We don't have that now. You don't know what the insurance company pays specifically. Government rates are posted, but that is also why many physicians and health care providers, like hospitals, they have gotten out of the business. Doctors have told me that they have, and I have seen that they have. We lost our second hospital in my district this past week, they announced at least.

If we want to help Americans, it is not by more government takeover. The question keeps coming to me: I don't understand why my insurance is so much more. My deductible went way up. I am covering things like maternity care I will never use, and my premiums went up. I don't get it. I don't understand why it is more expensive.

Well, one thing that is very basic as part of that answer is, if you are going to hire with health care dollars 1,800 new IRS agents, if you are going to hire millions more people for the government that will never so much as put a bandaid or Bactine or anything on a cut or help anybody with a real problem, then your health care costs will go up because you have added huge amounts of government that have nothing to do with getting you treatment. They are government. They may make you sick to your stomach, they may cause you to get ill, they may scare you, but they are not going to fix your problem. They are government workers.

And thank you very much, I was in the Army for 4 years, and I know there were some good doctors there. I was friends with some. But, wow, we did have some quacks. The last thing I want is to be forced back into a hospital where the government has total control. But that is part of the price you pay by being in the military.

Well, thank goodness, Congress has stepped up enough to provide our military with really the best health care when it comes to traumatic injuries. But as some have found around here, if you have a problem with your gall bladder, you better go to a private hospital. If you have a traumatic injury, sure, our military doctors and facilities are awesome, but I will take my private facilities for anything else.

Well, this article from The Daily Caller points out:

> Each year, the Nation accepts 1 million new immigrants, or roughly 5 million new immigrants since 2009. That total includes roughly 3.5 million working-age immigrants, which is slightly less than the number of Americans—4.3 million—who turn 18 each year.
>
> Also, companies annually hire roughly 450,000 blue-collar guest workers and roughly 200,000 white-collar guest workers. Most of these guest workers stay for less than a year, but many stay for 6 years.
>
> That current population of roughly 600,000 foreign graduates is expected to increase, if, as reported, Obama's plan allows American universities to offer green cards to foreign tuition-paying students.
>
> Each year, roughly 4.3 million Americans join the workforce in search of good jobs. That total includes roughly 800,000 Americans with expensive degrees in business, engineering, medicine, technology, and architecture.
>
> At least 9 million Americans are unemployed, and at least 7 million have given up looking for work. Employment rates among African Americans and Latinos are lower than rates for Whites and Asians.
>
> Since 2000, the number of native-born Americans with jobs has stalled, despite a growing population of working-age native-born Americans.
>
> The surplus of domestic and foreign job seekers also helps ensure that U.S. median wages have flatlined since 2000. Economists—including Obama's top economic adviser—say that wages stall when the labor supply is larger than the supply of new jobs.

Down further:

> Obama has already provided or promised about 1 million work permits to foreigners since 2011.
>
> Since June 2012, Obama used the legally questionable Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals program to give work permits to almost 600,000 illegal immigrants. That DACA number may go above 1.5 million.
>
> In May 2014, Obama's deputies announced they would provide work permits to 100,000 spouses of university-trained guest workers used by brand name companies.

In October 2014, his deputies announced they would accelerate the paperwork for 110,000 would-be Haitian immigrants, allowing them to begin working in the United States long before they were due to get green cards.

This is bad news for American workers. It is really bad news for American workers, and you would think it would come at a tremendous cost to the Democratic Party, which gets the huge majority of African Americans and a lesser majority of Hispanic and Latino voters. So this action to provide legal work permits to as many as 5 million people who are illegally here is a slap in the face, as hard a slap as you could give to Hispanics and to African Americans, whose unemployment rate is dramatically higher than it should be because this action that the President is about to take unconstitutionally and illegally for political purposes is basically saying to the masses, the millions of African Americans and Hispanic voters who are out of work: Look, we know you are going to always vote for us no matter how much damage we do to your lives, your employment, your ability to pay your bills. We know you are still going to vote for us no matter what because you haven't figured out that Republicans, they want you to have a job. They want you to be able to provide for yourself. They want you to learn English so you can be president of the company and not just a manual laborer for the company. We want you to live and achieve the American dream while the President is pushing a program that is going to push millions more, many of them African Americans and Hispanics, out of the jobs they have and bring in cheaper labor and make it even tougher.

Why? We keep hearing it is a political move. Of course it is a political move. Well, the only way it is a political move is if the Democrats take the African American and Latino votes for granted. You are going to vote for us no matter how bad we mess up your lives, so this will allow us to eventually pick up the votes of people who have come in illegally because they will want to reward those of us who helped them.

Well, I tell you, my office helps so many Hispanic families try to go through the legal route of getting family members here, or people who are trying to get a loved one here, a fiancee here. We help with those things. And, of course, there is no charge. And I have had a lot of people say: I don't know why we are working so hard and for all of these years to bring this person in legally when I would have been better off just saying, come on across, you will get amnesty some day and we will have saved all of this frustration—because we were trying to do what we thought was the American way, the legal way, when the President is about to reward lawbreakers by being a lawbreaker himself.

The New York Times reports today:

Officials of the Republican-led House Appropriations Committee have concluded that the government agency most responsible for implementing any new executive order, Citizenship and Immigration Services, would not be hindered if government funds are cut off. It operates entirely on revenue it generates through immigration applications. In short, lawmakers have no fiscal leverage over the agency, which could keep operating even if the rest of the government were shut down.

We understand that. CIS, Citizenship and Immigration Services, they operate with fees they generate. Who allows them to do that? Congress does. Who created CIS? Congress did. Who has the authority to prevent CIS from implementing any illegal dictate that comes from the White House? Congress does.

So even though CIS is funded by fees, we have the ability to do what Democratic Congresses have done post-Watergate. You want people out of Vietnam immediately who are Americans? Then no matter where the Federal money comes from, you make it a crime to spend any Federal revenue, no matter where it comes from, to have people in Vietnam.

You want to prevent Americans from helping the contras keep communism off our southern border and out of Central America? They pass a law. It is easy to do. You pass a law saying it is a crime to use any Federal funds no matter where they come from for this purpose.

□ 1215

That is one thing we can and should do. I deeply regret that our Members were told we are done until after Thanksgiving when the President is about to announce this lawlessness, and then we are hearing secondhand from leadership of the Republican Party, ''There is not much we can do. Gee, they get their own funds.'' Yeah, there is plenty we can do.

We ought to be here right now passing a resolution that authorizes a lawsuit, an injunction. I have signed plenty of injunctions. There is a standard you have to meet, but it can be done.

If you have a President acting lawlessly, just like if you have a mayor that is acting lawlessly or a county judge or a commissioner or a Governor, somebody that is adversely affected—ought to have standing, bring a lawsuit, bring an injunction—to keep them from violating the law when they are supposed to be enforcing the law.

It makes sense that as an administration acts more and more lawlessly, you have the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that was created, we were told, by the Democrats—by an all-Democrat House—and Senate majority, signed by President Obama, created this entity that was supposed to protect Americans from unscrupulous banking practices. It turns out now that is being used to gather debit card and credit card activity on Americans.

The government shouldn't be able to get that information without a warrant or without permission from that American. We don't need a Federal agency that goes snooping, getting material that should require a warrant, and only after the government has shown probable cause that that American has committed a crime. Officers would come to me—I have signed orders ordering the disclosure of bank records like that, but the government had to establish probable cause, or I wasn't going to sign the warrant.

Yet we create this monstrosity that, in the name of helping us poor stupid ignorant Americans, they will just monitor every bit of our financial activity while the NSA is watching over our emails and we are having our phone calls, all the logs from them go into the government.

I mean, for heaven's sake, is it any wonder that we get a report this week. There is an article from the Washington Examiner that reports: ''Under Obama, U.S. Personal Freedom Ranking Slips Below France.''

For heaven's sake, we ought to be the freest country in the history of the world, and we have been previously. As Peter Sellers used to say, as the Pink Panther, ''Not anymore.''

How sad is this? The United States in the personal freedom rankings for 2014 is number 21. Well, is that any surprise that our freedom is under such attack and our freedoms are diminishing and going away when the government is looking at every private aspect?

You look at the control that was taken by ObamaCare over all aspects of our life. It allowed the Federal Government to have all of your most personal secrets that should be only between you and your doctor. How many times have we heard that from liberals?

Yet they passed ObamaCare without a single Republican vote that puts the government, not only in their bedroom, as they have previously objected to—the government is in your bedroom, your bathroom, your garage; they are in your dining room, your refrigerator, they are on machines you buy food from. They are everywhere now.

As I have said before, the ObamaCare bill was not so much about health care, it was about GRE. ObamaCare was about the ''government running everything.'' Holy cow, are they actually doing that.

Anyway, quite interesting, as our government is going to put another 4 or 5 million hardworking Americans out of work and turn those jobs over to people who came in illegally displacing—I guarantee you, when the smoke clears, there will be a disproportionate number of African Americans and Hispanics who have lost their jobs because of this action the President is going to take.

New Zealand, Norway, Australia, Iceland, Canada, Sweden, Netherlands, Uruguay, Denmark, United Kingdom, Ireland, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Austria, Malta, Portugal, those are all ahead of us in the personal freedom rankings for 2014, and there we are down below Portugal.

Well, tonight, it is also reported in The Washington Post, that the President's announcement coincides with the Latin Grammy Awards. The article points out that the 15th annual Latin Grammys, which begins at 7 p.m. Thursday on Spanish TV network Univision, they are going to take a break for the President's announcement.

Clearly, it is political. Clearly, it will make points with those who are rewarded by legal work permits for coming in illegally. It is going to be a disaster for many Latinos, for many African Americans, to keep their job. They are going to have to start making less than a living wage than they had before.

We need to be about the business of stopping this. We can, we have the will, but it is kind of tough, as we approach Thanksgiving, for many Americans to be thankful. This is still the greatest country in the world, but we are losing what we have had, losing freedoms, losing revenue, losing control of our lives to the government.

It was George Washington, along with every single President since, who have said, ''This time of year for all we have, for all we have been given, those that do believe the Bible know all good gifts come from God and to God be the glory.''

I yield back the balance of my time.

MONTE'S MARCH

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

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on November 6, for the second time, I participated in Monte's March, which is a 26-mile walk from Northampton, Massachusetts, to Greenfield, Massachusetts, to raise awareness about the problem of hunger, not only in our community but throughout America, and to raise funds for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

The march is led by Monte Belmonte, 93.9 FM, The River radio host, who dressed up as Evel Knievel to attract some attention, a very unique personality, but somebody with a heart of gold, who has been doing this now for several years.

Joining us on the march was David Sullivan, the northwestern district attorney; Andrew Morehouse, the executive director of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts; Erika Connell Cooper of Williamsburg, Massachusetts; Georgiann and Rick Kristek of Northampton; Sean Barry, who runs 4 Seasons Liquor store, who was with us last year when we marched, a great guy; Dan Finn of Pioneer Valley Local First; a group called Mutton and Mead, which is a medieval performance troop, that walked with us for a big portion of the walk; Brian Lapis, Channel 22 weather team; ''Steve the Hippie'' Fendell, a local activist, who is well-known in the community; and also joining us was Natalie Blais and Keith Barnicle of my staff in Northampton.

It was a cold and rainy day when we began our march at 6 a.m. in the morning in Northampton. We were greeted by the mayor of Northampton, David Narkewicz, who walked with us to the border and wished us well.

We had many stops along the way. We stopped at the Amherst Survival Center and met with Executive Director Mindy Domb and her incredible crew. The Amherst Survival Center is a place where people go to get food, sometimes to get clothing, to get support and advice, and even sometimes medical attention. It is an incredible place, but when you visit there, you realize the fact that there are so many in our community who are struggling.

We had a brief stop at Chandler's Restaurant in South Deerfield, Massachusetts, and met with Chef Greg Monette, who prepared this wonderful meal for us.

We then continued our walk and met with Gordie and Barbara Woodward of Richardson's Candy. That is also in Deerfield—probably the best chocolate you are ever going to taste—and we were given some to keep our sustenance up.

We also were greeted by Emily and Oliver Rich from Tea Guys, which is this remarkable business in Whately, Massachusetts, where they blend teas from all around the world and blend teas to your personal liking, but they met us on this cold and rainy day with their crew and gave us hot tea to keep us going. It was very much welcome.

We ended in Greenfield at 6 p.m. at night and kind of celebrated our achievement at Seymour, the pub, which is a new pub in Greenfield, and we had incredible pizza—the best pizza in the world—from Magpie Pizza, also in Greenfield.

We did this, again, to raise awareness and to raise funds. I want my colleagues to understand that for me, even though the march was physically grueling, it was unbelievably inspirational because, along the way, people would stop their cars and hand us donations for the food bank. They would tell us their stories in which many people struggled to put food on their table and how they got through it.

This was all broadcast live on 93.9 FM. People called in constantly, making pledges and telling stories and offering their support. It made me realize what a generous community that I have the privilege of representing, and it was really uplifting on a whole number of levels.

Mr. Speaker, what happened on November 6 with Monte's March is not unique in the fact that there are people all over this country that are trying to raise funds and that are trying to help people put food on their table.

We live in the United States of America, the richest country in the history of the world, and close to 50 million of our fellow citizens are hungry. It is unconscionable. We should be ashamed of that fact.

There are people like Monte Belmonte and others who are doing their part, but what I worry about is that those of us in this Chamber are not doing our part. As we bring this Congress to a close, I think it is important that we reflect on the fact that, when it comes to the issue of hunger, this Congress has done nothing, absolutely nothing; in fact, we have made it worse.

Time and time again, we have had Members of Congress come onto this floor and attack the programs that provide people food—whether it is SNAP or WIC or summer feeding programs or school feeding programs—that have come under attack by Member after Member, on the Republican side in particular, and we have seen an attack on poor people that is really disconcerting. The war on the poor, Mr. Speaker, has to come to an end.

We have had debates on SNAP, which used to be known as Food Stamps, where Members of Congress have come on the floor and said, ''Well, we can cut that program because it is wasteful; it is inefficient,'' when the reality is it is one of the most efficiently run programs in the Federal Government, with a record low error rate and a record low fraud rate.

I wish the Department of Defense had that kind of record when it comes to procuring weapon systems and other things that they utilize. We ought to hold them to the same standard that we hold the agency that oversees our SNAP program.

We have had Members of Congress come on this floor and demean poor people and insult them and belittle their struggle. Maybe it makes it easier for those Members to vote against programs like SNAP when they demonize and belittle poor people, but it is wrong.

The fact of the matter is that more and more people are utilizing food banks and food pantries. They are going to their churches and their synagogues and their mosques trying to get the resources and the food to put on their table for their families.

□ 1230

Here in Washington, the response of Congress is to cut it. More cuts. And then I read in a publication this morning that next year the Republican majority plans to go after these programs even more.

Let me just say to my colleagues that those who benefit from places like the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts are not just the homeless and the unemployed. Increasingly, their clientele include people who have jobs, but the jobs pay so little that they can't afford to pay their bills and put food on the table.

The minimum wage in this country is so low that if you go to work, you still live in poverty. Now, we can fix that. But, unfortunately, in this last Congress, the Republican leadership refused to allow us even to bring a minimum wage vote to this House floor for a vote. We could have lifted a whole bunch of people out of poverty and we could have helped make a big dent in the hunger problem if we increased people's wages, but we were told, No, we are not going to do it. And not only are we not going to do it, you can't have a debate and a vote on it in the people's House of Representatives.

It is outrageous.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that hunger is a political condition. We ought to be talking about how to solve this problem. And it is solvable. There are some problems I am not sure how we solve. This is not one of them. What we need is the political will. What we need is the inspiration, like those who marched with Monte Belmonte from Northampton to Greenfield. I hope that that spirit is contagious so that more people in this Chamber will take this issue seriously. There is no reason why anybody in the United States of America should go hungry. There is no reason at all.

I have called on the White House to put together a White House conference on food and nutrition so we can come up with a holistic plan to deal with this issue. I have pleaded with my colleagues on the Republican side to stop their assault against the poor in this country. And we are going to continue to battle them next year, unfortunately, because it seems like that is the direction they want to go.

But as we recess today to go home for Thanksgiving, we are all going to go back to our respective districts, have a nice turkey dinner, enjoy our family and enjoy the day, but for millions and millions and millions of Americans, they don't have that luxury. They don't know where they are going to get their meal tonight, never mind on Thanksgiving.

So I would urge my colleagues to visit their local food banks, visit their food pantries, talk to people who are on SNAP, talk to families that are struggling with hunger. Listen and learn, and then come back here and act. It may not fit into a particular ideology that some of my colleagues ascribe to in this Chamber, but the fact of the matter is we have a moral obligation to deal with this issue. These are our brothers and our sisters and their children we are talking about. We cannot ignore this problem anymore.

So I just want to say that, Mr. Speaker, for me, joining Monte's march on November 6 was an incredible experience because at the end of the day they raised over $65,000 for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. That march made a difference. People will be fed. That is an important thing. I wish everybody in this Congress would do something similar. I wish that when we come back next year, when we deal with these safety net programs, when we deal with programs that provide people good food and nutrition, we approach these issues with the intent to help people, not hurt people.

I will just close with this, Mr. Speaker. Hunger costs this Nation very dearly: you have lost productivity in the workplace; kids who go to school hungry don't learn; senior citizens taking their medication on an empty stomach because they can't take medicine without food who end up in emergency rooms. There is also a link between food insecurity and obesity, because the cheapest food available is usually junk food.

So we are paying dearly for hunger in America. And when people say we can't afford to deal with this issue, my response is, We cannot afford not to deal with this issue. This is something that we can solve.

To my colleagues who only seem concerned about the bottom line, who say we can't invest in anything because we have a deficit and a debt, I will tell you that the lack of attention that we are giving this issue is costing us, is adding to our deficit, and is adding to our debt. So if all you care about is the bottom line, you should join with me and others and those who do marches like Monte Belmonte all across this country and make a difference.

Let's get together. Let's make it our mission next year to come together in a bipartisan way to end hunger now. That is my hope and that is what I will pray for during this holiday season. I look forward to seeing my colleagues when we come back.

THE PRESIDENT'S IMMIGRATION PLAN

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to be recognized by you to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives in this great deliberative body that we are.

I come to the floor at a time when America is anxiously awaiting to see the specific language that will be delivered presumably tonight at 8 o'clock in the President's press conference. He has announced as of yesterday that he is going to do a national message to the Nation at 8 o'clock eastern time tonight. And that message will be, as they have long dangled this threat out here, that the President is prepared to grant some type of executive amnesty to a number of people that are estimated by the trial balloons that float out to be somewhere between maybe 3.5 million and 5 million people. It is probably not as many as 9 million people, as has been part of the trial balloons that have been floated out here over the last few months.

First, Mr. Speaker, I will assert that if the President could have found a constitutional way to grant executive amnesty, he would have done so by now. He has had 6 years to comb through this Constitution—6 years, with an almost unlimited amount of staff and lawyers that can comb through history and case law and statute—and I would like to think they would actually read the Constitution first as the supreme law of the land and try to find a way to do what he wanted to do policywise.

But what has happened here is that the people have spoken. The people of the United States go to the polls. And the President has famously said, ''I won the election,'' so elections have consequences. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the President, were I addressing him, elections have consequences. Yes, they do, and they have benefits as well.

After actions in 2009 and into early 2010, ObamaCare was pushed to the President's desk where, about March 22 or so, the President signed the ObamaCare legislation. It came through this floor and it passed through in two different versions in the Senate; one on rescission, one not. But it was. And I said in this RECORD a number of times that they passed ObamaCare on to the American people by hook, by crook, and by legislative shenanigan. And they did it in a partisan way, without a single Republican vote.

It was Thomas Jefferson that said:

> Large initiatives should not be advanced on slender majorities.

What would be the slenderest of majorities would be barely squeaking by with enough votes to pass it in two different versions in the Senate, packaged together, and this version in the House—I guess two different versions in the House, too—with people's arms being verbally twisted up behind their backs, Democrats that wanted the President to succeed but had reservations about the imprudence of a takeover of our health.

Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare itself is a takeover of the second most sovereign thing we have and are. The most sovereign thing we have is our soul. And they haven't figured out how to nationalize our soul yet, but the Federal Government stepped in with ObamaCare and nationalized our health, our skin, and everything inside it. It is a usurpation of God-given liberty. It tramples on our constitutional rights. It was a huge initiative, and it was passed on the slenderest of majorities, directly against Thomas Jefferson's advice.

And look at what happened. In the fall of 2010, there was a wave election and we welcomed 87 new freshmen Republicans into the House of Representatives, every one of whom ran on the pledge to come here and repeal ObamaCare, every one of whom has voted for the full, 100 percent, rip-it-out-by-the-roots repeal of ObamaCare. And every Republican seated in the United States Senate has done the

same. That was the wave election of 2010.

Then the President was up for reelection in 2012. The lines were not as distinct. The debate was, I will say, less easy to draw those lines between President Obama's position and those of Mitt Romney, but the election was decided. The President was reelected. I think that is on the American people. They made that decision. Of course, elections have consequences.

And so we were not able to repeal ObamaCare in 2013 or 2014 as we so eagerly anticipated that we might. But elections have consequences. We abide by the inability to repeal ObamaCare, knowing that we didn't have the votes in the Senate and we didn't have a President that would sign the full repeal.

So a lot of us stood up about 14 or 15 months ago and said, ''I'm not going to vote to fund ObamaCare.'' That was our pledge, Mr. Speaker. And we held our ground. That message came out about a year ago. It was late last June or July. We are going to hold our ground and we are not going to fund ObamaCare.

We went to this floor time after time after time, Mr. Speaker. We appropriated the funds to keep the government open—actually, to dollar figures we had agreed to between the House and Senate—and sent those appropriations bills over to the Senate, but not with the funding to fund ObamaCare. We were elected to repeal it. We were elected to rip it out by the roots.

We made a valiant effort to cut off the funding to ObamaCare, but the President insisted he would have his namesake piece of legislation and policy in the form that he wanted it. And if he couldn't get that from this Congress, then he would shut the government down. And that is what happened, Mr. Speaker.

Time after time after time here in the House we voted to fund the government, and we funded the government without funding ObamaCare in every configuration that we could come up with that we thought could effectively keep those functions of the government open. The President resisted and HARRY REID in the Senate resisted, and it brought about that time when there was a shut down for 17 days.

During that time there is a shutdown, all essential services continue and nonessential services cease. That is the simplest definition. When you run out of money, there is a shutdown. So we now have a definition of what essential services are. About 87 percent of the government was essential services and about 13 percent were nonessential services.

We had a new essential service that had never been defined before that was delivered to us courtesy of, I think, a petulant Barack Obama, Mr. Speaker, and that was that since there had been a shutdown in 1998, the people in this country put their money together, pooled their money—private money—to build the World War II Memorial. That World War II Memorial is a glorious memorial that sits on The Mall. It had never been closed down in its history. There was no reason to. It, like many of the other memorials, is an open-air memorial: the World War II Memorial; of course, the outside of the Washington Monument—not so much the inside; the Lincoln Memorial, wide open at all times; the Vietnam Wall, wide open at all times; the Korean Memorial, wide open at all times.

But the President decided that there was a new essential service, and that essential service was to call people off of furlough and rent barricades with money, theoretically borrowed from the Chinese, to barricade the public, including our World War II veterans coming in on Honor Flights, out of their Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Wall, and the Korean Memorial. They were all barricaded out by rented barricades, with Park officers who were called off of furlough.

A new essential service. We surely couldn't have American citizens and tourists walking through these memorials if 80 percent of the government is shut down. We would have to have a new service created. That is how spiteful our President was.

But in that period of time, in that process, now we have identified what is essential and what is not—and the 87 percent essential services, the 13 percent that are not, we can go back and look through the records and put that list together—we presume, and I think rightly so, if we should be forced into that situation and if the President were to shut the government down again, we would be in a similar circumstance and we can pretty well predict.

□ 1245

So I want to fund all of those appropriations bills and departments save those that he is likely to direct to violate the law or the Constitution in his press conference tonight, his statement to the American people.

And by the way, we are not going to see the language of this I don't believe, either, tonight. I think what we will hear is a very carefully crafted speech with lots of ambiguities in it, lots of nuances in it. There will be very little information in it, and we will have to divine what it is that the President has said. And some time after they have their meeting in the school with HARRY REID in Nevada, then I think there will be a document that will be released or noted that will more precisely define what the President is preparing to do. Then we can actually weigh in on the constitutionality, or lack thereof, that we anticipate is going to be the case tonight.

Mr. Speaker, if this were a constitutional act, he would have done it by now. If he were prepared to abide by the Constitution some time in the last year or so, he would have repeated the things that he has said in the previous 5 years of his Presidency and probably many times in the classroom as he was teaching constitutional law at the University of Chicago, a stellar law school in this country.

I think I would be wanting some of my money back if I had had any one of my kids that were learning Con. law from our President.

But many times he said, and I can think of a date, March 28, 2011, out here at a high school in Washington, D.C., wherein he said, You want me to pass the DREAM Act by executive order. I don't have the authority to do that because, he said, my job, as President, is to take care that we enforce and execute the laws; and the judicial branch's job is to interpret them, and it is the legislature's job to write them.

Congress writes the laws; the executive branch enforces the laws; the judicial branch interprets them. Pretty simple, pretty compact, pretty concise, pretty accurate.

There is no question the President understands this. On multiple occasions he has made remarks that would seek to restore the separation of powers, but they have been missing from his dialogue for a long time now; and that is just about how long it is that he has been planning, made his decision that he is going to go forward and now try to rationalize, he will try to justify and he will try to rationalize an unconstitutional act that, put it in quotes, ''legalizes'' 3½ million, 5 million, 7 million, maybe as many as 9 million people.

This Congress has, we have the enumerated power to set naturalization, and by a good number of case law, also immigration policy. No one else sets the immigration policy. The United States Congress does.

There is a statute that exists that directs that when immigration enforcement encounters someone who is unlawfully present in the United States, it says they shall place them in removal proceedings.

The President has already ordered that they not place them in removal proceedings. He has created four classes of people and said, under his prosecutorial discretion on an individual basis, only he has the authority to decide to waive the law against people who have broken our laws, most of whom are criminals by the definition of the laws that they have broken. That is the President of the United States.

Seven times in the document that was actually signed by Janet Napolitano, then the Secretary of Homeland Security, they reference on an individual basis only—on an individual basis only—because they know that the executive branch has prosecutorial discretion.

That is the term for how you decide which resources, how you prioritize your resources, where you apply those resources—and it is reasonable to do. If you don't have the resources to enforce

all of the laws, it is reasonable to apply them where the greatest danger to the American citizens are. I agree with that. But when you send out a memo that says, if you have not committed a felony and if you have not committed any one of these three mysterious misdemeanors—or these three serious misdemeanors, as they would say—then we are not going to enforce immigration law against you.

That says that you can break into this country and you can live in America as long as you want if you don't become a felon or if we don't catch you at it, and as long as you avoid these three serious misdemeanors, then you can stay in America the rest of your life and we are not going to bother you.

That is directly contrary to the law, the statute that requires immigration enforcement officers, ICE, in particular, to place them in removal proceedings.

Congress has written the laws, and that is what we do. That is article I. That is the opening sentence in article I of the United States Constitution. And yet the President believes, apparently, that he can write and rewrite law at will.

This will come tonight. We will look at the language. And when we look at the language, there will be constitutional scholars all over America, most of the judges will read the statement and reflect upon the application of the Constitution, the restraint of it. Most of the lawyers will, too.

A lot of Americans that understand this document—you don't have to wear a black robe to understand what this means. Our Constitution, Mr. Speaker, is written in plain English. It is real clear, and there is a lot of the language of the Constitution that comes out in the language on the streets of America, because it is very, very close to our heart.

But article I of the Constitution grants the legislative power to the United States Congress, not the President of the United States.

I do know a little bit about this. In a similar circumstance, at the State level, we had a Governor who believed that he could just simply, by executive order, it happened to be Executive Order No. 7, write law and insert language into 19(b)(2) of the civil rights section of the Iowa code. I read that executive order, and the smart lawyers all told me, No, you don't understand. This is nuanced, and its deft and it is carefully drafted, so it is going to be constitutional, and the Governor can do this.

So I took the language and I put it into the code with strike-throughs and underlines like we do when we write legislation to see how it changes, and it read clearly to me that the Governor was inserting language into the code. So I filed a lawsuit. I was the lead plaintiff, and I spent some money out of my kids' inheritance to pay the lawyers and came out of that on top. I have been through these arguments.

Article I, section 1, says, ''All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.''

That is here, Mr. Speaker, and it is down through the rotunda to the United States Senate. We join together and write legislation. The President signs it, then that goes into law. That is the Federal code.

It is the executive branch's job to enforce it. He has no authority to waive it, not carte blanche, not huge chunks of people. He has prosecutorial discretion, but that is not what he is talking about.

What he is likely to do is to take the DACA group, the deferred action for childhood arrivals, which is another constitutional violation, those several hundred thousand that he has issued work permits to in another unconstitutional way, and say—and remember, they have our sympathy because they were brought here, according to a lot of people—and I agree, at least some of them—due to no fault of their own, little babies that are carried across the border by their mother or their father. They are not aware of where the border is or what is right and what is wrong at age 1 day. So they arrive here in the United States not citizens, unlawfully present in the United States. It wasn't their fault—that is the argument that has been made over here time and again—and so we shouldn't enforce the law, even the letter of the law, against people that were not aware that their parents were causing them to break it.

Now, that is an argument that I will take some time at another time, Mr. Speaker, to rebut. But there has always been, then, what about the people that caused the DACA kids to break the law? Their parents, presumably. Weren't they aware when they snuck across the border with their children, age 1 day or 15 years and 364 days, weren't they aware that they were breaking the law? Of course they were. And the President is prepared now to reward the family members of DACA recipients.

Why? Because he doesn't want to break up families is my presumption. But these are the people that are breaking up their own families. They put themselves in that condition. They are leaving a lawless land and bringing lawlessness to this land. And we have a lawless President who won't enforce the law, and he won't abide by his oaths to the Constitution.

So we are put in this fix, Mr. Speaker. It is a fix of this Congress is now hopefully recessed—not adjourned—at the call of the Chair, I hope, expecting to go home for Thanksgiving on a calendar that we publish early enough that the President and his minions at the White House can look at the—I suppose they can look and see who owns a plane ticket to go where. But all you have to do is look at the flight schedules flying out of Dulles and out of Reagan, and you look at the schedule here in Congress and you will know when it is likely that almost everybody is gone from town and gone home for Thanksgiving. Well, 95 percent of us are going to be out of town tonight by the time the President has his conference and speaks to the American people.

We shouldn't think that it is timed that way by accident. It is strategically timed, Mr. Speaker, so that Members of Congress have just left town, anxious to embrace our families and celebrate Thanksgiving.

And so he drops this bomb in the middle of us that will be; it will tear asunder this Constitution. The President is prepared to do this, Mr. Speaker, take this Constitution—and I can't bring myself to actually do this. So, take this Constitution. Separate out article I of the Constitution, the legislative authority. Tear that out. That is what he will do tonight at 8. He will tear article I of this Constitution out of this document. He will probably fold it one time, tuck it into his shirt pocket and say, I am also the legislative branch of government, and don't interfere with me because I am the President.

That is what you are going to hear at 8 tonight, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to tear that out and show you what it looks like, but I can't bring myself to do that to my Constitution.

Also, our choices that we have, alternatives to deal with this, I would make this point. Not only have I said the President takes an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution, take care that the laws be faithfully executed, Mr. Speaker, we also here in the House of Representatives and in the Senate take an oath to the Constitution as well; 535 oaths to the Constitution, between the seated Members in the House and Senate that have a vote, that represent the people in this constitutional Republic—535 oaths. We have an oath to keep and protect this Constitution, as the President does.

I expect he will violate his oath again tonight, Mr. Speaker. We have an obligation then, under our oath to restrain the President's extra-constitutional activity.

I think it is prudent for us to do the minimum necessary to restrain the President. I think it is prudent. And so the limitations on that, they go from one end to the other. It is a pretty broad list of things that we have the opportunity to do. But the easiest and the most gentle would be a resolution that would, I believe, with some level of comfort, pass here in the House of Representatives, that would be a resolution of disapproval for the President's actions.

Now, if we bring that resolution of disapproval, we do so in language that, let's say, doesn't start a big debate, that it just simply lays out the facts. We have done that when we disagreed with the Supreme Court. A resolution of disapproval comes to mind on the Kelo decision as one of them. So we

could disapprove as a House. We could perhaps do a concurrent resolution or joint resolution—doubtful that HARRY REID would allow it to the come to the floor of the Senate, and doubtful that it would pass. But in any case, the House can act on its own with a resolution of disapproval.

That may not be strong enough to cause the President to come to his constitutional senses, so the next step would be, in my judgment then, a resolution of censure for the President.

Now, again, I will reserve the language in that and not define it more precisely until we get an opportunity to actually see what it is that he does, but nobody in this country can paint the picture on how the President can expand amnesty and still be restrained by the Constitution because of the statutes that exist and the restraints that he has that are built into the separation of powers.

So a resolution of disapproval, number one; a resolution of censure, number two; and if, perhaps, that resolution of censure will bring the President to his senses and the President could look at the outrage of the American people, which I believe will boil over, by tomorrow morning I believe it will boil over, that outrage, perhaps he will realize that he has got to rescind his order.

□ 1300

Now, here is one of those examples.

When we were all promised under ObamaCare that we would have conscience protection, a right of conscience that ObamaCare wouldn't compel us to fund abortions and sterilizations and abortifacients, of course, we found out that it did. After 2 weeks of the religious community's being critical of the President, the President finally stepped up to the podium at noon on a Friday—another finely calculated time of the week—and he said there have been some complaints from the religious communities. I am going to make an accommodation to them. Now I am going to require the insurance companies to provide these services for free.

That is the President also legislating by press conference. It is not the United States Congress. I stand in the middle of the United States Congress right now, and I am hearing some of my colleagues say we don't have the tools to restrain this President. Well, after a resolution of disapproval, after a resolution of censure, the next tool then is to cut off the funding to implement or to enforce his unconstitutional executive amnesty edict. We can do that in this Congress. We will be forced to do so in this Congress if the President doesn't restrain himself. That is how we must restrain him.

I don't want to go down that path, but if we do, let's appropriate the funds into the departments that are not relevant to this subject matter and send those appropriations bills down the hallway—to the Senate—and get them to the President's desk one at a time if we can. Let him pick and choose. They can all sit there on his desk, all but Justice and the Department of Homeland Security. Those two pieces of legislation will be necessary for us to pass by exempting from funding those components of the President's edict.

Some have said that we could always claw that money back in a recisions bill. The simple answer to that is, no, we would not be able to do that because, even if we got a recisions bill to the President's desk, he would veto it. Some have said that we can't cut the funding off to implement what we anticipate to be the President's act because it is fee-based under USCIS, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. So that is fees, fee for service, and that would be authorizing on an appropriations bill. I would remind people that this Congress has multiple times done just that.

They used the rule when I wanted to cut off the funding to ObamaCare, and I brought it before the Rules Committee—anybody can look it up—on February 14, 2011. I was advised that I shouldn't have put them in that position. They were going to have to say ''no'' to me even though they agreed with me on the policy because we couldn't effect policy in an appropriations bill. Of course, the answer is, yes, we can. We can do anything we choose to do. I would start with this.

In the Constitution, it says:

> Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings.

We set the rules here. In the Rules resolution, we waive continually the provisions. Here is one:

> All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived . . . All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived . . . The previous question shall be considered ordered and the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion.

That is an example of a rule. The rule, itself, waives points of order here on the floor. We can write what we choose to write into legislation that would cut off the funding to implement or enforce a lawless and unconstitutional act. To those who say we can't do so with fees, I will read you the language that does so:

> None of the funds made available in this Act or any user fees and other revenue may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the documents described—and we describe the documents.

This is not rocket science.

Are we going to allow a President to violate the Constitution and say our rules in the House won't let us restrain the President?

I call that another red herring, red herring number two. There will likely be another one or two.

This Congress, Mr. Speaker, must do its constitutional duty. It must adhere to our oath to the Constitution. We will be called to do that at 8 o'clock tonight. I will be prepared and so will millions of Americans.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities towards the President.

Does the gentleman from Iowa seek recognition to offer a motion to adjourn?

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Is the adjournment resolution more broad than this? The reason I am asking is because, if we have an emergency, are we able to return at the call of the Chair?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct that the House adopted an adjournment resolution earlier today. The Chair understands that the gentleman's motion will invoke a separate order.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FORTENBERRY (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY of California) for today on account of a family illness.

Mr. NADLER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of attending a funeral.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 1, 2014, at 2 p.m., unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 119, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

7817. A letter from the FSA Regulatory Review Group Director, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Farm Loan Programs; Entity Eligibility (RIN: 0560-AI25) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7818. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pine Shoot Beetle; Addition of Quarantined Areas and Regulated Articles [Docket No.: APHIS-2010-0031] received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7819. A letter from the Acting Director, Legislative Affairs Division, Department of

Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Interim Rule [Docket No.: NRCS-2014-0008] (RIN: 0578-AA63) received November 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7820. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Onions Other Than Bermuda-Granex-Grano/Creole; Bermuda-Granex-Grano [Doc. Number: AMS-FV-12-0013] received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7821. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quality and Allotment Percentage for Class 1 (Scotch) Spearmint Oil for the 2014-2015 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0087; FV14-985-1A IR] received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7822. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Softwood Lumber Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order; Late Payment and Interest Charges on Past Due Assessments [Document Number: AMS-FV-12-0023] received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7823. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Brucellosis Class Free States and Certified Brucellosis-Free Herds; Revisions to Testing and Certification Requirements [Docket No.: APHIS-2009-0083] (RIN: 0579-AD22) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7824. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Cape Gooseberry From Colombia into the United States; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: APHIS-2012-0038] (RIN: 0579-AD79) received October 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7825. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Loans in Areas Having Special Flood Hazards (RIN: 3052-AC93) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7826. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Organization; Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Investment Eligibility (RIN: 3052-AC84) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7827. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Affairs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery [Docket No.: 140529461-4795-02] (RIN: 0648-BE26) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7828. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-0648-XD519) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7829. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

7830. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Bureau of the Census' Salaries and Expenses account, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

7831. A letter from the Chief Operating Officer and Acting Executive Director, Election Assistance Commission, transmitting a letter regarding a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

7832. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Mark D. Harnitchek, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7833. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Donald M. Campbell, Jr., United States Army, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7834. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting account balance in the Defense Cooperation Account, as of September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7835. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates--Special Contracting Methods, Major System Acquisition, and Service Contracting (DFARS Case 2014-D004) (RIN: 0750-AI27) received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7836. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates-Foreign Acquisition (DFARS Case 2013-D005) (RIN: 0750-AH94) received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7837. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled ''Combating Terrorism Activities FY 2015 Budget Estimates, Amended''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7838. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General James O. Barclay III, United States Army, and his advancement on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7839. A letter from the Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Truth in Lending (Regulation Z) Annual Threshold Adjustments (CARD ACT, HOEPA and ATR/QM) received November 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7840. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Application of Regulation Z's Ability-To-Repay Rule to Certain Situations Involving Successors-in-Interest [Docket No.: CFPB-2014-0016] (RIN: 3170-ZA00) received November 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7841. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Amendments to the 2013 Mortgage Rules Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) [Docket No.: CFPB-2014-0009] (RIN: 3170-AA43) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7842. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Calvert County, MD, et al.); [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8355] received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7843. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations; Greene County, Indiana, and Incorporated Areas [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] received November 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7844. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Clarion County, PA, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8357] received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7845. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Financial Stability Oversight Council 2014 Annual Report; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7846. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Exchange of Mutilated Paper Currency received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7847. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Royal Air Maroc of Casablanca, Morocco, pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7848. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Liquidity Coverage Ratio: Liquidity Risk Measurement Standards (RIN: 3064-AE04) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7849. A letter from the Director, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Minority Depository Institutions Annual Report for 2014; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7850. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Filing Financial and Other Reports (RIN: 3313-AE25) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7851. A letter from the Special Inspector General, Office of the Special Inspector General, transmitting SIGTARP's October Quarterly Report to Congress; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7852. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Violence Against

Women Act [Docket ID: ED-2013-OPE-0124] (RIN: 1840-AD16) received October 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7853. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final priority. Rehabilitation Training: Job-Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center [CFDA Number: 84.264A.] received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7854. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0082] received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7855. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Program Integrity: Gainful Employment [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0039] (RIN: 1840-AD15) received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7856. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Community Services Block Grant Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2011; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7857. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7858. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled ''Improving the Identification of Health Care Disparities in Medicaid and CHIP'', pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1396w-5; Public Law 111-148, section 1946(b)(2); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7859. A letter from the General Attorney, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Safety Standard for Magnet Sets [CPSC Docket No.: CPSC-2012-0050] received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7860. A letter from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting a report entitled ''The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7861. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting a letter notifying the Congress of the Secretary's determination to contract for storage of petroleum products owned by the United States in facilities other than those of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7862. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report on Tobacco Product Exports That Do Not Conform to Tobacco Product Standards; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7863. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report on Premarket Approval of Pediatric Use of Devices — FY 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7864. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Annual Report entitled ''Delays in Approvals of Applications Related to Citizen Petitions and Petitions for Stay of Agency Action for Fiscal Year 2013''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7865. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Division of Freedom of Information; Change of Office Name, and Removal of Address, Telephone Number, and Fax Number; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: FDA-2011-N-0318] received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7866. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the FY 2013 Superfund Five-Year Review Report to Congress, in accordance with the requirements in Section 121(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7867. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0177; FRL-9917-67-Region 3] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7868. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County's Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Offset Lithographic Printing and Letterpress Printing; Flexible Package Printing; and Industrial Solvent Cleaning Operations for Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0476; FRL-9917-16-Region 3] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7869. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Approval of Revision to PSD Program [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0242; FRL-9916-27-Region 5] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7870. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Florida: Removal of Sulfur Storage and Handling Rules [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0746; FRL-9917-64-Region 4] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7871. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Regional Haze and Interstate Transport Affecting Visibility State Implementation Plan Revisions [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0214; FRL-9917-63-Region 6] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7872. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Regional Haze and Interstate Transport Affecting Visibility State Implementation Plan Revisions; Withdrawal of Federal Implementation Plan for the San Juan Generating Station [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0214; FRL-9917-43-Region 6] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7873. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Automatic Delegation of Authority to the States of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming to Implement and Enforce New Source Performance Standards [EPA-R08-OAR-2014-0272; FRL-9917-49-Region 8] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7874. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Criteria for the Certification and Recertification of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's Compliance with the Disposal Regulations; Panel Closure Redesign [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0684; FRL-9917-57-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR60) received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7875. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Florida: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [EPA-R04-RCRA-2012-0179; FRL-9917-53-Region 4] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7876. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update for Maryland [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0568; FRL-9917-72-Region 3] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7877. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements, and Confidentiality Determinations Under the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program; Final Rule [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0929; FRL-9916-76-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AQ81) received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7878. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0615; FRL-9916-94-Region 9] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7879. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Approval and Promulgation: Missouri; 2013 State Implementation Plan for the 2008 Lead Standard [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0448; FRL-9918-18-Region 7] received October 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7880. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0300; FRL-9918-15-Region 7] received October 17, 2014, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7881. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri, Control of Emissions from Hand-Fired Equipment [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0688; FRL-9918-10-Region 7] received October 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7882. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri, Restriction of Emissions of Particulate Matter from Industrial Processes [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0687; FRL-9918-17-Region 7] received October 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7883. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Nebraska; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0685; FRL-9918-13-Region 7] received October 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7884. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Wyoming; Revisions to the Air Quality Standards and Regulations [EPA-R08-OAR-2014-0183; FRL-9918-20-Region 8] received October 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7885. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wyoming; Revisions to the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations; Ambient Standards for Nitrogen Oxides and for Ozone; Correction of Docket Number [EPA-R08-OAR-2014-0698; FRL-9918-03-Region 8] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7886. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Dakota; Revisions to the Air Pollution Control Rules [EPA-R08-OAR-2014-0173; FRL-9918-21-Region 8] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7887. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Kansas; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0401; FRL-9918-19-Region 7] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7888. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Kansas; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0500; FRL-9918-11-Region 7] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7889. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Imperial County; Ozone Precursor Emissions Inventories [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0542; FRL-9917-77-Region 9] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7890. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Findings of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan; California; Interstate Transport Requirements for 2006 24-hour Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0646; FRL-9918-38-Region 9] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7891. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Metrafenone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0255; FRL-9917-56] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7892. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Polyoxyalkylated sorbitan fatty acid esters; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0217; FRL-9916-97] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7893. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Adjustments to the Allowance System for Controlling HCFC Production, Import and Export, 2015-2019 [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0236; FRL-9917-98-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR04) received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7894. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2014-0390; FRL-9914-56] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7895. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri, Controlling Emissions During Episodes of High Air Pollution Potential [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0602; FRL-9918-75-Region 7] received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7896. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine; Volatile Organic Compound Regulations [EPA-R01-OAR-2014-0243; A-1-FRL-9918-00-Region 1] received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7897. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule [R05-OAR-2011-0968; FRL-9918-78-Region 5] received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7898. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Deltamethrin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0297; FRL-9918-24] received November 5, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7899. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Acetic acid ethenyl ester, polymer with ethane, ethenyltriethoxysilane and sodium ethenesulfonate (1:1); Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0393; FRL-9918-50] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7900. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 2-Propenoic acid, 2-methylphenylmethyl ester, polymer with 2-propenoic acid, peroxydisulfuric acid ([(HO)S(O)2]2O2) sodium salt (1:2)-initiated, compounds with diethanolamine; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0418; FRL-9918-28], pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7901. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — FD&C Red No. 40; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0572; FRL-9917-14] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7902. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Approval of Revisions to Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Regulations Within the North Carolina State Implementation Plan; Correcting Amendment [EPA-R04-OAR-2014-0765 FRL-9918-94-Region 4] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7903. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule — Partial Exemption of Certain Chemical Substances from Reporting Additional Chemical Data [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2014-0347; FRL-9918-23] (RIN: 2070-AK01) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7904. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; Technical Amendment to Update Data Management Systems Nomenclature [EPA-HQ-SFUND-2014-0733; FRL-9918-52-OSWER] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7905. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonable Further Progress Plan, Enhanced Monitoring, Clean Fuel Fleets and Failure-to-Attain Contingency Measures for the Dallas/Fort Worth 1997 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area; and Transportation Conformity [EPA-R06-OAR-2012-0099; FRL-9919-02-Region 6] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7906. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alaska: Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter and 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0140, FRL-9918-97-Region 10] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7907. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County; Control of Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0169; FRL-9918-73-Region-3] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7908. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Washington: Nonattainment New Source Review [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0343; FRL-9918-84-Region-10] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7909. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Withdrawal of Federal Implementation Plan; Texas; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revisions [EPA-R06-OAR-2013-0808; FRL-9912-50-OAR] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7910. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revisions [EPA-R06-OAR-2013-0808; FRL-9912-51-OAR] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7911. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits [EPA-HQ-OECA-2014-0551-FRL- 914-32-OECA] (RIN: 2020-AA50) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7912. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Tribal Implementation Plan [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0557; FRL-9917-07-Region 10] received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7913. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Findings of Failure to Submit a Complete State Implementation Plan for Section 110(a) Pertaining to the 2010 Nitrogen Oxide (NO2) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0337; FRL-9919-67-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS33) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7914. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Washington; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan; Federal Implementation Plan for Best Available Retrofit Technology for Alcoa Intalco Operations, Tesoro Refining and Marketing, and Alcoa Wenatchee [EPA-R10-OAR-2010-1071; FRL-9919-38-Region 10] received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7915. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Revisions to the Administrative Rules of Montana —— Air Quality, Subchapter 7, Exclusion for De Minimis Changes; Final Rule [EPA-R08-OAR-2011-0100; FRL-9918-35-Region 8] received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7916. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Prevention of Significant Deterioration [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0690; FRL-9919-48-Region 3] received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7917. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Inspection and Maintenance Program Updates [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0722; FRL-9919-10-Region 4] received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7918. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Steam Generating Units [EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234; FRL-9919-21-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS39) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7919. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Reconsideration of Certain Startup/Shutdown Issues: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from Coal- and Oil-fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units and Standards of Performance for Fossil-Fuel-Fired Electric Utility, Industrial-Commercial-Institutional, and Small Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units [EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234; EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0044; FRL-9919-29-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS07) received November 18, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7920. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Special Access for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers; AT&T Corporation Petition for Rulemaking to Reform Regulation of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier Rates for Interstate Special Access Services [WC Docket No.: 05-25] [RM-10539] received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7921. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Kansas City, Missouri) [MB Docket No. 14-140] [RM-11733] received November 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7922. A letter from the Chief, Mobility Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Parts 1, 2, 22, 24, 27, 90 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Improve Wireless Coverage Through the Use of Signal Boosters [WT Docket No.: 10-4] received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7923. A letter from the Chief of Staff, WTB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Parts 1 and 22 of the Commission's Rules with Regard to the Cellular Service, Including Changes in Licensing of Unserved Area; Amendment of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Relocation of Part 24 to Part 27, etc. [WT Docket No.: 12-40] [RM No.: 11510] [RM No.: 11660] received November 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7924. A letter from the Chief, Policy Division, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Reform of Rules and Policies on Foreign Carrier Entry Into the U.S. Telecommunications Market [IB Docket No.: 12-299] received November 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7925. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities [Docket No.: RM05-5-022; Order No. 676-H] received September 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7926. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Approval of American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Code Cases [NRC-2009-0359; NRC-2013-0133] (RIN: 3150-AI72) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7927. A letter from the Staff Director and Deputy Staff Director, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, transmitting the Commission's annual report for 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7928. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-41, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7929. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-52, 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.

7930. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-57, 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.

7931. A letter from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report entitled ''Venezuela: Restrictions on Certain Military End Uses and End Users''; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7932. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the

Commerce Control List: Imposition of Controls on Integrated Circuits, Helicopter Landing System Radars, Seismic Detection Systems, and Technology for IR Up-Conversion Devices [Docket No.: 140131087-4087-01] (RIN: 0694-AG08) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7933. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Clarifications and Corrections to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Control of Spacecraft Systems and Related Items the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List (USML) [Docket No.: 130110030-4928-03] (RIN: 0694-AF87) received November 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7934. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Venezuela: Implementation of Certain Military End Uses and End Users License Requirements Under the Export Administration Regulations [Docket No.: 141029906-4906-01] (RIN: 0694-AG31) received November 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7935. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 13637, Transmittal No. 06-14 informing of an intent to sign the Project Arrangement with Canada; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7936. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Homeland Defense and Global Security, Department of Defense, transmitting a Report on Utilization of Contributions to the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7937. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report entitled ''Report to Congress on Iran-Related Multilateral Sanctions Regime Efforts'' covering the period from February 7, 2014 to August 6, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7938. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report listing outstanding expropriation cases for 2014, pursuant to Public Law 103-236, section 527(f); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7939. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period June 1, 2014 through July 31, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7940. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning corrections to a final rule amended parts 121, 123, 125, and 126 of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7941. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Policy on Exports to Vietnam (RIN: 1400-AD73) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7942. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7943. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7944. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7945. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Yemen that was declared in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7946. A letter from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting the twenty-fifth quarterly report on the Afghanistan Reconstruction; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7947. A letter from the President, Federal Financing Bank, transmitting the Annual Report of the Federal Financing Bank for Fiscal Year 2014, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 5528 (b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7948. A letter from the President and CEO, African Development Foundation, transmitting a letter fulfilling the annual requirements contained in the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, covering the period October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); Public Law 95-452, section 5(b);; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7949. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's Semiannual Report to Congress for the six-month period ending September 30, 2014, as required by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7950. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2014 Inventory of Commercial Activities, as required by the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7951. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting three reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7952. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting three reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7953. A letter from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting submission of Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) 2014 Annual Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7954. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's annual financial report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7955. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's fiscal year 2013 annual report prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7956. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Semiannual Report to Congress from the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7957. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7958. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Agency's Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7959. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting five reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7960. A letter from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7961. A letter from the Inspector General, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General of the Farm Credit Administration for the period April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; and the semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the same period; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7962. A letter from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's consolidated report addressing the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7963. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for Fiscal Year 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7964. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's Report of FY 2014 Audits; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7965. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Requests received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7966. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR); Progressive Awards and Monthly Quantity Allocations [GSAR Change 60; GSAR Case 2014-G501; Docket No.:

2014-0007; Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 3090-AJ47) received October 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7967. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's report ''Veterans' Employment Redress Laws in the Federal Civil Service''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7968. A letter from the Archivist, National Archives, transmitting the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (Integrity Act) Report for Fiscal Year 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7969. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7970. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7971. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Modification of Eligibility to Certain Employees on Temporary Appointments and Certain Employees on Seasonal and Intermittent Schedules (RIN: 3206-AM86) received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7972. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's Annual Privacy Activity Report to Congress for 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7973. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Federal Employees' Retirement System; Present Value Conversion Factors for Spouses of Deceased Separated Employees (RIN: 3206-AM99) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7974. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled ''Audit of the Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Fund''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7975. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled ''Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7976. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled ''Outcomes of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Employment Program''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7977. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled ''Audit of ANC 5B for Fiscal Years 2009 through 2013, 1st Quarter''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7978. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual financial statement audit for FY 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7979. A letter from the Director, Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's Performance and Accountability Report including audited financial statements for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7980. A letter from the Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7981. A letter from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7982. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Excess Spoil, Coal Mine Waste, Diversions, and Buffer Zones for Perennial and Intermittent Streams [Docket ID: OSM-2012-0010; S1D1S SS08011000 SX066A00067F 134S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX066A00 33F 13XS501520] (RIN: 1029-AC69) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7983. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 140115049-4528-02] (RIN: 0648-XD456) received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7984. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 26 and Amendment 29 Supplement [Docket No.: 130606533-4646-02] (RIN: 0648-BD36) received October 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7985. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD496) received November 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7986. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction [Docket No.: 101206604-1758-02] (RIN: 0648-X100714b) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7987. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; ''Other Rockfish'' in the Aleutian Island Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD537) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7988. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2014 Recreational Accountability Measure and Closure for the South Atlantic Porgy Complex [Docket No.: 120815345-3525-02] (RIN: 0648-XD495) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7989. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; 2014-2015 Accountability Measure and Closure for Gulf King Mackerel in the Florida West Coast Northern Subzone [Docket No.: 101206604-1758-02] (RIN: 0648-XD586) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7990. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Accountability Measures and Closure for Commercial Wrasses in the U.S. Caribbean Off Puerto Rico [Docket No.: 100120037-1626-02] (RIN: 0648-XD549) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7991. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Halibut Prohibited Species Catch Allowances in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD565) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7992. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD566) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7993. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Tilefish Fishery; 2015-2017 Specifications [Docket No.: 140822715-4882-02] (RIN: 0648-BE37) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7994. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; 2014 Bigeye Tuna Longline Fishery Closure in the Eastern Pacific Ocean [Docket No.: 130717632-4285-02] (RIN: 0648-XD504) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7995. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Boundary Expansion of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary [Docket No.: 130403324-4647-03] (RIN: 0648-BC94) received October 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7996. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD520) received November 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7997. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; 2014 Sub-Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Harvested for Management Area 3 [Docket No.: 130919816-4205-02] (RIN: 0648-XD501) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7998. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, for the six month period ending December 31, 2013, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 621; the Act of June 8, 1938, ch. 327, section 11; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7999. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes to Continued Prosecution Application Practice [Docket No.: PTO-P-2014-0001] (RIN: 0651-AC92) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8000. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes to Permit Delayed Submission of Certain Requirements for Prioritized Examination [Docket No.: PTO-2014-0003] (RIN: 0651-AC93) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8001. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Annual Report on the Use of Special Immigrant Status for Citizens or Nationals of Afghanistan or Iraq: Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8002. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a Report on Internal Affairs Investigations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8003. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the 2013 Annual Report of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8004. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the annual report of the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance for Fiscal Year 2012, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 3712(b); Public Law 98-473, section 603(a); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8005. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's decision not to appeal the decision of the district court in the case of Gerardo Manuel Mendoza Lopez v. Janet Napolitano, et al. No. 1:12-cv-1750-MJS, 2014 WL 1091336 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 18, 2014); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8006. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment for Commercial Space Adjudications; Second Amendment [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0822; Amdt. No. 406-8] (RIN: 2120-AK55) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8007. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2013 Report to the Congress on U.S. Government Receivables and Debt Collection Activities of Federal Agencies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8008. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's final rule — Post-Employment Conflict of Interest Restriction; Revision of Departmental Component Designations (RIN: 3209-AA14) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8009. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Saugus River, Revere and Lynn, MA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0272] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8010. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Navigation and Navigable Waters; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments; Correction [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0410] (RIN: 1625-AC13) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8011. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; South Bristol Gut Bridge Replacement, South Bristol, ME [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0214] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8012. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones; Dignitary Arrival/Departure and United Nations Meetings, New York, NY [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0737] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8013. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Navy Exercise, Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean; Cape May, NJ [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0855] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8014. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Delaware River; Delaware City, DE [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0883] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8015. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Tennessee River between mile 4.8 and 5.8; Ledbetter, KY [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0831] (RIN: 1625-AA00)received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8016. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Bridge Demolition, Fox River, Green Bay, WI [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0835] received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8017. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; University of Alabama vs. University of Alabama at Huntsville Rowing Competition; Black Warrior River mm 339 to mm 341.65; Tuscaloosa, AL [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0791] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8018. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Suisun Bay Electromagnetic Scan and Ordnance Recovery, Suisun Bay, Concord, CA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0862] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8019. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Allegheny River, Mile 45.7; Kittanning, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0747] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8020. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Mavericks Invitational Surf Competition, Half Moon Bay, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0715] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8021. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Bridge 1 Structural Repairs at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0215] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8022. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Pier 39 36th Anniversary Fireworks Display, San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0832] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8023. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; English Station Emergency Environmental Response; Mill River; New Haven, CT [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0917] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8024. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Disaster Assistance; Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Program — Deadline Extension and Administrative Correction [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0004] (RIN: 1660-AA78) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8025. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Portland Dragon Boat Races, Willamette River, Portland, OR [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0492] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8026. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage; Ashley River Anchorage, Ashley River, Charleston, SC [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0819] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8027. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Cruise Ship Hamburg, Lake Michigan, Milwaukee, WI and Chicago, IL [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0916] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8028. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Slip 4 Early Action Area Superfund Site, Lower Duwamish Waterway, Seattle, WA [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0293] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8029. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Ordnance Removal; Saipan Harbor, CNMI [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0849] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8030. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Semisubmersible Loading Operation Safety Zone, South San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0922] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8031. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Mile 170 to Mile 172; Darrow, LA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0780] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8032. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Moving Security Zone Around Crane Barge, New York Harbor Upper Bay and Hudson River, NY and NJ [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0886] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8033. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Report on Recommendations of the Advisory Committee for Aviation Consumer Protection as required by Public Law 112-95, Sec. 411; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8034. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Zodiac Seats France (formerly Sicma Aero Seat) Passenger Seat Assemblies [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0730; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-206-AD; Amendment 39-17984; AD 2014-20-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8035. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0654; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-071-AD; Amendment 39-17983; AD 2014-20-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8036. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0494; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-017-AD; Amendment 39-17986; AD 2014-20-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8037. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0516; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-021-AD; Amendment 39-17987; AD 2014-20-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8038. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0740; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-030-AD; Amendment 39-17978; AD 2014-20-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8039. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Brantly International, Inc. Helicopters [Docket No: FAA-2012-1093; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-020-AD; Amendment 39-17989; AD 2014-20-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8040. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Alexandria Aircraft LLC Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0438; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-015-AD; Amendment 39-17985; AD 2014-20-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8041. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters, Inc. (Previously Eurocopter France) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0757; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-030-AD; Amendment 39-17988; AD 2014-20-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8042. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0283; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-183-AD; Amendment 39-17980; AD 2014-20-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8043. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0290; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-210-AD; Amendment 39-17981; AD 2014-20-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8044. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0650; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-162-AD; Amendment 39-17974; AD 2014-20-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8045. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1067; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-164-AD; Amendment 39-17982; AD 2014-20-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8046. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0058; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-116-AD; Amendment 39-17977; AD 2014-20-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8047. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Change of Controlling Agency for Restricted Areas; California [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0722; Airspace Docket No. 14-AWP-9] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8048. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Harmonization of Airworthiness Standards — Miscellaneous Structures Requirements [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0109; Amdt. No. 25-139] (RIN: 2120-AK13) received November 4, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8049. A letter from the Management and Progam Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0532; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-016-AD; Amendment 39-17994; AD 2014-21-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8050. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0705; Directorate Identifier 2014-NE-13-AD; Amendment 39-18006; AD 2014-22-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8051. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Beechcraft Corporation (Type Certificate Previously Held by Hawker Beechcraft Corporation; Raytheon Aircraft Company; Beech Aircraft Corporation) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0345; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-230-AD; Amendment 39-17998; AD 2014-21-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8052. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0140; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-176-AD; Amendment 39-18004; AD 2014-21-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64)

received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8053. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0581; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-167-AD; Amendment 39-17999; AD 2014-17-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 204, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8054. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30977; Amdt. 3607] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8055. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30980; Amdt. No. 3610] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8056. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30979; Amdt. No. 3609] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8057. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Departing IFR/VFR When Weather Reporting Is Not Available; Confirmation of Effective Date [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0502; Amdt. No. 135-131] (RIN: 2120-AK49) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8058. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Orders of Compliance, Cease and Desist Orders, Order of Denial, and Other Orders [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0505; Amdt. No. 13-36 A] (RIN: 2120-AK43) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8059. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airplane and Engine Certification Requirements in Supercooled Large Drop, Mixed Phase, and Ice Crystal Icing Conditions [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0636; Amendment Nos. 25-140 and 33-34] (RIN: 2120-AJ34) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8060. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fiberglas-Technik Rudolf Lindner GmbH & Co. KG Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0292; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-011-AD; Amendment 39-18001; AD 2014-15-02 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8061. A letter from the Trial Attorney, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Training, Qualification, and Oversight for Safety-Related Railroad Employees [Docket No.: FRA-2009-0033, Notice No. 3] (RIN: 2130-AC06) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8062. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30978; Amdt. No. 3608] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8063. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30985; Amdt. No. 516] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8064. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Alma, NE [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0745; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ACE-3] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8065. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Cando, ND [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0746; Airspace Docket No.: 14-AGL-2] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8066. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Thomas, OK [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0263; Airspace Docket No.: 13-ASW-27] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8067. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Encinal, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0741; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ASW-4] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8068. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Restricted Areas R-4105A and R-4105B; No Man's Land Island, MA [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0760; Airspace Docket No. 14-ANE-8] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8069. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0431; Directorate Identifier 2013- NM-041-AD; Amendment 39-18003; AD 2014-21-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8070. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International, Inc. Air Data Pressure Transducers [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0285; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-035-AD; Amendment 39-17990; AD 2014-20-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8071. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0832; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-044-AD; Amendment 39-17995; AD 2014-21-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8072. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0451; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-122-AD; Amendment 39-17996; AD 2014-21-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8073. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2007-28413; Directorate Identifier 2007-NE-25-AD; Amendment 39-17993; AD 2014-21-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8074. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0548; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-008-AD; Amendment 39-18002; AD 2014-21-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8075. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0287; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-247-AD; Amendment 39-18000; AD 2014-21-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8076. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a letter regarding the use of private sector health care for the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8077. A letter from the Chief Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Corrections Based on Public Law 104-262 (RIN: 2900-AO93) received November 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8078. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Policy, Tracking and Control, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Designee for Patient Personal Property (RIN: 2900-AO41) received November 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8079. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Expand Access to Non-VA Care Through the Veterans Choice Program (RIN: 2900-AP24) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8080. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office

of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Exempting Mental Health Peer Support Services from Copayments (RIN: 2900-AP11) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8081. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Policy, Tracking and Control, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Designee for Patient Personal Property (RIN: 2900-AO41) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8082. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Annual Report on Child Welfare Outcomes 2009-2012, pursuant to Public Law 105-89, section 203(a) (111 Stat. 2127); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8083. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting ''Targeted Grants to Increase the Well-Being of, and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for, Children Affected by Methamphetamine or Other Substance Abuse: Fourth Annual Report to Congress''; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8084. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Surety Companies Doing Business With the United States (RIN: 1510-AB27) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8085. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of the Eagle Peak Mendocino County Viticultural Area and Realignments of the Mendocino and Redwood Valley Viticultural Areas [Docket No.: TTB-2013-0004; T.D. TTB-124; Ref: Notice No. 135] (RIN: 1513-AB96) received October 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8086. A letter from the Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a letter regarding negotiations with a new Trade in Services Agreement member; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8087. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Private Business Use of Tax-Exempt, Bond-Financed Facilities [Notice 2014-67] received October 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8088. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Election Procedures and Information Reporting with Respect to Interests in Certain Canadian Retirement Plans (Rev. Proc. 2014-55) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8089. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Lifetime Income Provided Through Target Date Funds in Section 401(k) Plans and Other Qualified Defined Contribution Plans [Notice 2014-66] received October 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8090. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Removal of the Qualified Payment Card Agent Program [TD 9699] (RIN: 1545-BG53), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8091. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Unpaid Losses Discount Factors and Payment Patterns for 2014 (Rev. Proc. 2014-59) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8092. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2015 Cost-of-Living Adjustments to the Internal Revenue Code Tax Tables and Other Items (Rev. Proc. 2014-61) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8093. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Designation of West African Ebola Outbreak as a Section 139 Qualified Disaster [Notice 2014-65] received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8094. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2014 Section 43 Inflation Adjustment received [Notice 2014-64] November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8095. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Group Health Plans That Fail to Cover In-Patient Hospitalization Services [Notice 2014-69] received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8096. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2014 Marginal Production Rates [Notice 2014-63] received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8097. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Highway Use Tax; Sold Vehicles and Electronic Filing; Taxable Period Beginning July 1, 2014 [TD 9698] (RIN: 1545-BG63) (RIN: 1545-BK35) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8098. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Allocation of Basis in All Cash D Reorganizations [TD 9702] (RIN: 1545-BJ21) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8099. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2015 Limitations Adjusted as Provided in Section 415(d), etc. [Notice 2014-70] received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8100. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Allocation of Earnings and Profits in Tax-Free Transfers from One Corporation to Another; Acquiring Corporation for Purposes of Section 381 [TD 9700] (RIN:1545-BK73; 1545-BL80) received November 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8101. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2014 Base Period T-Bill Rate (Rev. Rul. 2014-27) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8102. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Arbitrage Rebate Overpayments on Tax-Exempt Bonds [TD 9701] (RIN: 1545-BK80) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8103. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Failure to File Gain Recognition Agreements or Satisfy Other Reporting Obligations [TD 9704] (RIN: 1545-BK65) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8104. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Genitourinary Disorders [Docket No.: SSA-2009-0038] (RIN: 0960-AH03) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8105. A letter from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting a letter for determining whether a cost-of-living adjustment formula can be applied to Social Security and Supplemental Security Income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8106. A letter from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the November 2014 Annual Report of Payment Recapture Audits in Compliance with Section 2(h)(2)(D)(ii) of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8107. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the ''Report on the Purchase and Usage of Ammunition for 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

8108. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled ''Report to Congress on the Evaluation of the Medicare Frontier Extended Stay Clinic Demonstration (FESC)'', pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395x note Public Law 108-173, section 434(f); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

8109. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the ''Medicare Imaging Demonstration Evaluation Report to Congress''; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

8110. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report entitled ''Medicare Home Health Study: An Investigation on Access to Care and Payment for Vulnerable Patient Populations''; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

8111. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting fourth quarterly report of FY 2014 on Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

8112. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report ''Computation of Annual Liability Insurance (Including Self-Insurance) Settlement Recovery Threshold''; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

8113. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 113th Congress; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, and the Budget.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4329. A bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–628). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5746. A bill to prohibit an alien who is a national of a country with a widespread Ebola virus outbreak from obtaining a visa and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. MENG, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. TURNER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. COOK, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 5747. A bill to authorize the direct provision of defense articles, defense services, and related training to the Kurdistan Regional Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 5748. A bill to extend the requirement that drug manufacturers that increase prices faster than inflation pay an additional rebate to State Medicaid programs to include manufacturers of generic drugs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUCAS (for himself and Mr. HECK of Washington):

H.R. 5749. A bill to clarify membership requirements for the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida):

H.R. 5750. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize a 6-month extension of certain exclusivity periods in the case of approved drugs that are subsequently approved for a new indication to prevent, diagnose, or treat a rare disease or condition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 5751. A bill to ensure that claims for benefits under the Black Lung Benefits Act are processed in a fair and timely manner, to better protect miners from pneumoconiosis (commonly known as ''black lung disease''), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. COOK, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. YOHO, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. HURT):

H.R. 5752. A bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards for information on the kidnapping and murder of James Foley, Peter Kassig, Steven Sotloff, or the kidnapping and murder of any other citizen of the United States by a foreign terrorist organization; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 5753. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risk of cyanotoxins in drinking water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 5754. A bill to establish the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. STOCKMAN (for himself and Mr. BENTIVOLIO):

H.R. 5755. A bill to withhold certain highway funds from a State that uses an automated traffic enforcement system on a Federal-aid highway; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5756. A bill to restore a public firearms range to the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5757. A bill to redesignate the Frances Perkins Department of Labor building located at 200 Constitution Ave., NW in Washington, DC as the ''Reed Larson Department of Labor Building''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 5758. A bill to provide requirements for the appropriate Federal banking agencies when requesting or ordering a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account, to provide for additional requirements related to subpoenas issued under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. LONG, and Mr. PALAZZO):

H.R. 5759. A bill to establish a rule of construction clarifying the limitations on executive authority to provide certain forms of immigration relief; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARBER:

H.R. 5760. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to provide seven person firing parties in the funeral honors details for World War II veterans; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 5761. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to expand the definition of an unauthorized alien to include aliens who have not been admitted to and are not lawfully present in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. AMASH, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. FARR, Mr. POLIS, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. STOCKMAN, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 5762. A bill to authorize Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers to provide recommendations and opinions to veterans regarding participation in State marijuana programs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 5763. A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Billings, Montana, as the ''Bear Root Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. JOYCE (for himself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. DINGELL):

H.R. 5764. A bill to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MORAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 5765. A bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself and Mr. LAMBORN):

H.R. 5766. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the criteria for selecting communities to participate in the Small Community Air Service Development Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself and Mr. REICHERT):

H.R. 5767. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mrs. BLACK):

H.R. 5768. A bill to prohibit the use of funds for granting deferred action or other immigration relief to aliens not lawfully present in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H. Con. Res. 119. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. GABBARD (for herself, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 761. A resolution recognizing the benefits of charitable giving and expressing support for the designation of December 2, 2014, as Giving Tuesday; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. BASS, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CAMP, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COOK, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROONEY, Mr.

SOUTHERLAND, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. YODER):

H. Res. 762. A resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H. Res. 763. A resolution expressing support for designation of November 20 through November 26, 2014, as ''End Child Slavery Week'' to raise awareness of human rights abuses against children and to acknowledge the global fight against child slavery and child labor; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. ROONEY):

H. Res. 764. A resolution congratulating Congresswomen Frederica S. Wilson and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen on their induction into the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Hall of Fame; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H. Res. 765. A resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of passage of the Solar Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1974; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

331. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 430 urging the President and the Congress to publicly denounce the crimes against humanity occurring in Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

332. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21 urging the Congress to enact legislation that will extend the MotorCities National Heritage Area Partnership in Michigan; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

333. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 385 urging the Congress to investigate the Department of Veterans Affairs' treatment of military veterans seeking health care at facilities throughout the country; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

334. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 19 urging the President and the Congress to join California in opposing any reduction of the national and high-cost conforming loan limits; to the Committee on Financial Services.

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. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4, establishing an uniform Rule of Naturalization; and Article I, Section 8, Clause, regulating Interstate Travel.

Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 5747.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 5748.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 5749.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution states that Congress shall have the power to ''to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution states the Congress shall have the 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.''

Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 5750.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, which gives the Congress the authority to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Additionally, under Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 which gives Congress the power to promote the progress of science and useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5751.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5752.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (The Congress shall have the Power To . . . provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;), 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 this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof).

Enacting this bill is consistent with the powers vested to the Congress of the United States. With regard to Clause 1, the enactment of this bill will buttress the cause of ''provid[ing] for the common Defence and general Welfare'' by incentivizing individuals with knowledge of the referenced crimes to come forth so that the perpetrators may be brought to justice. Further, the language in the bill serves as a deterrent to the enemies of the United States, for if they know others have monetary incentive to bring them to justice, they may be less inclined to continue their criminal activity.

With regard to Clause 18, the bill provides the specific language, means, and authorizations to carry out the missions set forth in Clause 1.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 5753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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 this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 5754.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5755.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution: 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 Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5756.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment II of the Constitution of the United States

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5757.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States: 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 Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5758.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution, and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, which grants Congress the ability to make laws necessary to carry out that power. Additionally, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 9 grants Congress authority over federal courts and therefore implicitly allows Congress to require Judicial Branch review of Executive Branch actions. Finally, Article I, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be made law; and therefore it implicitly allows Congress to amend any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 5759.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution of the United States, which grants Congress the Power ''To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization . . .''

By Mr. BARBER

H.R. 5760.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, and 16), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a

Navy; to make rules for the government and regulations of the land and naval forces; and to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States.

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 5761.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 4 and 18.

Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 5762.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitution of the United States provides clear authority for Congress to pass legislation to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Article I of the Constitution, in detailing Congressional authority, provides that ''Congress shall have Power to provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States. . . .'' This legislation is introduced pursuant to that grant of authority.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 5763.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution reserves to Congress the power to raise and support Armies and provide and maintain a Navy, as well as make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

By Mr. JOYCE:

H.R. 5764.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Cluase 3 of the United States Constitution.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 5765.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section A.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 5766.

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.

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 5767.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 5768.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 679: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 684: Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 713: Mr. HUNTER and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 786: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1070: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 1731: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 1734: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1812: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 1910: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1981: Mr. TIERNEY and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2146: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 2368: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 2502: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 2737: Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 2847: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 2901: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3116: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3426: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 3471: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3480: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 3486: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 3512: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 3717: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 3742: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 4163: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 4221: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 4347: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 4365: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 4426: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 4507: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 4551: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 4679: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4693: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 4726: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 4748: Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 4778: Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. ROHRABACHER.
H.R. 4887: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 4930: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. REED, Mr. CARTER, and Mr CONAWAY.
H.R. 4960: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. KILMER, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. BARR, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. DENT, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4977: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 5059: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 5186: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 5227: Mr. RIGELL.
H.R. 5229: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 5267: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 5364: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 5372: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 5391: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 5473: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 5499: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 5532: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 5589: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MENG, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5638: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 5648: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 5655: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 5656: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 5680: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 5685: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 5690: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.
H.R. 5697: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 5706: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 5710: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 5737: Mr. GOHMERT.
H. Res. 72: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H. Res. 755: Mr. VALADAO and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H. Res. 757: Mr. GOHMERT.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

101. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the National Guard Association, Washington, D.C., relative to urging the Congress to remove the specter of sequestration from defense funding; to the Committee on Armed Services.

102. Also, a petition of the Council of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio, relative to Resolution 050-2014 expressing its desire for Congressional approval of H.R. 965; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

103. Also, a petition of the City of Miami, Florida, relative to Resolution R-14-0343 urging the Congress to enact the ''Bella Bill'' to advance pediatric cancer research; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

104. Also, a petition of the Township of Berkeley, New Jersey, relative to Resolution No. 14-388-R urging the President to utilize the full powers and authorities of his office to secure the release of United States Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi from Mexican custody; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

105. Also, a petition of the Blinded Veterans Association, Washington, D.C., relative to Resolution 14-14 urging the Senate to ratify the CRPD treaty; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

106. Also, a petition of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, Passaic County, New Jersey, relative to Resolution R-2014-753 urging the President to secure the release of United States Marine Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi from Mexican prison and custody and transferred to the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

107. Also, a petition of the Council of the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C., relative to Resolution 20-624 to approve the transfer of jurisdiction of a portion of Reservation 497 (Square 3712, Lots 101-104) from the United States, by the Department of the Interior, National Park Services, to the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

108. Also, a petition of the Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, relative to an appeal for action on legislation that will help ensure the continued economic recovery of the islands; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and the Judiciary.

109. Also, a petition of Colegio de Abogados y Abogadas de Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico, relative to Resolution No. 2 reaffirming the Association's historic opposition to the death penalty in Puerto Rico or sentences of Puerto Ricans convicted of death penalty crimes in any applicable jurisdiction; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

110. Also, a petition of the Ohio Clerk of Courts Association, Ohio, relative to a petition urging consideration and support for HR 5178; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

111. Also, a petition of the Senior Citizens League, Virginia, relative to a petition to pass the Strengthen Social Security Act S. 567 and H.R. 3118; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Education and the Workforce.

112. Also, a petition of the Blinded Veterans Association, Washington, D.C., relative to Resolution 21-14 supporting legislation to require the President, Vice President, and Members of Congress to enroll for VA medical care services and receive health care exclusively from the VA health care system; jointly to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Government Reform, and Veterans' Affairs.

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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Eternal God, thank You for not keeping a record of our wrongdoings. As we lift our hearts in prayer, open Your ears to our supplications. Keep our feet on a smooth, straight road so that we will experience Your best for our lives. Lord, walk with our Senators throughout this day. Remind them that they are Your servants, as You keep them alert to Your commands.

Forgive us when we forget to express our gratitude, for without Your help, challenges will overwhelm us. In this season of Thanksgiving we are grateful that You have not left us defenseless but that Your grace and Your mercy continue to prevail in our lives. We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 20, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m. today, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

There will be five rollcall votes at 2 p.m. on confirmation of the Pepper, Sannes, Arleo, Beetlestone, and Bolden nominations, all to be district court judges, followed by 11 voice votes on executive nominations.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS DOBY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the famous poet Oliver Wendell Holmes said: ''Put not your trust in money, but put your money in trust.'' That is what he said. Since 2005 the Senate has put its money—precious taxpayer dollars—into the trusted hands of a man by the name of Chris Doby. He is the financial clerk of the Senate. He has proven himself to be equal to the task. That is an understatement. Through budget cuts, sequestration, and even a government shutdown, Senators and staff knew that Chris Doby and his team would make it work, no matter what took place.

There is just one story I will share with the Senate. In the midst of the government shutdown, Senate employees had no assurance of when their next paycheck would come. Staffers with families, mortgages, and student loan payments all hoped the shutdown would not be their personal financial disaster. Missing a check or two can be very difficult for most everyone.

After 16 days, Congress passed legislation funding the government, and the shutdown came to an end. That was October 16, 2013, just 2 days before payday for Senate staffers. It is important to understand that processing payroll for almost 7,000 employees normally takes about a week. But anticipating what a missed paycheck would mean for his fellow Senate employees, Chris Doby calmly pushed them to make it work.

So in less than 48 hours, with a very depleted staff, Chris and the Senate Disbursing Office ensured that every Senate staffer received their paycheck on time. Because of their efforts, mortgage payments were made, groceries were purchased, and working families breathed a sigh of relief.

I was trying to think what I could say today to indicate to this good man and his family and his friends and Senate staffers what a good person he is and what a good professional he is. The comparison I thought I would make is this. When I was a boy, I used to love to listen to the game of the day on radio, Mutual Radio Network in the town I lived in, a little town in Nevada. We, of course, had no TV. But radio reception came in pretty good during the day. I do not remember the station, but we could listen to the radio.

On the game of the day, I focused on some people who were so good and who later became even better than I had imagined. One of those people who is now in the Baseball Hall of Fame was a man by the name of Larry Doby. He was a center fielder for the Cleveland Indians. He was good. He could run fast, jump high. He hit with power. He stole bases. He was very good.

This Doby we have in the Senate, in my opinion, is somebody who, just like Larry Doby, would make the All-Star

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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team and should be in the Senate Hall of Fame for the good work he has done over these many years.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

PROPOSED EXECUTIVE ACTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words this morning about President Obama's proposed Executive action on immigration. I will begin with a quote from the President himself. ''Democracy is hard,'' he said during a commencement speech in Miami 3 years ago. ''But it's right. [And] changing our laws means doing the hard work of changing minds and changing votes, one by one.''

As somebody who well understands just how difficult the work of changing minds and votes can be, I could not agree more with the President's statement. Americans accept that democracy's blessings are only made possible by the constraints it imposes—both its legal contours and those imposed by popular elections.

We accept democracy's messiness. We accept that we may not always get all of what we want exactly when we want it. Based on more of what the President said in Miami, this is something he seemed to understand as well. He was talking about immigration that day.

Here is something else he said on that topic. ''I know [that] some . . . wish that I could just bypass Congress and change the law myself. But that's not how democracy works.'' Indeed, it is not—all of which makes the President's planned Executive action on immigration even more jarring.

If the President truly follows through on this attempt to impose his will unilaterally, he will have issued a rebuke to his own stated view of democracy. He will have contradicted his past statements on this very issue. The instances of President Obama saying that he does not have the power to do the kinds of things he now plans to do are almost too numerous to list.

He tried to suggest otherwise last weekend. But a prominent fact checker panned the spin as ''Pinocchio-laden'' and clarified that the President has been asked specifically about the source of actions that he is contemplating now. The President's previous answers seemed to be unequivocal: He lacked the legal authority to act, according to the President himself.

As one example, President Obama said last year that Executive action was ''not an option,'' because ''[he] would be ignoring the law. ''There is a path to get this done,'' he said, ''and that is through Congress.'' He is right. The action he has proposed would ignore the law, would reject the voice of the voters, and would impose new unfairness on law-abiding immigrants, all without solving the problem.

In fact, his action is more likely to make it even worse. We have already seen the consequences of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, his most recent action in this area. It was a factor in encouraging young people to risk their lives on a perilous journey some would never have even contemplated and some would never complete.

The effect of this action could be just as tragic. Just as the Affordable Care Act had little to do with making health care more affordable, slapping the term ''immigration reform'' on something does not make it actually immigration reform. Just as with ObamaCare, the action the President is proposing is not about solutions, it is not about compassion, it seems to be about what a political party thinks would make for good politics.

It seems to be about what the President thinks would be good for his legacy. Those are not the motivations that should be driving such sweeping action, and I think the President will come to regret the chapter history writes if he does move forward because the plan he is presenting is more than just—as the President himself has acknowledged—an overreach, it is also unfair. What does the President have to say to the countless aspiring immigrants who spent literally years waiting patiently in line, to the people who played by all the rules? Where is his compassion for them? What does the President have to say to the millions of Americans who still can't find work in this economy? The President can't reach across the aisle to secure a serious jobs plan for them, but he is willing to put everything he has into one Executive action? Where is the justice?

There is a larger point too. Some people seem to have forgotten this already, but we just had an election. Before that election the President told us about his plan to act unilaterally on immigration. He reminded us that his policies were on the ballot. And then the people spoke. The President doesn't have to like the result, but he has a duty to respect it. The American people clearly sent a message. Nobody missed it. They said they want to see us working together. They said they want to see more serious ideas pass through Congress. What they didn't say they wanted to see was the President sidestepping the very representatives they just elected. That is why so many Kentuckians have been calling my office in opposition to this plan. I know phones have continued to ring off the hook all week in our offices across Capitol Hill. Our constituents want to be heard. President Obama needs to listen to their voices.

If nothing else, perhaps the President will at least consider the views of Democratic Senators and Members of Congress who have urged him not to do this. These Democrats understand the consequences of a President from a different political party citing this precedent in the future.

Either way, he needs to understand something: If President Obama acts in defiance of the people and imposes his will on the country, Congress will act. We are considering a variety of options, but make no mistake—when the newly elected representatives of the people take their seats, they will act.

Look, as the President has said, democracy is hard. Imposing his will unilaterally may seem tempting. It may serve him politically in the short term. But he knows it will make an already broken system even more broken, and he knows this is not how democracy is supposed to work because he told us so himself.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Maryland.

TRAGIC SYNAGOGUE SLAYINGS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I know I express the sentiments and outrage of every Member of this body about the tragic events in Israel this past Tuesday where those in a synagogue were brutally slain. It was a shock to all of us—in a synagogue, in a place of worship, people there praying and studying, and their lives were brutally ended.

Let me just mention the victims. Rabbi Moshe Twersky, Rabbi Aryeh Kupinsky, Rabbi Kalman Levine, Avraham Goldberg, and Zidan Saif, a police officer.

I particularly want to mention Rabbi Kupinsky because there is a connection

here to Maryland. Three of the victims had U.S. citizenship. Rabbi Kupinsky is a cousin of a distinguished constituent, Judge Karen Friedman of Baltimore. So this affects all of us.

I know first and foremost our prayers are with the families and we express our deepest sympathy. I also express our resolve to eliminate such extremists and to work with the international community so there is no refuge anywhere in the world—anywhere in the civilized world—for such extremists. Then I would hope we would all recognize and speak out for Israel's right, indeed its obligation, to defend its people from such brutal attacks.

The Baltimore Sun said this morning in its editorial there could be no excuse, no explanation, no reason or even plausible justification for the horrific attack on a Jerusalem synagogue Tuesday that left four Rabbis and an Israeli police officer dead.

I know we all believe in that statement. There is no justification for such actions. Yet Hamas—and again I would quote from the Sun paper—''Hamas, the militant [extremist] group that controls Gaza, hailed the attack in the synagogue as a blow against Israel's occupation. . . . ''

This just points out the difference between Hamas and Israel. I have been on the floor many times talking about Israel's legitimate right to defend itself and Hamas's desire to put innocent people in harm's way. It is our responsibility to speak out. If this event would have happened in the United States, I think we all know what the reaction would have been. So our resolve goes out to the people of Israel that we will stand by them and that we stand by their right to defend themselves.

This is in the backdrop of a rise of anti-Semitism. We have seen these violent attacks in Brussels and Toulouse earlier this year, a brutal slaying in Antwerp, Jewish schools and community centers and synagogues being targets of attacks, extremist parties gaining political support espousing anti-Semitism. We saw that in Hungary and other countries.

I want to mention once again the role this Congress plays in the Helsinki Commission. I have the honor of being the Chair of the Helsinki Commission during this Congress, and the Helsinki Commission implements the commitments we made almost 40 years ago—the Helsinki Final Act; the core principles of human rights and tolerance. Our bedrock principle is that in order to have a stable country you have to have a commitment to basic human rights, and it is not just your obligation but every country that is part of Helsinki, including the United States, that has the right to challenge any other country in its compliance with those basic human rights. We have made progress.

Ten years ago I was privileged to be part of the U.S. delegation in the Berlin conference. The Berlin conference was established to deal with the rise of anti-Semitism, and an action agenda came out of that conference 10 years ago. It put responsibility on us—political leaders—to speak out against anti-Semitic activities in our own country or anywhere in the world. It set up an action plan to deal with educating, and particularly dealing with Holocaust education, to deal with the Holocaust deniers. It dealt with police training because we understand a lot of criminal activities are hate crimes and the police need to be able to identify when hate crimes are taking place in their own community.

We decided to share best practices by providing technical help to countries to do better, and we established a special representative to deal with anti-Semitism. Rabbi Baker is currently that special representative. But we went further than that, we expanded it to all forms of intolerance—not just anti-Semitism but xenophobia, anti-Muslim activities—because we recognized that the same people who are extremists and who deny individuals because of their anti-Semitic acts would do the same against Muslims, would do the same against any people because of their race or ethnic background.

I was very pleased to see commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Berlin conference. There was a reconvening in Berlin—Berlin plus 10. Ambassador Powers, our Ambassador to the United Nations, led the U.S. delegation. She did a great job. I want to acknowledge that Wade Henderson, representing the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, also participated because there is unity here. It is not just the anti-Semitic activities, it is the intolerance we have seen grow too much in our world community today.

The concluding document said we need to increase our political and financial support for civil societies, and I agree with that. Transparency and supporting the NGOs, supporting civil societies, is critically important.

The bottom line is we must work together to root out all forms of anti-Semitism and all forms of intolerance. Let us work together to make all our communities safer by embracing diversity and recognizing basic human rights.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RUSSIAN ENCROACHMENT INTO UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to call this body's attention to a crisis that grows more alarming every day, and that is the continued Russian encroachment into Ukraine. It has been over 2 months since the Ukrainian Government entered into a ceasefire agreement with Russian-backed separatists in southeastern Ukraine. It is an agreement that the separatists have repeatedly violated, and since it came into effect hundreds—hundreds—of Ukrainian soldiers have died in battle against these same separatist forces.

The Ukrainian people want peace, but these insurgents and their patrons in Moscow are not interested. Every day they grow more aggressive and bolder in their violations of the Ukrainian territory and their willingness to subvert the international order.

I know there are some in this body who would say this is not our problem, it is thousands of miles away, and not our concern. Some people may think it doesn't matter which flag flies over the territory. I have a different view. To me, what happens in Ukraine is very much in our interests. It is in the interests of all who value liberty and the right to choose one's own future. The stakes are very high, and the consequences of inaction are devastating. To those who ask why is this important, let me bring up several points.

First, it is in America's interest to uphold our traditional commitment to supporting democracy around the world and the right of a people to choose their own destiny. When the Soviet Union fell and the people of Eastern Europe took back the liberty that had been stolen from them decades before, the United States made a solemn promise: Embrace democracy, freedom, transparency, and the rule of law, and we will embrace you.

The Ukrainian people made their choice. They did so on the 24th of August, 1991, when an independent Ukraine ceased to be a dream and became a reality. They reaffirmed that commitment over a decade later when the Orange Revolution swept a corrupt government from office. And earlier this year in the face of Russian threats, intimidation, and aggression, they did so again. I saw that commitment firsthand earlier this year when I had the honor of leading a Congressional delegation with my colleague from Maryland, Senator CARDIN, to monitor the Ukrainian Presidential election. Senator CARDIN and I saw the spirit of the Ukrainian people and their determination to honor the memory of brave men and women who had given their lives in the fight for a free and independent Ukraine. That fight continues today.

But this fight is about more than just Ukraine. Failing to honor our commitment to the Ukrainians will have real consequences that extend to other national security priorities for the United States of America. When Ukraine emerged as an independent nation after the Cold War, it inherited the world's third largest stockpile of nuclear weapons. As a newly independent State

looking to ensure its sovereignty and territorial integrity, Ukraine could have relied on its nuclear arsenal to ward off would-be aggressors. They made a different decision. Instead of pursuing this dangerous path, they sought and received assurances from the international community that its borders would be respected if it gave up its nuclear weapons.

In 1994, the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, and Ukraine signed the Budapest Memorandum in which all sides pledged to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, refrain from using military force or economic pressure to limit Ukrainian sovereignty, and provide assistance to the Ukraine if it became the victim of aggression from another nation.

Clearly Russia has broken its part of that agreement. Now the question is whether we are breaking ours. If we do break our word, what will the impact be on American counter-proliferation efforts around the world? How can any nation we seek to prevent from developing nuclear weapons ever trust U.S. security assurances if they see the carnage and destruction in Ukraine, if they see this as being the result of trading nuclear weapons for American guarantees?

More than just the credibility of U.S. counter-proliferation efforts is at stake here. Events in the Ukraine are a direct challenge to the entire U.S.-led international order. U.S. economic and military power was the glue that kept the Western alliance together through the challenges of the Cold War and formed the foundation of an international order based on universal values and standards of conduct that has led to unprecedented global prosperity and stability. This in turn has produced a period of U.S. economic growth and security unrivaled in our Nation's history. Confidence in America's willingness to use our unmatched capabilities to uphold this system deters potential challengers and incentivizes other countries to play by the rules, which prevents us from actually having to use them.

America's commitment to uphold this system is incredibly important. If the credibility of this commitment is in doubt, then the stability and openness upon which U.S. economic prosperity and national security depend is jeopardized and the chance for violence, instability, and economic collapse increases.

By the way, the Russian Government knows all this. President Putin, who famously declared the collapse of the Soviet Union to be ''the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century,'' knows that his dream of building a new Russian empire out of the ashes of the Soviet Union requires establishing Russian dominance over its newly independent neighbors, many of whom—like Ukraine—want closer integration with the West, not Russia. To accomplish this goal, Moscow must shatter this political, economic, military, and ideological credibility of the Western system. Russian aggression against Ukraine today or Georgia back in 2008 is as much about demonstrating the emptiness of U.S. and Western guarantees as it is about control of these individual countries, in my view. The conflict in Ukraine is the latest escalation of this trend, one that will continue until the United States and its allies say firmly, ''This shall not continue.''

The President keeps saying that ''there is no military solution to this conflict.'' The President may think so, but Moscow certainly does not. The direct Russian military involvement in Ukraine has been on full display for the world to see for months. In previous times it may have been easier to keep these movements out of sight, even as President Putin does his best to suppress a free press. But we are fortunate to have reporters willing to document what they see for all the world to witness.

Here are a few examples in the media from recent days. This is a picture of a Russian-made T–90 main battle tank in the Luhansk Oblast of Ukraine recently. This T–90 tank, by the way, is a very sophisticated Russian tank.

Do you know who owns these T–90 tanks? Here are the countries: Algeria, Azerbaijan, India, Turkmenistan, and Russia. I think it is safe to say that these tanks didn't drive from South Asia or from North Africa. They came from Russia, and they are in Ukraine.

Here is a picture of a Sukhoi-24 attack fighter reportedly taken in Russia. You will see painted on the tail the flag of the pro-Russian separatists. Not many people are aware of reports that Russia is helping to create a separatist air force, but we must wake up and realize the extent to which Russia is determined to trample on Ukraine and the global order to achieve its ends. In the last couple of days there have also seen reports of significant movement of Russian aircraft to the Ukrainian border.

These are just a few examples of the Russian armored personnel carriers, artillery, tanks, air defense systems, electronic warfare units, and thousands of Russian troops that NATO reports say have moved into Ukraine over the last several weeks. According to the Ukrainian analysts, Russian and separatist forces have been organized into mobile strike groups and have completed reconnaissance of Ukrainian positions in preparation for an all-out assault. Barely a day has gone by since the signing of the so-called ceasefire in September where Ukrainian troops haven't come under attack, as separatists probe Ukrainian defenses looking for an opening. Since the beginning of the conflict, conservative estimates have put the number of Ukrainian soldiers killed or wounded at roughly 4,000.

By the way, at least another approximately 5,000 civilians have been killed or wounded in the fighting.

We shouldn't be afraid to call this exactly what it is. This is part of a Russian invasion. We saw it in Crimea; we are now seeing it in other parts of Ukraine.

Two months ago the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, spoke here before a joint session of Congress. We were all there. It was a poignant speech, a powerful speech, and one from the heart. There is a line in that speech that I think stood out. In speaking about the aid we have sent to Ukraine and thanking us for that aid, President Poroshenko said, ''One cannot win the war with blankets. Even more, we cannot keep the peace with a blanket.''

And he was right. Blankets won't stop this tank we saw earlier. Blankets won't stop bullets. Blankets won't protect Ukrainian children from Russian artillery shells.

We don't know a whole lot about what the United States has provided to the Ukrainians, but I will get to that in a moment. We are having trouble getting that information from the administration. But we know a few things. We know we have given them blankets, sleeping mats, military rations, medical kits, and body armor. This is the majority of what we have been providing, as far as we know, to the Ukrainian military. I know the Ukrainians are grateful for these items. But when you compare this to the Russian involvement, the differences are startling. Here is what we provided to the Ukrainians. Here is the Russian support being provided to the separatists. I am proud of the hard-working Ohioans——

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has used 10 minutes.

Mr. PORTMAN. While I am proud of the hard-working Ohioans in Cincinnati and elsewhere who are making these rations, and the folks in Heath who produce these helmets, they know as well as I do that this equipment doesn't constitute deterrence, especially not when Ukrainians are facing advanced Russian equipment and troops.

May I ask unanimous consent for an additional 3 minutes?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. Thank you.

I don't mean to downplay the importance of the economic, political, and humanitarian aid we have provided. Indeed, there are many economic and political reforms the Ukrainians will need to make in order to secure long-term peace and prosperity. But how can Ukrainians be expected to make these difficult but necessary reforms if it cannot control its own borders or maintain law and order? There is a military dimension to this crisis we simply cannot ignore any longer.

Moscow continues to believe that military force is a viable option to achieve its goals. Unless the United

States and its allies help the Ukrainians prove otherwise, we shouldn't expect any change in its behavior. Ukraine needs anti-tank weapons to defend against armored assaults; it needs modern air defense systems to defend against Russian air superiority; it needs unmanned aircraft to monitor its borders and to detect violations of its sovereignty and the ceasefire. It needs secure communications gear to prevent Russia from accessing Ukrainian plans and troop locations. It needs advanced counter-battery radar to target the artillery batteries responsible for so many of the casualties in the conflict. It needs elite rapid reaction forces capable of responding to Russian border provocations and the fast-moving asymmetric ''hybrid war'' tactics the Russians use to destabilize the country. Therefore, they also need training. The Ukrainians have asked for this support, and we should provide it.

Most importantly, Ukraine needs a sustained commitment from the United States and our NATO allies to provide both the quality and the quantity of equipment necessary to preserve its independence. This is not a partisan issue. Leading Democrats in the Senate, such as the Chairmen of the Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees, Senators LEVIN and MENENDEZ, as well as Senator CARDIN and others, have joined in calling for increased assistance, including defensive weapons. Yet the President and some of his top advisers continue to stand in the way of meaningful action for fear of provoking Russia, as if the tanks streaming into Ukraine or the daily clashes aren't evidence enough that American restraint has not had the desired effect on Russian activity and policy.

It is well known by now that the President has refused to adopt policies that actually provide Ukraine with the capabilities needed to change the situation on the ground. What is less well known is whether the administration is even fully committed to fulfilling the objectives of its own already limited policies.

For all the talk we have heard about the President and his steadfast support for Ukraine and the $116 million in security assistance the United States has promised to deliver, we know almost nothing about how these policies are actually being implemented. This administration has been a black box when it comes to getting even the most basic information on our efforts to aid Ukraine. Despite multiple requests, including a letter to the President from Senator CARDIN and me, we still can't seem to get answers on fundamental questions: What equipment has been delivered to Ukraine? How long will it take to deliver the equipment we have promised but not delivered? What is the process for determining what capabilities to provide? How does the equipment we have agreed to provide support the capabilities they have requested? How do our assistance efforts fit into a comprehensive strategy?

This complete lack of transparency on the day-to-day implementation of U.S. assistance raises questions about the underlying policy guidance driving it and whether the administration actually has far more modest goals than the President's public rhetoric would suggest. For example, a bipartisan assessment, conducted by GEN Wesley Clark, Retired, and former top Pentagon official Dr. Phillip Karber, and featured in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and other major newspapers, revealed that the Obama administration has issued extremely restrictive instructions on the type of nonlethal aid the United States could provide. The lack of this aid has created real problems for the Ukrainians.

The fact is that no one in Congress knows how these regulations will be applied. This is a huge problem and stands in the way of a coherent and effective policy.

Yesterday the President's Deputy National Security Adviser testified that strengthening the Ukrainian forces is ''something we should be looking at.'' While this is a welcome change of tone, we should be well beyond the point of just looking at it, in my view, because every day we delay, every day we dither, every day we match Russian action with half-measures and self-imposed limitations, Moscow is emboldened and the danger grows.

I am convinced that a piecemeal, reactionary response to intimidation from Moscow is a recipe for failure. Instead, we must have a comprehensive, proactive strategy that strengthens NATO, deters Russian aggression, and gives Ukraine the political, economic, and military support it needs to maintain its independence. We need a strategy that seeks to shape outcomes, not be shaped by them.

Much of that leadership must come from the White House, but this body also has a role to play. We should include funding for Ukrainian military assistance in upcoming spending bills. We should pass the Ukraine Freedom Support Act, which would authorize the assistance Ukraine needs today. We should pass legislation that will reduce Ukraine's—and all of Europe's—reliance on Russia for its energy resources. And we should pass legislation to ensure that the United States never recognizes Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea.

The need for action could not be more clear. Through his aggression in Ukraine, President Putin and Moscow are sending a message to Ukraine and to the world that America and the West are indecisive and weak and that their guarantees of support are meaningless. The Ukrainian people have rejected that message, choosing instead the path of democracy and openness—a path the United States has urged the Ukrainians and also the world to follow. We and our NATO allies must now stand with them.

When America is strong, when we stand unequivocally for freedom and justice, when we don't back down in the face of threats and intimidation, that is when we see a world that is more stable, less dangerous, and more free. That is because we stand with our allies.

More wars, more conflicts, more threats to our security—these do not arise from American strength; these arise from American weakness. Let's be strong again. Let's lead again. Let's help Ukraine. The world is watching.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for up to 10 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is recognized.

REMEMBERING HERMAN J. RUSSELL

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, on Saturday night of last week, Georgia, Atlanta, and America lost a great citizen.

Herman J. Russell was one of the greatest African-American business leaders and civil rights leaders the world has ever known. He passed peacefully in his home after a short illness, but his legacy and his life will last forever—not just in the history books but indelibly on the skyline of our city.

In 1952 Herman J. Russell started a small plastering company called H.J. Russell & Company. He had just graduated from Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and he came to Georgia to make his fortune and his fame. He started out plastering walls and ceilings, and he finished his career building the Georgia Dome and the Georgia Pacific Building, the 1996 Olympic Stadium, and buildings throughout the Atlanta skyline. While doing so he made a lot of money which he reinvested back not into his investments but into his community.

In 1999 Herman Russell by himself gave $4 million to Morehouse College, Clark Atlanta University, and Georgia State University, and last December gave $1 million to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta to rebuild and help renovate the facility in downtown Atlanta for a hospital for children.

He was always giving back more than he asked, but his greatest gift may have been the fact that he enabled Martin Luther King in the civil rights movement in the 1960s. It is well known that Dr. King would go to Herman's house to take refuge, take a swim and relax between the arduous times of the civil rights movement. Herman Russell would finance the movement and finance the movement's efforts so they could continue to move forward to bring about equality in the South. That is an indelible mark he left in history, not just for our State but for our country.

Herman and his wife had three wonderful children. They are involved in

the business today. Today the business is still flourishing, as it always has. In fact, the new Atlanta Dome Stadium, which will house the Falcons, is a $1.3 billion stadium in which the company was integrally involved.

Our city has lost a great friend, a great African American, and a great entrepreneur—so great, he was recognized by the Atlanta Chamber as its first African-American member and its second African-American president. He has been recognized by the Butler Street YMCA, the Atlanta and Georgia Business Council, and almost every entrepreneur group there is for his contributions to business and his contributions to investments in the State of Georgia.

It is with great sad tomorrow night that I will go to Ebenezer Baptist Church and be a part of the wake ceremony for Mr. Russell. But it is with great pride that I rise today on the Senate floor to make sure the RECORD indelibly recognizes the life, the times, and the contributions of Herman J. Russell.

REMEMBERING CARL SANDERS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, on Sunday night a great Georgian and a personal friend of mine passed away from this life. At the age of 89, former Governor Carl Sanders died in Atlanta, GA, at Piedmont Hospital.

Governor Sanders was Governor of Georgia from 1963 to 1967. I was at the University of Georgia as a student from 1962 to 1966, so my college years paralleled his gubernatorial years, where he made a remarkable change in the politics and lives of the people of Georgia.

Everyone remembers what the 1960s were like in the South in terms of segregation. Most of the Governors in the South—like Governor Wallace from Alabama—were segregationists. But Carl Sanders came forward as a Governor who wanted to help bring people together, who wanted to help bring Georgia and the South through a turbulent time, to see to it that African Americans rose to equality not just in the way they were recognized but in the ways the laws were created. In fact, it was Carl Sanders who came to Washington in 1964 to meet with Lyndon Johnson and help form the foundation for the civil rights laws that passed later in the 1960s.

Carl Sanders was born in Augusta, GA. He went to the University of Georgia on a scholarship and played football, and he left the university to go fight in World War II and was a fighter pilot. He came back from World War II, graduated from the University of Georgia, and then graduated from Georgia Law School. He practiced law and was elected to the State legislature and then to the State senate and then Governor of the State of Georgia. He was Governor from 1963 to 1967.

Back then, Georgia Governors could not succeed one another, so he had to wait 4 years to run for a second term. He did wait 4 years and he ran for a second term, and he lost ultimately to the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter. But he was never a loser; he was a winner. And in everything he did, whether it was government or business or family life, whatever it might be, Carl Sanders excelled.

He was such a wonderful man to share his wisdom and knowledge. About once every 6 or 8 months he would have three or four of us over to his office, at the age of 89, treating us to lunch and talking about the good old days but also talking about the future. Carl Sanders was not about the past, except for memories; he was about the future for its hope and its prosperity for people.

Carl Sanders will be remembered for a lot of things, but in Georgia, most importantly, he will be remembered for what became at first a junior college system but is now a 4-year college system which has every Georgia citizen within a 45-minute drive of a State university system facility. His passion as Governor was education. His legacy in Georgia will be education. He contributed greatly to our State and greatly to the future and the prosperity of the people of the State of Georgia.

It is with a great sense of sadness but a great sense of pride that I pay tribute today on the floor of the Senate to a great Governor of Georgia, a great citizen of our country, and a great American—the Honorable Carl Sanders, former Governor of the State of Georgia.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is in morning business.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been 511 days since the Senate passed bipartisan legislation to reform our broken immigration system. Fourteen Republicans joined the Democrats in supporting a measure which covered what I believe are the major challenges facing America when it comes to immigration in the 21st century.

There was an amendment adopted by Senator CORKER, and I believe Senator HOEVEN cosponsored it. Their amendment would have strengthened our border security to unprecedented levels.

At this moment in time, we have more Federal law enforcement officials on the border between the United States and Mexico than the combined population of all other Federal law enforcement agencies. It is a massive commitment which would have been enhanced even more by the comprehensive immigration reform bill.

For those border State Senators, we would have reached the point where—from Galveston to San Diego—we would have literally had available a law enforcement agent every half mile 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is a massive investment, and it passed the Senate 511 days ago.

That same bill addressed some serious issues about agriculture workers in Illinois, California, Texas, and all across the Nation. Growers are telling us they are having a difficult time bringing in the workers who will do the backbreaking, hard, physical labor necessary for agriculture. This bill addressed it. In fact, the bill was endorsed by both growers as well as those who do the work. It was an amazing political achievement.

It also addressed the issue of H–1Bs. Why in the world do we bring the best and brightest from around the world to the United States for advanced degrees, advanced education and then welcome them to leave? If they stayed and worked to create jobs and new businesses and new innovations in America, we could build our economy. The bill addressed it.

As important as all of those issues are, the bill addressed 11 million undocumented people in America—11 million, and that is just an estimate. The bill said those who were here undocumented—who had been here for several years—could step up, register with the government, pay their filing fee, submit themselves to a background check, pay their taxes, and then be reviewed annually for years to make sure they were still complying with the laws of the United States.

They would not qualify for government benefits or programs during this period of time, but they could work their way to legal status. That bill passed the Senate on a bipartisan basis with 68 votes. The bill then went over to the House of Representatives where, sadly, it languished. Nothing happened.

The Speaker of the House refused to call the bill up for a vote. In fact, he refused to call any aspect of the bill up for a vote. He refused to call it in committee for any consideration or debate, and then he let it languish. There were times when the House Republican leadership tempted the White House and others by saying: Well, maybe now we can call it up for a vote. They never, ever did. We have waited 511 days, and here we are today.

This evening, President Obama is going to announce an Executive order to address immigration. He has waited patiently, and America has waited patiently for the Republicans in the House of Representatives to step forward and accept this responsibility, but they have refused. They have refused to fix this broken immigration system, and you can bet as soon as the President issues his Executive order, there will be a chorus of complaints that this President has gone too far by using his Executive authority to address this issue.

You won't hear the facts from the critics. You won't hear from the critics that every President since Dwight

David Eisenhower—I believe 11 different Democrats and Republicans—have issued Executive orders relating to immigration. President George Herbert Walker Bush basically said—by Executive order—that we are not going to prosecute 1.5 million undocumented immigrants in America. He used his prosecutorial discretion. That is the kind of thing which we have come to expect from Presidents, and we expect Congress to complain about it. That has continued.

Here is what we believe President Obama will announce today. The details are just starting to emerge in press reports. He is going to announce that we are going to push for accountability in immigration. Senator MARCO RUBIO was on the bipartisan panel that put together the comprehensive immigration reform bill. He said something that was very pressing, and I wish to refer to it at this moment. He said for those who criticize amnesty, doing nothing is amnesty for those who are here in the United States and undocumented. Doing nothing is amnesty.

What President Obama is going to suggest—instead of amnesty—is accountability. Here is what he will say. Those who have children who are American citizens and have been here at least 5 years will have a chance to step forward and register with the government, pay the filing fee for processing, submit themselves to a criminal background check, and pay their taxes.

The President says, if you will do that—under his order—it is my understanding it will say you can legally work in America. They will not become a citizen nor will they have legal status beyond the work permit, but they don't have to fear deportation. They are down the list and are not considered a dangerous person who should be deported.

The highest priority for those who will be deported are those with criminal records, and they should be deported. There is no room in the United States for anyone—let alone undocumented—who come here and commit a crime.

Secondly, if you have repeat offenders and those who violated the legal system, they will be in the second category.

The third category of those who meet the criteria I mentioned will be given their chance.

This is about accountability. This really says to those who wish to say: If you will play by these rules, we will give you a chance to stay and work.

What is the reason? We want to deport felons; we don't want to deport families. We want to deport criminals; we don't want to deport children. We will focus our efforts on the borders on those who are trying to come across and those who are here and should leave. That means more resources would be put into enforcement, and it also means that those who are here will be registered. We will know who they are, where they are, where they are working, and we will know that they are paying their taxes to stay in this country.

The alternative from the Republican point of view—for 511 days—is to do nothing. That is an unacceptable alternative.

There is a better alternative to an Executive order, and the President will be the first to say it, and that is that this Congress—on a bipartisan basis—rolls up its sleeves and tackles this issue. We should. That is why we were elected. To do nothing, as the House has done for 511 days, is unacceptable. To stand by the sidelines and criticize this President for using his Executive authority—the same Executive authority used over and over again by Presidents of both political parties in the field of immigration—is not constructive.

There is one other thing that is even worse. Some Members of the other party are suggesting they are prepared to shut down the Government of the United States over this issue. If the President uses his legal authority, they have threatened to shut down the Government of the United States.

We saw that last year when the junior Senator from Texas took the floor and said he was going to close down the government over the issue of the Affordable Care Act. It was a terrible strategy. A lot of innocent people were hurt. It cost our government and our economy dearly. It was a politically desperate act which I hope will not be repeated ever again—certainly not when it comes to the issue of immigration.

If there was ever a time for us to stand together—both political parties—and solve a problem, this is it. Standing on the sidelines and complaining—which is what we have heard over and over again from the House Republican leadership and continue to hear when it comes to the President's Executive order—is not the kind of constructive policy the American people need.

I applaud the President. He is going to take a lot of grief for this—for using his Executive power—but thank goodness he is stepping up and addressing the problem. Where others have walked away from it, ignored it, and come up with every excuse on Earth, he is directly addressing the problem. And now it is time for us in the Congress to do the same thing.

We are going to come back after Thanksgiving and will be here for at least 10 days. Speaker BOEHNER, leader of the Republican House, has the authority to instantly call to the floor of the House this bipartisan immigration bill which passed the Senate. There is no excuse. If he is going to criticize the President for using his power to solve a problem, then the Speaker should use his power to address that same problem. Call the comprehensive immigration reform bill before we leave at the end of this year. Bring it up for a vote in the House. I think it will pass.

If it passes, and we do—by legislation—a much broader review and change in the immigration reform bill, we will have done what we were elected to do. We will have served this Nation, and we will have set out to repair this broken immigration system.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am glad I came to the floor and heard my friend and colleague, the majority whip, from Illinois, and his explanation for how it is clearly within the President's authority to issue this Executive order he plans on announcing tonight. The basic problem is the President himself has said repeatedly he doesn't have that authority. He said it repeatedly. We have all seen the clips on TV and online. He said he doesn't have the power to do it. He was right then, and he is wrong now.

There is a right way and a wrong way to solve problems. The right way would have been during the first 2 years, after President Obama won the election in 2008 and his party commanded 60 votes in the Senate and a majority in the House of Representatives. If this had been a priority for him, he could have done it then.

Instead, on a party-line vote, he chose to jam through the Affordable Care Act—ObamaCare—and we see what a disaster that has been. It was not just me. I was a skeptic. I didn't think it would work. While the goals were laudable and worthy, I just didn't think the Federal Government had the competence or certainly the ability to reconfigure one-sixth of our economy. But the President did it, his party passed it, and it enjoyed no bipartisan support.

That is one of the basic problems with what the President is doing today. The reason why it is so important to follow the Constitution—which requires passing legislation affecting 5 million people through both Houses of Congress and forces us to negotiate and build consensus—is because those are sustainable policies.

If you try to do things on a ''my way or the highway'' basis or on a purely partisan basis, those are not sustainable because we know that as time goes by, today's majority will be tomorrow's minority. Now a Democrat occupies the White House. Perhaps next time a Republican will occupy the White House. Who knows. The point is that only objectives we pursue through the legislative process according to the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America that are done on a bipartisan basis through that natural census-building that is required in order to reach our goals—those are truly sustainable policies. And when the President decides to do it through an Executive order, exercising powers that he himself said he does not have, what are people supposed to think?

I heard my friend from Illinois say, Well, it has been 511 days and Republicans haven't swallowed the comprehensive immigration reform bill that has come from the Senate. They are not required to swallow it. They can pass legislation or not on their own timetable. The old joke is that the opposing party is our adversary, but the Senate is the enemy. That is the joke in House circles. So there is a natural rivalry between the House and the Senate. They are not expected nor required to accept what we pass, nor are they required to do it on our timetable. I believe Speaker BOEHNER and Majority Leader MCCARTHY are committed, as am I and the incoming majority leader come January, Senator MCCONNELL, to making progress on an incremental basis in this important area. It has to be thoughtful, and we have to have fulsome debate with everybody participating in the process.

There are important questions. What impact is the President's Executive order going to have when the unemployment rate is still at 5.8 percent nationally and when the percentage of people actually looking for work is at a 30-year low because many people have given up because of the slow-growing economy? What is the impact of these 5 million—or however many additional work permits the President presumes to have the power to issue—what is the impact going to be on competition for jobs with the economy growing slowly and jobs in short supply? What is the impact of the President's Executive order going to be on household median income? We know wages have been stagnant for the middle class because of this slow-growing economy. What is the impact of millions of additional people competing for jobs in the economy going to be on wages?

I would like to have the answers to those questions.

I would also like to know if the President has the power—which he said he doesn't have but now apparently he has changed his mind—to issue this kind of Executive order affecting 5 million people? What about the other 6 million people who are in the country who did not come in in compliance with our immigration laws, who either overstayed their visas or came across the border illegally?

I come from a border State. We have 1,200 miles of common border with Mexico. We encountered what was described as a humanitarian crisis because we had this magnet known as the impression that we would not enforce our laws that encouraged people to make that treacherous journey from Central America across Mexico. Many of these immigrants lost their lives, were sexually assaulted or kidnapped and held for ransom—very dangerous circumstances in the hands of the criminal organizations that basically control this business. This is a business for them. But if the President has the authority to do this for 5 million, why not the 11 million? How does he explain his action to the 6 million people who will now see these 5 million getting preferential treatment? And how in the world does he explain it to the people who have waited patiently year after year trying to do it the right way? The President has effectively bumped them out of the line and bumped 5 million people ahead of them.

I have every confidence that if we were able to do this in a thoughtful, deliberative sort of way, we could find a compassionate and satisfactory outcome for the people who made the mistake of entering the country illegally or who have overstayed. I believe in proportionality. We don't give the death penalty for speeding tickets. So I think there is an appropriate way to address this, but it is not by an amnesty. I call it an amnesty because, basically, there is no reconciliation process. In other words, when a person makes a mistake—and we all make mistakes and we all understand the aspirations and hopes immigrants bring to the United States because they come here for the same reason people have historically come here, and that is for the American dream. We understand that. But we also understand that when somebody has made a mistake, they need to own up to it and they need to reconcile themselves to lawful authority because, otherwise, the attitude is the law doesn't matter, and it is the law that protects all of us no matter who we are, where we come from, or how we pronounce our last name. And when we have a lawless process, as we do now and which this Executive order does nothing to fix, what that does is perpetuate lawlessness and chaos, and it also continues to enrich these criminal organizations that are more than happy to charge people $5,000, $6,000 a head to make that treacherous journey.

Beyond all of the issues I just addressed, this is a terrible precedent. Again, I understand now the President has decided—and some of our Democratic colleagues say, Well, this is the same thing George Bush did and this is the same thing Dwight Eisenhower did. Well, it is not, and the President knew that when he said he didn't have the authority to do this previously. Now he has changed his mind. Now the argument is they issued Executive orders essentially implementing bipartisan legislation such as the 1986 amnesty that Ronald Reagan signed. There were Executive orders taken in furtherance of that consensus position based on the legislation. However, never has any President purported to have the authority to, out of whole cloth, do what this President says he is going to do.

Where does he get the authority to issue work permits? I understand he can prioritize prosecution and deportation, and he has, but where does the President get the authority to issue work permits for millions of people?

This is rocking people's fundamental confidence in their government. We elect Presidents to faithfully enforce the laws, including the Constitution of the United States. That is the oath the President takes when he is sworn in: ''I do solemnly swear.'' These laws, of course, are beyond the Constitution drafted by Congress. It is ''Schoolhouse Rock.'' Bills start in the House, and in the Senate they have to be reconciled and then sent to the President. That is civics 101. Maybe we need a new course called remedial civics 101 for those who have somehow forgotten how the Constitution is written and how it actually is implemented in the form of the legislative process.

Of course, if the President objects to what Congress sends him, that is when the negotiations start. He can veto it. We can vote to override it if we have the votes. If we don't, we are back to square one and we have to start that negotiation again.

I have never seen or even read of a President who seems so detached, so disinterested in actually engaging in this process set out by the Constitution. This President says if he doesn't get his way, I have a pen. I have a phone. I am going to go it alone. Well, that is a disaster waiting to occur, because it is a provocation to the other branches of government which say, Well, we are not irrelevant in this process and we may have something to say about it. I think we will see some of that in the very near future with regard to the way appropriations are made and what functions of government fund it.

I heard my friend from Illinois say, People are even threatening a government shutdown. That is not true.

I take that back. The Democrats are saying that. No Republican has said that. It is just not going to happen. It shouldn't happen and it won't happen.

I love it when our friends in the other party like to tell us about our own internal politics. I was at the White House with the President and bicameral, bipartisan leadership and our Democratic friends said that the House of Representatives can't pass any immigration reform bill. Well, I don't know how they know that, unless they have some insider wisdom that is not obvious to the people who actually work there and have the responsibility to make it work.

What I know and what I believe is that there is a good-faith desire to try to solve this problem, but not by what I call the ''pig in the python'' approach. In other words, we tried that with the Affordable Care Act, a 2,700-page bill involving trillions of dollars of expenditure done purely on a partisan basis and it didn't work. I think there is an understandable aversion to trying to do things in a comprehensive sort of way. So why not break it down into pieces and do what we can, because there are a lot of different pieces that enjoy bipartisan support.

I think the precedent the President is setting is very dangerous, because if he purports now to have this power which he previously said on numerous occasions he didn't have, what about future

Presidents? What about policies others may not like? Even if a person believes this is a pretty good idea—a person might say, The President is trying to act because obviously this is a controversial issue and things aren't moving fast enough, so I like what the President is doing. Suppose a person says that. Well, just think about the possibility that a few years from now when we have an election, we have a new President, and what if that President says, Well, President Obama purported to exercise this massive Executive authority in defiance of the Constitution and the laws, so I guess I can do it, too.

This is not the kind of political system we want. This is not good for the American people. We do not want a system in which each party, when they happen to be in power, takes their turn abusing Executive authority. We do not want that. I would have thought there are enough people who love this institution known as the U.S. Senate and believe it has an indispensable role in our government who would say, Wait, Mr. President, don't do it, because we may like the policy, but this really is an end run around the Constitution and the role that is appropriately played by both Houses of Congress and the Executive.

But, apparently, there are few, if any, folks on the other side of the aisle who believe that our tradition and our constitutional system of legislating is worth preserving—at least in this instance.

I have spoken at some length about the practical consequences of the President's amnesty, but those consequences also bear repeating since the eyes of the country are now focused on what the President is going to announce tonight. We know from recent experience that the President's unilateral amnesty will be communicated to people in other countries as a signal that they can all come in. That is what happened with the unaccompanied children; 62,000 of them I think the number is, roughly, from Central America since last October. The reason there was a flood and a humanitarian crisis, as described by the President and the administration themselves, is because the signal was the green light is on and people can come to the United States.

People need to come legally. As long as they get here, they can stay. This is because it undermines one of the basic premises of effective law enforcement, and that is deterrence. In other words, we don't want to just try to stop people after they break the law. Actually, it is too late to stop them. What we like to do is deter people from even thinking about breaking the law and, in this instance, even making that perilous journey.

There is going to be a surge, an uptick, of some type of an illegal immigration. People are going to see this as a further signal it is OK to come, and they don't need to comply with the law, they don't need to wait. They can just come. If they are one of the lucky ones, they get to stay because this President or somebody will issue a further pardon.

As I said earlier, this is also a major boom to the cartels and other gangs who control Mexico's smuggling networks. It will almost certainly lead to thousands of people who committed crimes in this country gaining legal status. It will also, as I said earlier, punish people who played by the rules and waited patiently in line trying to immigrate to the country legally. It will punish them by putting them in the back of the line.

Let me just repeat this because it is important to me. America is the most generous country in the world when it comes to legal immigration. We are the beneficiary of the brains, the ambition, the hard work of people who come here from all over the globe. All of us weren't—or almost all of us, our ancestors were not born in the United States. We came from somewhere else. Mine came through Ellis Island from Ireland after one of the potato crop famines in the 19th century. So we understand both the desire to pursue the American dream in this country and the benefits that accrue to our country as a result of legal immigration. That is why we are such a generous country when it comes to legal immigration, but the current chaos associated with illegal immigration has a number of very negative consequences.

I mentioned a moment ago my State has 1,200 miles of common border. It gets attention every once in a while as it did when this humanitarian crisis involving these unaccompanied minors occurred, but it happens day after day that people are detained coming across the southwestern border from all over the world.

I met a young man about 6 months ago when I was down on the border who had emigrated from Bangladesh. I wondered how in the world did he get here from there. There were a number of other Senators and Congressmen with me. We asked the Border Patrol: Can we ask him? They said: Sure.

It turned out he spoke enough English. I asked: Well, how much did it cost you to get here?

He said: Six thousand dollars.

I said: How did you get here?

He said: I had to transit eight countries to get here.

That is a pretty complicated itinerary for anybody even under normal circumstances, but what it demonstrates is there are networks not just in Central America and Mexico but around the world that feed people into this network in order to immigrate to the United States illegally. What we are doing is nothing about that. Last year people were detained at the southwestern border from 140 different countries. If someone goes down to the outside of Falfurrias, TX, down in South Texas, they have rescue beacons the Border Patrol has put out. If someone made this long trip from Central America through Mexico in the hot weather, let's say, and they are dehydrated, they are worried about their life and their health, they can actually go hit this rescue beacon and the Border Patrol will come pick them up which is maybe not their first choice, but it is better than dying from exposure.

The languages of those rescue beacons, the ones I saw outside the checkpoint at Falfurrias, TX—they are in English, Spanish—that doesn't surprise anybody. The third language is Chinese. Chinese is not a native language for most—for anybody, I bet, in Brooks County, TX. What it demonstrates is that there is a pipeline coming across the southwestern border from all over the world. It doesn't take a lot of imagination to see what a potential threat that is from a public safety standpoint.

I know there are people who scoff at the idea of enhanced border security. The Senator from Illinois said we have enough Border Patrol to have one every half mile, 24 hours a day. This would be a way to try to secure the border. It has to be a combination of technology. It has to involve boots on the ground, and in some places—this is controversial along the border—we need to have what they call tactical infrastructure, fencing in some places, particularly in urban areas where it is easy to sprint across and be lost in a crowd before anybody discovers them.

Last year there were roughly 414,000 people detained coming across the southwestern border—414,000 from more than 144 countries. Does that sound as though we solved the problem of border security? No.

We are also sending mixed messages, as I said earlier, in terms of deterrence because people keep coming because they think they have a pretty good shot of making it in, and then the President issues an Executive order.

I wish to mention one other issue that has a particular impact on communities in my State of Texas, because we are on the frontlines of this issue, which is cost to the local taxpayer. I know the distinguished Presiding Officer is a former mayor. The cost of health care, law enforcement, and education fall not primarily on Federal taxpayers, they end up falling on local taxpayers, including the taxes they pay for their school district or their city or their county, the emergency health care provided to the local emergency room and of course law enforcement costs.

Believe me, people who come across the border are not all coming for the right reason. There are people who exploit our poorest border with criminal intent on their mind. They are dangerous, and so law enforcement has to take special precautions. That costs money. It costs the local taxpayers.

The Federal Government has been abdicating its responsibility along the border for a long time. I, for one, have to chuckle when my friends from nonborder States want to tell me and tell

my constituents about our backyard because frankly, to put it in a nice way, they need more information because they don't know what they are talking about.

Most of my friends in the—this is understandable. We all understand our States and our regions. We know them better than other parts of the country that perhaps we haven't been to, but most of my colleagues—I get the impression that their knowledge of the border is from movies they have seen or novels they have read, not from the facts on the ground or studying statistics issued by the Border Patrol or the Department of Homeland Security.

There is a right way and a wrong way to do what the President is purporting to do. The right way to do it is in accordance with the Constitution which requires both Houses to pass legislation and try to reconcile those in a conference committee and then send them to the President.

There are regular negotiations taking place all along the way, but there are enough areas of consensus that I believe we can make true progress. We have not been able to do it through a comprehensive bill because I think there is enormous skepticism, not just about Washington but about Congress as well as about comprehensive bills having unintended consequences.

Take the Affordable Care Act. The President said: If you like what you have, you can keep it. Your prices will go down, not up. That ended up not being true. When that happens people are skeptical. What are they trying to sell us next? The best way to deal with that, it seems to me, is to break it down into smaller, transparent pieces, and then move the pieces across the floor in the House and the Senate, and let's get them to the President.

After we have done that one, two, three, four times, I think people will then say: Well, you know what we have just done is immigration reform in an incremental sort of way. It is not going to satisfy everybody. Again, if your demand is I want everything I want or I am not going to take anything, we know what happens when people lay down those sort of ultimatums. You get nothing.

While there are areas on the immigration topic, which admittedly is controversial, it is challenging, but it is our responsibility to address these challenges and these difficulties and do the very best job we can. The answer is not—and it can't be—a Presidential abuse of power.

As I pointed out earlier, when we try to do things on that basis, just like if we try to pass legislation on a purely partisan basis, it doesn't work. It is not sustainable. It is a provocation to the people who have been carved out of the process to try to do what they can to defend their role in the process, and that is what I worry about.

I remember being at a conference not that long ago when James Baker III and Joseph Calafato spoke. They talked about the importance of bipartisanship. Not that I am ever going to get the Presiding Officer to agree with me on everything I believe and he is not going to agree with me on everything I believe, but they made the point when it comes to some of the most challenging topics, bipartisanship solutions are the only ones that are actually sustainable.

What happens is after the next election, the party that was pushed out of the process and run over then says, OK, we are going to try to repeal everything they did because we didn't vote for it and we don't support it. That commends itself to my way of thinking to a recommitment of bipartisan accomplishment. I am committed to that.

I know from talking to colleagues across the aisle that after 4 years of being shut out of the process themselves in the Senate, they are going to enjoy the new Congress come January because they will be able to participate in the process. If people have a good idea, they can come to the floor and talk about it. They can offer their idea and get a vote.

Nobody is guaranteed to win every time, but people should have a right to get a vote and to raise the profile of the issues they care most about and the people they work for care most about.

I wish the President wouldn't do this. It will not work. It is unconstitutional. It purports to exercise a power he himself said he does not have, but he seems determined to do it nonetheless.

I believe the American people will react negatively to this President's claim of authority to issue this amnesty, and I believe then the next step is for Congress to do everything we can to stop it and then to do it the right way, not the wrong way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, the words of Cicero are powerfully relevant 2,077 years later: When, President Obama, do you mean to cease abusing our patience? How long is that madness of yours still to mock us? When is there to be an end to that unbridled audacity of yours, swaggering about as it does now? Do not the nightly guards placed on the border, do not the watches posted throughout the city, does not the alarm of the people and the union of all good men and women—does not the precaution taken of assembling the Senate in this most defensible place—do not the looks and countenances of this venerable body here present, have any effect upon you? Do you not feel that your plans are detected? Do you not see that your conspiracy is already arrested and rendered powerless by the knowledge that everyone here possesses of it? What is there that you did last night, what the night before—where is it that you were—who was there that you summoned to meet you—what design was there which was adopted by you, with which you think that any one of us is unacquainted?

Shame on the age and on its lost principles. The Senate is aware of these things; the Senate sees them; and yet this man dictates by his pen and his phone. Dictates. Aye, he will not even come into the Senate. He will not take part in the public deliberations; he ignores every individual among us. We gallant men and women think that we are doing our duty to the Republic if we keep out of the way of his frenzied attacks.

You ought, President Obama, long ago to have been led to defeat by your own disdain for the people. That destruction which you have been long plotting ought to have already fallen. What shall we, who are the Senate, tolerate President Obama, openly desirous to destroy the Constitution and this Republic? For I passed over old instances, such as how the IRS plotted to silence American citizens.

There was once such virtue in this Republic that brave men and women would repress mischievous citizens with severe chastisement than the most bitter enemy. For we have a resolution of the Senate, a formidable and authoritative decree against you, Mr. President. The wisdom of the Republic is not at fault, nor the dignity of this Senatorial body. We, we alone—I say it openly—we, the Senate, are waiting in our duty to stop this lawless administration and its unconstitutional amnesty.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to recognize National Rural Health Day. I would like to take a moment to recognize our rural health care providers and all they do for this country.

Approximately 62 million Americans live in rural areas and they depend on an ever-shrinking number of health care providers. Rural providers play a very important role in improving the health of their communities and supporting local economies.

I thank our rural providers—individuals, hospitals, and clinics—for all they do. Rural providers support a population that makes invaluable contributions to this country through food production, manufacturing, and other vital industries.

Yet more people in rural areas are living below the poverty line than their urban counterparts. Rural hospitals are struggling to continue providing care due to declining payments, many exacerbated by the Affordable Care

Act. The past few years have been marked by increasing rural hospital closures, with 27 hospitals shutting their doors in the past 2 years.

The trend is concerning and deserves attention as many more facilities and communities are at risk. Once a hospital is gone, the devastating impact on the community cannot be undone. The economic impact is unmistakable.

The typical, critical access hospital creates over 140 jobs in primary employment and $6.8 million in local wages while serving a population of over 14,000. When facilities close, the consequences of traveling great distances for medical care are much more than just mere inconvenience. The delays in obtaining care can mean the difference between life and death. According to the U.S. News & World Report, that was the case for an infant in Texas who choked on a grape and died after the only hospital in the county had closed just a few months before.

There are a number of similarly tragic stories, and they will continue to mount if we fail to take action.

In 1946, Congress recognized the importance of rural health care providers and worked to build the rural health care infrastructure that exists today. It is called the Hill-Burton Act. The country has changed dramatically since 1946 and thoughtful action to improve the distribution and capabilities of our rural health care system is overdue. We need to act now to support our rural providers and facilitate a responsible transition to a modernized health care system.

Rural America is facing what I would call an arbitrary attrition of providers. The hospital closures are a function of no specific design. It is all about balance sheets strained to the breaking point of continual payment cuts. It is not about where providers need to be to serve populations. We need to take a thoughtful look then at what the future of rural health care needs to be.

We need to be willing to consider bold steps to ensure that rural America has access to high-quality health care. Health care coverage, whether through private insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, without access to providers of that care is meaningless.

We need to put a stop to the arbitrary process now and work forward in designing a better, sustainable future for rural health care.

I close, once again, by thanking all of America's rural providers. I am committed to working with all stakeholders to transition to a better future and protect access to health care in America.

TAX EXTENDERS

I would like to speak about the tax extenders bill that is being worked on between the House and the Senate in an informal conference and to explain why I am concerned about the direction it might be taking, particularly as it relates to alternative energy and as it relates to wind energy tax production credit.

Here we are in another lameduck session of Congress, working to finish the business we failed to complete the previous year or two.

One of those critical pieces of legislation that must be enacted is a tax extender bill. It seems as though nearly every year in recent memory we have put off the extension of expired tax provisions until the very last minute.

In 2012 revision provisions remained expired for an entire year before we finally extended them in January of 2013. Similarly, the previous extension of prior provisions did not occur until the middle of December.

Now, once again, we find ourselves heading into the month of December with tax extenders having been expired for nearly 11 months, and there is a lot of uncertainty that causes a slowdown to the economy when people don't know what the tax provisions are.

This is no way to do business. Such late action by Congress results in complications during filing season for taxpayers. That is a big problem for the IRS. We need to do something right now. It is almost too late to get tax preparers to know what to do for the next tax season. Obviously, tax season is unpleasant enough without our adding to it by failing to do our job in a timely fashion.

Once again, we have created a lot of headaches and uncertainty for individuals and businesses. This uncertainty harms investment and business growth; in other words, slowing the economy, as I previously said. This is bad for economic growth and does nothing to create the jobs that can come when we have more certainty for people who invest in capital and want to provide jobs.

The lapse of renewable energy incentives has also created a lot of uncertainty and slowed growth in the renewable energy. This only serves to hamper the strides made toward a viable, self-sustainable renewal energy sector.

It didn't have to be this way. The Senate Finance Committee, under the leadership of Chairman WYDEN and Ranking Member HATCH, did its job. We marked up an extenders package in early April. The Senate never took up that package because the majority leader refused to allow Republicans to offer amendments. And it happens that even a couple of amendments that were going to be adopted had wide bipartisan support. Rather than consider and advance the Finance Committee bill, the majority leader shelved the extenders bill because of fear that Members of his party might have to take tough votes.

With the election behind us, it is now time to get to work and get the extenders bill done. I understand that negotiations are ongoing between the House and Senate on this issue. I am encouraged by reports of progress being made. However, I am concerned about rumors that some are working to leave out or shorten the extension of the wind energy tax credit.

I fought this issue in the Finance Committee when one of the Members on my side of the aisle tried to strike that provision. But we had a bipartisan vote of 18 to 5 to defeat that amendment that would have struck the wind production tax credit from the bill that is now before the Senate.

It seems as though opponents of wind energy have tried at every turn to undermine this industry, and so I am not surprised that we are at it again, even considering the 18-to-5 vote in the Finance Committee.

I agree the Tax Code has gotten too cluttered with too many special interest provisions. That is the reason many of us have been clamoring for tax reform for years now. But just because we haven't cleaned up the Tax Code in a very comprehensive way doesn't mean we should pull the rug out from under domestic renewable energy producers. Doing so would cost jobs, harm our economy, the environment, and our national security.

I am glad to defend the wind energy production tax credit and continue to defend it. In fact, I can tell you that 22 years ago, when I first got this passed through the Congress to become law, I didn't think it would become the big thing it is. But there is a tremendous amount of energy being generated today by wind energy. Wind energy supports tens of thousands of American jobs. It has spurred billions in private investment in the United States, and it displaces more expensive and more polluting sources of energy.

More than 70 percent of U.S. wind turbines value is now produced in the United States, compared to just 25 percent prior to 2005.

Once again, opponents of the renewable energy provisions want to have this debate in a vacuum. They disregard the many incentives and subsidies that exist for other sources of energy and are permanent law. For example, the 100-year-old oil and gas industry continues to benefit from tax preferences that aren't generally throughout the economy for all businesses but only benefit their industry.

These are not general business tax provisions—I want to say that again—they are specific to oil and gas business. A few examples: Expensing for intangible drilling costs, deductions for tertiary injectants, percentage depletion for oilwells, special amortization for geological costs.

I am not going to find fault with that, but I will find fault with people who justify that, yet take on wind energy. These are four tax preferences for a single energy resulting in the loss of more than $4 billion annually in tax revenue.

Nuclear energy is another great example. The first nuclear powerplant came online in the United States in 1958. That is 56 years ago. Nuclear receives special tax treatment for interest from decommissioning trust funds.

Congress created a production tax credit for this mature industry in 2005,

which is going to be available until 2020. Nuclear also benefits from Price-Anderson Federal liability insurance that Congress provided. That was supposed to be a temporary measure in 1958, but this temporary measure has been renewed through 2025. Nuclear energy has also received $74 billion of Federal research and development dollars since 1950.

Are those crony capitalist handouts? Well, nobody seems to be attacking them. Is it time to end the market distortions for nuclear power? Well, nobody is talking about that. But they are talking about wind energy.

We had a Cato study about nuclear energy that said:

> In truth, nuclear power has never made economic sense and exists purely as a creature of government.

People are saying that about wind energy, but I don't hear the same people saying it about nuclear power.

I don't understand the argument that repealing a subsidy for oil and gas or nuclear energy production is a tax increase like the accusation against wind, while repealing an incentive on alternative or renewable energy is not a tax increase. So it is not intellectually honest.

As I said before, we have had wind incentives since 1992, and I am the father of that. I suppose now, after 22 years, you might say I am the grandfather of it. I know it won't go on forever. In fact, it was never meant to go on forever. And people in the wind energy even admit that today and talk about phaseouts.

I am happy to discuss a responsible multiyear phaseout of that wind tax credit. In 2012, the wind energy was the only industry to put forward such a phaseout plan. But any phaseout must be done in the context of comprehensive tax reform where all energy tax provisions are on the table, not just wind solely. And it should be done responsibly, over a few years, to provide certainty and ensure a viable industry.

It is time to put an end to the annual kabuki dance that is tax extenders. Good tax policy requires certainty that can only come from long-term predictable tax law. Businesses need the certainty in the Tax Code so they can plan and invest accordingly.

Moreover, taxpayers deserve to know that the Tax Code is not just being used as another way to dole out funds to politically favored groups. However, the only sound way to reach this goal is through comprehensive tax reform.

I agree there are provisions in extenders that ultimately should be left on the cutting room floor. But it is in tax reform—comprehensive tax reform—where we should consider the relative merits of individual provisions. Targeting certain provisions for elimination now makes little sense for those of us who want to reduce tax rates as much as possible.

Tax reform provides an opportunity to use realistic baselines that will allow the revenue generated from cutting back provisions to be used to pay for reductions in individual and corporate tax rates.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the future to enact tax reform and put an end to the headaches and uncertainty created by the regular expiration of tax provisions. Right now our focus must be on extending current expired or expiring provisions to give us room to work towards that goal.

It is my hope that we can move quickly to reach a bipartisan, bicameral agreement that can quickly be enacted and that includes the wind energy tax provisions. Taxpayers have already waited too long.

What really gripes me about this whole argument is that people say they are for all of the above. I am for all of the above, I can say. You know, that means fossil fuels, that means all sorts of alternative energy, it probably includes conservation, and it includes nuclear. But when I see the people fighting the wind energy tax credit coming from petroleum and natural gas and from coal, I think of these people who say they are for all of the above, they are really for all of the below but for none of the above. And that is wrong and inconsistent.

I want a consistent, uniform tax policy for all forms of energy being extended right now.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the previous order be modified so that the following nomination be added following Executive Calendar No. 962: Calendar No. 1008, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WALSH. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PEPPER NOMINATION

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Madam President, it is my privilege to recommend to the Senate the Honorable Pamela Pepper to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. Patty served with distinction and is the current chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Although not native to our State, she has set down deep roots in Wisconsin, first serving in the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, followed by private practice in Milwaukee and finally serving 9 years as a bankruptcy court judge.

Pam was born in the delta of Mississippi in a town called Leland. Her parents were both teachers and instilled in her an intellectual curiosity which has been apparent throughout her career. She migrated north for college and attended Northwestern University in Chicago, where she received a degree in theater.

After helping a friend get through the LSAT review course, she realized she might want to explore other careers and ended up taking the LSAT herself. She obviously had prepared herself well because she performed well on the LSAT and was accepted into the Cornell University School of Law.

After graduation, she clerked with distinction for Judge Frank Johnson on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals and then moved on to become a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago.

She is widely respected within her profession, evidenced by having held offices as the president of the Milwaukee Bar Association and the chairperson of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Wisconsin. She is an instructor of national stature and speaks frequently on trial practice and evidence. She is currently an instructor at the Federal Judicial Center.

I have had the opportunity to speak to practitioners who have appeared before her bankruptcy court. They have told me of her patience with attorneys, which is a virtue of hers they all value.

Pam possesses a great sense of humor, which she often uses to put litigants at ease. She displays compassion in making tough decisions by explaining the rationale for those decisions clearly so her reasoning is understood by all. She has shown great dexterity in reacting to difficult situations in court with calm reasoning.

Finally, Pam has been described as a practical judge who promptly resolves disputes while faithfully adhering to the rule of law.

Pam's intellectual curiosity, her demonstrated ability to learn new areas of the law and efficiently administer her office, has convinced me she will continue to excel in her new role as a Federal district court judge. Judge Pepper has my full support, and I urge my colleagues to vote yes on her confirmation.

I conclude my remarks by thanking the hard-working members of our bipartisan nomination commission for their dedication and efforts.

I also thank Senator BALDWIN for her continued support of this successful nominating process that has once again resulted in the selection of a well-qualified jurist, Judge Pamela Pepper, who will serve the N and the Wisconsin Eastern District well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. I rise this afternoon to urge my colleagues to confirm Judge Pamela Pepper for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. I am delighted to once again join my colleague Senator JOHNSON on the floor to discuss this nomination.

The people of Wisconsin deserve to have experienced and highly qualified judges working for them, and I am proud to have worked with my colleague Senator JOHNSON and our judicial nominating commission to put in place this process for filling the critical Federal judicial vacancies in our State. I was pleased to join Senator JOHNSON in May of this year to support the confirmation of Jim Peterson, whom the Senate confirmed to a seat for a Federal judgeship in the Western District of Wisconsin. I am pleased to stand on the floor with my colleague today to speak in support of another terrific judicial nominee who will serve the people of Wisconsin well.

Judge Pepper is an outstanding bankruptcy judge, and she will be an outstanding U.S. Federal district judge.

As President Obama noted in making the nomination, ''Judge Pepper has a long and distinguished record of service, and . . . will serve on the federal court with distinction.''

Pam Pepper has indeed dedicated her professional career to public service. She has a distinguished career as a judge, Federal prosecutor, public defender, and attorney in private practice. She has spent that career dedicated to serving her clients and the people of the United States. I am confident she will continue her outstanding service on the bench, and the people of Wisconsin will benefit from having this experienced and dedicated public servant as a U.S. district judge.

As we have heard, she has served as the chief bankruptcy judge in the Eastern District of Wisconsin since 2010, having served as a bankruptcy judge in that district since 2005. She simultaneously served the people of the Southern District of Illinois as a bankruptcy judge during that same period. Judge Pepper has contributed significantly to the field of bankruptcy law and the continuing education of bankruptcy judges and practitioners.

Prior to her time on the bench, Pamela Pepper worked both as a solo practitioner engaged in criminal defense work and as a Federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Offices in Chicago and then Milwaukee.

Before becoming a bankruptcy judge, Pam Pepper also held numerous leadership positions within the legal community, including on the boards of the Federal Defenders Service of Wisconsin, the State Bar of Wisconsin, the Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association, and the Milwaukee Bar Association, just to name a few.

Senator JOHNSON and I strongly support Judge Pepper's nomination to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. Our joint support of a judicial nominee should once again send a strong message to the entire Senate that she is the right choice for this judgeship.

I urge my colleagues to confirm judge Pamela Pepper so that she can continue her distinguished service to the people of Wisconsin and the people of the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business until 2 p.m.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the distinguished Presiding Officer.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, as we know, tonight President Obama is going to speak to the American people about reforming our broken immigration system. I had dinner with him last night, and we talked about this. I think it is generally expected that he will announce what he can do to address some of the problems that are tearing families apart, dragging the U.S. economy down and risking our national security. For 2 years the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives refused to even allow a vote on the Senate's bipartisan bill. Because of that, I understand and appreciate why the President is going to act.

There are currently 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States, but everybody knows we are not going to round up and deport 11 million people. It just can't be done. Even if it could be done, it would be totally un-American and against everything that we stand for. These are, after all, mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters. They are not a number. They are real people. And the President's action will acknowledge that. It is a necessary step in an effort to bring people out of the shadows, focus scarce enforcement resources on those who actually pose a threat, and bring some stability to those who are hardworking, law-abiding members of our community. I would much rather have people who are taxpayers and know they are here legally, so we can concentrate on those who aren't. That is what the President wants to do.

President Obama knows there is no substitute for legislation. President Reagan and President Bush used a similar type of Executive order. It is a temporary and incomplete solution because legislation has to be passed. We have to step up and fix the broken immigration system once and for all, as we did in the Senate when Republicans and Democrats came together last year. But to those who say we should wait for Congress to act, I think we have waited long enough.

We have been waiting now for 511 days since the Senate passed immigration reform. That is 511 days, during which time the Republican-controlled House of Representatives could have taken up our bill—either voted for it or voted against it. The least they could do is vote. Vote ''yes'' or vote ''no.'' I think about what my friend and the former chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Edward Kennedy, said in the summer of 2007. We had comprehensive immigration reform before the Senate. It was being blocked by the Republicans. He said:

> A minority in the Senate rejected a stronger economy that is fairer to our taxpayers and our workers. A minority in the senate rejected America's own extraordinary immigrant history and ignored our nation's most urgent needs. But we're in this struggle for the long haul.

Senator Kennedy was right. That is why Democrats and Republicans came together to pass an immigration bill out of the Senate. I just ask why, 511 days later, has the Republican-controlled House refused to either vote for it or vote against it? We held days of hearings and lengthy, extensive markup sessions. We worked late into the evenings debating the bill. Many of us worked weekends. I remember, because I was there. We considered hundreds of amendments. More than 300 amendments were filed. We adopted 136 of them. All but three were adopted with both Republican and Democratic votes. What was initially a proposal from the so-called Gang of 8 became, through the committee process, the product of 18 Members from both sides of the aisle. The Senate Judiciary Committee recommended this improved bipartisan bill to the full Senate. It wasn't exactly the bill that I would have written, but it was a fair and reasonable compromise. It reflected the deliberative process at its best, and I felt honored to bring the bill to the floor.

But look what happened. Sixty eight of us voted to pass it, and the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives will not even bring it up for a vote. To this day, the Republican leadership in the House is batting zero when it comes to truly addressing the broken immigration system.

The President is not acting alone. The American people support immigration reform. Remember that. The American people support immigration reform. A bipartisan majority of the Senate has endorsed action. It is the House of Representatives that is out of step. Our system is not going to fix itself. We know this. It should be no surprise that the President has decided to use his authority to make our country safer, stronger, and more humane. If Republicans really, truly want congressional action on reform, they can

take action today and allow a vote on the Senate-passed bill. I hope that every Member of the Republican Party who says that what the President is doing is terrible will also ask when House Republicans are going to vote one way or the other on the Senate's bill. Our bill would make everything the President is doing unnecessary. Remember that.

The President has the legal authority to take this action. Every President since Eisenhower has exercised this authority. Some, such as President George H.W. Bush, did so on a sweeping scale. We make laws in Congress. The President sets enforcement policies. He clearly has the power to take the scarce resources we have given him and identify and deport those people who pose a danger to our communities, and he can limit the deportation of those who are law-abiding, tax-paying members of the community.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Next week, millions of families in this country will gather around a table to give thanks for the many blessings they have received. I know my family and I and our children and our grandchildren will. The President's actions will be counted among those blessings for the millions of loved ones who worry that their mother, father or grandparents could be deported at any moment. The security the President's action will give these families on Thanksgiving is powerful and indispensable.

For some, it is about something even more urgent. It is about seeking safety. While I applaud the President's announcement today, I remain deeply disappointed by his decision to build a large new detention facility to hold vulnerable women and children fleeing violence in Central America. Many of these individuals are asylum seekers, not criminals, and their ongoing detention is unacceptable. I urge him to revisit this policy.

The action the President will announce today is going to draw criticism from those who sought to stop immigration reform at every turn. As a grandson of immigrants, I say that after years and years of obstruction, the President is right to take action. I am married to a woman who is the daughter of immigrants. At the heart of it all, this is about keeping America's communities strong and vibrant. We benefit from immigration. That has been our history. Let it be our future.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PAMELA PEPPER TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

NOMINATION OF BRENDA K. SANNES TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

NOMINATION OF MADELINE COX ARLEO TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

NOMINATION OF WENDY BEETLESTONE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

NOMINATION OF VICTOR ALLEN BOLDEN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of Pamela Pepper, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin; Brenda K. Sannes, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York; Madeline Cox Arleo, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey; Wendy Beetlestone, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; and Victor Allen Bolden, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we will vote on five outstanding judicial nominees to our Federal district courts. I thank the majority leader for filing for cloture on these nominees so we can clear the backlog that still remains on our executive calendar as we move toward the end of the 113th Congress. After we vote on these nominees today, however, we will still have 21 judicial nominees pending on the executive calendar to serve on district courts, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and the U.S. Court of International Trade.

The five nominees the Senate will vote on today are all well-qualified lawyers and there should be no controversy about their confirmation. Four of these nominees: Pamela Pepper to the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Brenda Sannes to the Northern District of New York, Madeline Arleo to the District of New Jersey, and Wendy Beetlestone to the Eastern District of Pennsylvania were reported by the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote and have the support of their home State senators.

The fifth nominee, Victor Bolden, who has been nominated to the District of Connecticut, also has the strong support of his home State Senators, Mr. BLUMENTHAL and Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Bolden's credentials are impeccable. Since 2009, he has served as corporation counsel for the city of New Haven, CT. Prior to joining city government, Mr. Bolden served as general counsel and assistant counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund. He has also served in private practice as an associate and counsel at the law firm of Wiggin & Dana in New Haven, CT. After graduating from Harvard Law School, Mr. Bolden began his legal career at the American Civil Liberties Union as a staff attorney and as the Marvin Karpatkin Fellow.

During the Judiciary Committee executive business meeting where Mr. Bolden's nomination was considered, the ranking member commented that he was troubled by the nominee's views on racial classifications and his advocacy on affirmative action. The ranking member also noted that he did not agree with the nominee's criticisms of the Supreme Court's decision in Shelby County v. Holder. Finally, the ranking member criticized Mr. Bolden because he argued the nominee ''took a narrow and legally incorrect view of individual rights under the Second Amendment in an amicus brief in Heller.'' The committee voted to report Mr. Bolden's nomination favorably on a 10-to-8 party-line vote.

Let me address each of the issues raised by Ranking Member GRASSLEY. First, in cases where Mr. Bolden has advocated for a specific position in which a Senator may disagree, Mr. Bolden was representing a client and not expressing his own personal views. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I have stated repeatedly that attorneys should not be equated with the position of their clients. Our legal system is predicated upon zealous advocacy for both sides of an issue or matter. Without this, our justice system would not function. Victor Bolden understands the difference between the role of an advocate versus the role of a judge. In response to a question for the record from Senator GRASSLEY on applying Supreme Court and Circuit Court precedents, Mr. Bolden testified: ''I am fully committed to following the precedents of higher courts faithfully and giving them full force and effect, regardless of any personal feelings I might have.''

Second, not only has Mr. Bolden testified under oath about this distinction, but he has shown that he would apply and implement orders from a higher court. In Ricci v. DeStefano, Mr. Bolden represented the city of New Haven as corporation counsel. In that case, several White firefighters and one

Hispanic firefighter sued the city of New Haven in 2003, alleging racial discrimination after the city threw out the results of an exam used for promotion of the city's firefighters. The test results had shown that White firefighters had outperformed minority applicants. The Supreme Court ultimately ruled against New Haven and held that the city's abandonment of the test results constituted intentional discrimination against the White firefighters. Mr. Bolden subsequently helped ensure that the city complied with the Court's order and defended the decision against collateral attacks.

To his credit, Mr. Bolden did such an outstanding job of ensuring compliance with the Supreme Court's decision that the named plaintiff—firefighter Frank Ricci—wrote a letter strongly supporting Mr. Bolden's nomination. Let me quote some of this letter:

> It was apparent to me from our initial dealings whether as a plaintiff or union representative that the Mayor had made a great choice in the selection of the new Corporation Counsel. Although Victor represented the City and therefore would be naturally presumed an adversary it never felt that way. Through the remainder of the litigation from the U.S. Supreme Court decision to the final judgments Victor displayed and has always displayed the attributes one could hope for in a jurist. He's always conscious that there are real people affected by decisions that are made but he is also very deliberate in those decisions with an unwavering commitment to the law. Victor is a consummate professional with unquestionable integrity. These observations are not limited to me but have been the topic of many discussions between me and others, including those inside and outside the fire service. I cannot think of anyone who would make a finer addition to our federal judiciary than him. And I could not have a greater honor than to write this correspondence supporting that.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the full letter of support.

Third, Mr. Bolden's criticisms of the Supreme Court's decision in Shelby County v. Holder in a 2013 editorial were shared by a substantial number of legal scholars and Senators, including me. As I have said, the Shelby County decision was a dreadful decision and wrongly decided. A narrow majority of the Court decided to substitute its own judgment over the exhaustive legislative findings of Congress showing that racial discrimination in voting still occurs. Instead, the Court chose to effectively strike down the heart of the Voting Rights Act by holding that the coverage formula for preclearance was outdated. I authored a bipartisan bill along with Congressmen SENSENBRENNER and JOHN LEWIS on this, but to this date, not a single Senate Republican has signed on. In short, I believe that Victor Bolden's views on voting rights are well within the mainstream. Nevertheless, Mr. Bolden has stated for the RECORD that he ''would faithfully apply Supreme Court and Second Circuit precedent'' on the issue.

Lastly, Mr. Bolden has been criticized for authoring an amicus brief on behalf of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in District of Columbia v. Heller. At the time Mr. Bolden authored the amicus brief, the controlling precedent in the Supreme Court's jurisprudence was United States v. Miller, which did not hold that there was an individual right to bear arms outside of the context of a ''well regulated Militia.'' Accordingly, the brief that Mr. Bolden filed actually cited to Supreme Court precedent that was controlling on the issue at the time. Now that the Supreme Court has decided Heller, Mr. Bolden has testified under oath that he ''would faithfully apply the Supreme Court's decision in District of Columbia v. Heller and other Second Amendment jurisprudence'' and all other areas of the law.

Senators should not vote against Mr. Bolden for advocating on behalf of a client using the applicable Supreme Court precedent at the time. I have heard that some Senators have been continuing to distort Mr. Bolden's record on the Senate floor during his cloture vote. I can only hope that these distortions and fabrications are dismissed as they rightly should be.

Mr. Bolden is an outstanding nominee and a substantial majority of the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has also rated him ''well qualified.'' I wholeheartedly support this nominee and would strongly urge my fellow Senators to do the same.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JULY 25, 2014.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LEAHY: I write this correspondence with great excitement and enthusiasm to support the nomination and appointment of Attorney Victor Bolden to the U.S. District Court of Connecticut.

I have known and worked with Attorney Bolden for more than 5 years. I first met him around the time that he was appointed Corporation Counsel for the City of New Haven. Our first interactions surrounded an ongoing legal matter that I was the lead plaintiff, Ricci et al. v. DeStefano et al.

As a member, representative and current Secretary-Treasurer of New Haven Fire Fighters IAFF Local 825, positions I've held for over 16, these were challenging times. Emotions and frustrations surrounding this issue were somewhat raw to say the least. The relationship between the plaintiffs, union and the City, especially the Corporation Counsel was completely broken and seemed irreparable.

Luckily that was about to change. It was apparent to me from our initial dealings whether as a plaintiff or union representative that the Mayor had made a great choice in the selection of the new Corporation Counsel. Although Victor represented the City and therefore would be naturally presumed an adversary it never felt that way. Through the remainder of the litigation from the U.S. Supreme Court decision to the final judgments Victor displayed and has always displayed the attributes one could hope for in a jurist. He's always conscious that there are real people affected by decisions that are made but he is also very deliberate in those decisions with an unwavering commitment to the law. Victor is a consummate professional with unquestionable integrity. These observations are not limited to me but have been the topic of many discussions between me and others, including those inside and outside the fire service. I cannot think of anyone who would make a finer addition to our federal judiciary than him. And I could not have a greater honor than to write this correspondence supporting that.

If you have any questions or there is something more that you feel I could be helpful with please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

LT. FRANK RICCI.

VOTE ON PEPPER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Prior to the vote, there will be 2 minutes of debate on the Pepper nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Mr. CRUZ. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Pamela Pepper, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin?

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 288 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Fischer	Merkley
Ayotte	Flake	Mikulski
Baldwin	Franken	Moran
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Begich	Graham	Murphy
Bennet	Grassley	Murray
Blumenthal	Harkin	Nelson
Blunt	Hatch	Paul
Booker	Heinrich	Portman
Boozman	Heitkamp	Pryor
Boxer	Heller	Reed
Brown	Hirono	Reid
Burr	Hoeven	Risch
Cantwell	Inhofe	Roberts
Cardin	Isakson	Rockefeller
Carper	Johanns	Rubio
Casey	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Coats	Johnson (WI)	Schatz
Coburn	Kaine	Schumer
Cochran	King	Scott
Collins	Kirk	Sessions
Coons	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Corker	Leahy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Stabenow
Crapo	Manchin	Tester
Cruz	Markey	Thune
Donnelly	McCain	Toomey
Durbin	McCaskill	Udall (CO)
Enzi	McConnell	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	Menendez	

Walsh	Warren	Wicker
Warner	Whitehouse	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Chambliss	Landrieu	Vitter
Hagan	Levin	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SANNES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Sannes nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Brenda K. Sannes, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 289 Ex.]

YEAS—96

Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Murray
Barrasso	Grassley	Nelson
Begich	Harkin	Paul
Bennet	Hatch	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Pryor
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Heller	Reid
Boozman	Hirono	Risch
Boxer	Hoeven	Roberts
Brown	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Burr	Isakson	Rubio
Cantwell	Johanns	Sanders
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Casey	Kaine	Scott
Coats	King	Sessions
Coburn	Kirk	Shaheen
Cochran	Klobuchar	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Tester
Corker	Levin	Thune
Cornyn	Manchin	Toomey
Crapo	Markey	Udall (CO)
Cruz	McCain	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	McConnell	Warner
Enzi	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Fischer	Mikulski	Wicker
Flake	Moran	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Chambliss	Landrieu
Hagan	Vitter

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ARLEO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the Arleo nomination.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Madeline Cox Arleo, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BEETLESTONE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Beetlestone nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Wendy Beetlestone, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BOLDEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Bolden nomination.

Mr. CARPER. I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Mr. ISAKSON. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Victor Allen Bolden, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut?

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 290 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Durbin	McCaskill
Begich	Feinstein	Menendez
Bennet	Franken	Merkley
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Mikulski
Booker	Harkin	Murphy
Boxer	Hirono	Murray
Brown	Johnson (SD)	Nelson
Cantwell	Kaine	Pryor
Cardin	King	Reed
Carper	Klobuchar	Reid
Casey	Leahy	Rockefeller
Coons	Levin	Sanders
Donnelly	Markey	Schatz
Schumer	Udall (NM)	Whitehouse
Shaheen	Walsh	Wyden
Stabenow	Warner	
Udall (CO)	Warren	

NAYS—46

Alexander	Graham	Moran
Ayotte	Grassley	Murkowski
Barrasso	Hatch	Paul
Blunt	Heinrich	Portman
Boozman	Heitkamp	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Coats	Hoeven	Rubio
Coburn	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johanns	Shelby
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Tester
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Enzi	Manchin	Wicker
Fischer	McCain	
Flake	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—5

Chambliss	Hagan	Vitter
Cruz	Landrieu	

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

NOMINATION OF JAMES D. PETTIT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

NOMINATION OF PAMELA LEORA SPRATLEN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

NOMINATION OF TAMARA WENDA ASHFORD TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS

NOMINATION OF L. PAIGE MARVEL TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS

NOMINATION OF CARY DOUGLAS PUGH TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS

NOMINATION OF RAMIN TOLOUI TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NOMINATION OF LISA AFUA SERWAH MENSAH TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NOMINATION OF GEORGE ALBERT KROL, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

NOMINATION OF LUIS G. MORENO, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO JAMAICA

NOMINATION OF DONALD LU, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

NOMINATION OF BRENT ROBERT HARTLEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

ROBERT M. SPEER TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Under the previous order, the Senate will consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nominations of James D. Pettit, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova; Pamela Leora Spratlen, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Uzbekistan; Tamara Wenda Ashford, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years; L. Paige Marvel, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years; Cary Douglas Pugh, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years; Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury; Lisa Afua Serwah Mensah, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development; George Albert Krol, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kazakhstan; Luis G. Moreno, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Jamaica; Donald Lu, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Albania; Brent Robert Hartley, of Oregon, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia; and Robert M. Speer, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

VOTE ON PETTIT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Pettit nomination.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I yield back all time on the nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of James D. Pettit, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SPRATLEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Pamela Leora Spratlen, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Uzbekistan?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ASHFORD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Tamara Wenda Ashford, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MARVEL NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of L. Paige Marvel, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON PUGH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Cary Douglas Pugh, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON TOLOUI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MENSAH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Lisa Afua Serwah Mensah, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON KROL NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of George Albert Krol, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kazakhstan?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MORENO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Luis G. Moreno, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Jamaica?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON LU NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Donald Lu, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Albania?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HARTLEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Brent Robert Hartley, of Oregon, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SPEER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert M. Speer, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

MARVEL NOMINATION

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I would like to say a few words of congratulations to these nominees and particularly to Judge Paige Marvel, a great Marylander, on her reappointment to the Tax Court.

As we know, the Tax Court serves a crucial role in this country's tax system. It is a highly specialized court that provides an important forum in which taxpayers can dispute determinations by the IRS. Tax Court judges have the difficult task of ably and fairly analyzing the highly technical legal issues that arise under our complex tax code.

At the close of Judge Marvel's first term on the U.S. Tax Court, I was a strong supporter of her reappointment, and I am an equally strong supporter of her confirmation. Judge Marvel has served on the court with distinction, and it is in the best interests of this country to keep someone with her integrity and expertise on the Tax Court bench. This integrity and expertise was also apparent prior to Judge Marvel's assumption of her current office. I worked extensively with her on a variety of issues when I served in the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis.

My colleagues on the Finance Committee, including Chairman WYDEN and Ranking Member HATCH, have worked hard and in a bipartisan manner to bring these nominations forward, for which I am grateful. And, I am extremely proud that a fellow Marylander has been nominated to continue the important work of fairly interpreting and applying our tax laws, which affect the lives of every American citizen and resident.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from New Jersey.

REPRESENTING OUR COUNTRY ABROAD

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, very briefly, I appreciate working on both sides to be able to have what is a distinguished set of career ambassadors go to their posts and represent our country abroad, and I hope we can continue on this march as we move toward the end of the session.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

HONORING GOVERNOR DAVE HEINEMAN

Mr. JOHANNS. Madam President, I rise today to honor the service of a dedicated leader in my home State of Nebraska.

Governor Dave Heineman has guided our State during the past 10 years with vision and with laser-like focus on efficient government, economic vibrancy, education, and protecting our families.

Under his leadership and careful management, our State held strong through the economic downturn. During that time, the national spotlight shown very brightly on Nebraska as one of the healthiest States, guided by Dave Heineman's very steady hand, to ensure we remain debt-free and fiscally sound. But the Governor did far more than hold the line on spending and balancing the books of our great State. He provided historic tax relief, bolstered education in our State, and he sent a signal worldwide that Nebraska welcomes new business through enhanced economic development incentives. It is not surprising that Nebraskans' enthusiastically elected and then reelected Dave Heineman to the post, giving him the proud distinction of being our longest serving Governor in the history of our State.

I had the privilege of working side by side with Dave Heineman back in my days as Governor of Nebraska. I was so proud to have him as my Lieutenant Governor in my second term, and I was always grateful for the job he did directing the State's homeland security efforts.

We would have to flip the history books back to 1990, nearly 25 years ago, to see when he was first elected to public office as a member of the Fremont, NE, city council. Four years later, he was elected to his first statewide office to serve as our State treasurer. I was mayor of the city of Lincoln at the time, and I enjoyed watching Dave step onto the statewide stage with enthusiasm and determination. He wanted to get things done.

Nebraskans would nod their head in agreement with the assertion that he remains as determined today, in the last days of his time in office, as the very first day he walked in.

I should note he first served the public as a member of our Armed Forces, having spent 5 years in the U.S. Army after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. As anyone can tell you, it is easy to spot those West Point influences even today. All of those experiences prepared him so well to serve as our Governor. I had absolutely no doubt about his ability to step into the role when I was confirmed as the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. I passed the baton to Dave with immense confidence, and indeed he took the helm and never missed a beat. It is difficult to believe that was 10 years ago. I think both of us have a lot more gray hair to show for it, but we also have something more valuable than gold: the honor of having been entrusted to lead and to serve the best State of the United States. I know Governor Heineman has worked each day to prove worthy of that trust, as I have also. His nearly 25 years of distinguished service required strength of character and fortitude.

Throughout that service and long before it began, Dave has had a wonderful partner in his life, Sally Ganem. Our First Lady is impressive and accomplished. She is a woman in her own right, having served as principal of an elementary school and now leading numerous volunteer and literacy efforts. She has supported Dave every step of the way on a public service journey that offers a shining example for others to follow. Thus, it is fitting that we have never before had a Governor whose service spans 10 years, and we may never have that again.

On behalf of a grateful State and a grateful nation, I offer my sincerest gratitude for the dedicated leadership Governor Heineman has provided to our great State of Nebraska.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. INHOFE. Tonight there will be a speech. I think everyone is aware of that. I think we all know pretty much what the President of the United States is going to say.

I would like to read the oath of office that any President of the United States has to take, and this President has taken this oath in an affirmative way for—I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Tonight we have the President's speech, and I would like to recite one more time what every President has to say and has to affirm before he becomes President.

> I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will faithfully execute the Office of the President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

I think people are overlooking this because they know what to expect tonight. They know what is going to happen. They know the President is going to do something that in the eyes of most people—and I have to say that most of the people I talk to are from my State of Oklahoma. They have a lot of common sense and ask the question: Is this illegal, what we are about to witness?

The President is bound by the Constitution to ensure the laws on the books are being carried out in a manner that is true to the law that is written and passed by Congress. It is his duty, his obligation. That was envisioned by our Founding Fathers.

As any school-aged kid or any of my grandchildren would say, laws are made in Congress and signed into law by the President. Once bills become law, the President's constitutional duty is triggered at that point, no matter who holds the office or how that person feels about the particular law. If a President finds a law problematic, then this is how he has to address that problem: He has to work with Congress to change the law. He does not have the authority to unilaterally declare that law not to apply to millions of Americans, which is what I think we are going to witness tonight. That is exactly what the President is doing.

He issued ultimatums to Congress: Pass what I want or else. We heard that. We heard those words. When Congress and the American people push back against him, he charges forward with Executive orders that are written and executed behind closed doors. Let's remember that at the time this President first took office, his big thing was transparency. He wants people to know what is going on and not have any surprises. Yet this is what is happening: These Executive orders are taking the place of those laws that are passed by Members who are elected to the House and to the Senate.

He says the reason for this is he is tired of waiting on an immigration system that is broken. Those are his words. He has taken action because Congress won't. That is not the way it works. A Congress that has had—by the way, he had a Democratic majority the first 2 years in the House and Senate and the White House. He can't say we are not doing it. He is certainly not referring to Republicans. These are the excuses for doing what he is doing.

Some claim he is not doing anything different from what President Ronald Reagan or President George H.W. Bush did. I think it is very important, very briefly, to show you that is not true at all.

In 1986 Congress passed and President Reagan signed into law the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which gave amnesty to close to 3 million illegal immigrants. Amnesty was granted by statute, not by Executive order. That was a law which was passed and which the President signed and agreed to.

Soon after, the people realized the children of these immigrants—who were still eligible for deportation—were simply overlooked. The fact is, if there is a husband and a wife and they are able to go ahead and become naturalized citizens, their underaged children would have to be as well. Everyone agreed, no one disagreed, and so they went ahead and did it. That was working with Congress. Congress made that decision with the President of the United States.

In 1990 President Bush expanded President Reagan's grant of deferred deportation to all minor children and to the spouses of those who were granted amnesty in the 1986 law, and Congress codified the policy later that year in the Immigration Act of 1990. So it wasn't George H.W. Bush who did this; it was the Congress of 1990 that did this. We are not talking about the same thing at all.

In the case of both Reagan and Bush, they worked with Congress and interpreted a statute. That is not what is happening now. President Obama is creating a law on his own as to how he wishes the law would be. He has no authority to do it. We are going to see this tonight, and I think we need to have this in our background in what we are looking for.

As we saw with his previous amnesty—that was 2012; we remember that, about 2½ years ago—this new Executive amnesty will encourage more people to come here and break the laws.

This year, thanks to President Obama's Executive order—called the deferred action for childhood arrivals, DACA—Americans watched as unaccompanied alien children—that is, the UAC—poured over our southern border seeking the same amnesty others had been given. Who is to say the President won't give them that? It is reported that tonight he will be changing the qualifications of the DACA to include even more.

What happened then is really worse than what is happening now and going to be announced tonight because at least tonight they are talking about 5 to 6 million people who are going to be granted amnesty, and what he did before in encouraging the young people to get here to the United States—we don't know where they are today or how many there are.

In my State of Oklahoma—Fort Sill in Lawton, OK—we have a base that was given several hundred of these young children. They are under 18 years of age. They were told they were to house these children until January. It worked out pretty well because we were in the middle of building some buildings down there, and so we had a place for them for a temporary period of time. They were supposed to be released in January. I went down there in October, and they were already gone. They didn't really know where they were, but they were gone. Even to this day, if you call up and talk to the commander down there, they will tell you they don't know for sure where they are.

To go even further into this, I went to the Texas border, where I went to a center called Los Fresnos. There are 18 IES facilities on the southern border. It is not just in Texas but all—I think 13 of those are in Texas. I went down there to see the process they used. I talked to the Border Patrol. The Border Patrol told me they are instructed to—and they did—send the kids as they came to the various facilities, these 18 facilities. So I went to the one that I believe is the largest. It is called Los Fresnos. It is on the southern border on the eastern side of Texas. They weren't very happy about this. I went in and took a bunch of pictures to see what was going on there. I found out that they had a facility that had 200 beds. They had 200 beds. That is a very small number of people.

I asked the question: How many kids are coming through here?

They said: Thousands.

I said: How many in the last 6 months?

They said: Well, several thousand.

Let's keep in mind they can only bed down 200 people. Thousands have come through.

We came back to trace where these thousands actually ended up. We were not able to find out. You can find that they have a Web site saying how many States received how many kids. We have no way of verifying if that is true. For all we know, there are hundreds of thousands of kids out there, and we don't know where they are.

Those people who are concerned about 5 to 6 million people tonight, keep in mind that it is really much more than that. On that number, the issue we have is we don't know where the children eventually end up, and the administration does not have to notify the local governments of their presence. There are counties that are published as to how many are in a county. We don't know their names.

Interestingly, when I was at Los Fresnos on the border, I talked to a lot of the kids who were being brought into this country. Those kids—each one had a story, and you could tell it was a rehearsed story: I have parents who live in California. I have a dad who lives in New York. They all had a story down as if they are coming back.

Keep in mind—these are kids who came not from Mexico but through Mexico. We heard only yesterday some of the atrocities, the things that had happened to some of these kids—the raping, the killing, all of that—as they were making the transition through Mexico.

They publish online what States they end up in, but we don't know the numbers, whether these are verified numbers or if we are taking their word for it.

Something is going on, and even I, as a Member of the Senate, have gone down there two separate times to Los Fresnos and still don't know the answer to the questions that I get from people in Oklahoma who are very much concerned about this. Who monitors to ensure that they remain and show up for court? If they evade the law long enough,—and they know now they can evade the law; if the President can do it, they can do it—then amnesty will eventually be received by them.

We have immigration laws that are going to be ignored. What does this say to the immigrants who are coming into America and applying for citizenship in accordance with the law?

I have been honored several times to go and be the speaker at naturalization ceremonies in my State of Oklahoma. I

will tell you, you cry when you look out there. You see a couple hundred people who have come to this country, gone through the system, studied the history—and I would suggest those people up for naturalization probably know the history much better than people who are born here in this country. They learn the language. They go through all these things, and finally they become citizens of the United States. That is the legal way to do it. What are their thoughts right now after all they have gone through and the doors are open for anyone to come through? Is that compassion for those people? I don't think so. Compassion is acknowledging and respecting the millions who adhere to our laws and achieve citizenship.

But here is the thing. When you stop being a nation based on the rule of law, you are at the mercy of one man and his whims. It sounds exactly like something our Founding Fathers were looking to avoid and escape. I think that is the problem we have. I have people asking me: Why is the President breaking the law with regularity? Does he not have to obey the law the same as we do?

Well, as you know, there is a lawsuit that is being processed over on the House side. But we also know this: Anyone who comes who has 2 years left in his term knows if something is starting the process to determine whether action is legal, it would be probably 5 or 6 years before that case would be decided. By that time he is long gone.

I want to mention one thing that is specific. People say: Well, how can you say the President is breaking the law? He does break the law. He breaks it all the time. One of the things I have been concerned about for a long period of time is keeping the installation named Guantanamo Bay—called Gitmo—keeping it open. It is the only place that we can keep the type of terrorists we have down there. It is one, I think, that has worked out well. But somehow there is the obsession that this President has—he wants to close Gitmo, Guantanamo Bay.

Knowing that, I put an amendment on the Defense authorization bill in 2014. If anyone wants to look it up, it is section 1035(d) of the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act, the NDAA. It specifically states—anticipating that the President would start releasing these people from Guantanamo Bay without authority, we put into law that the President shall notify Congress not later than 30 days before the transfer or release of any Guantanamo Bay detainee.

What did we find out? The President, without notifying anyone, released probably the five—in fact, not probably, certainly the five very worst of the terrorists who were being kept down there. In fact, one of their names was Mohammad Fazl. One of the Taliban commanders, whose name is Mullah Salem Khan, made this statement—this is right after the President released the five terrorists. We do not know where they are, whether they are killing Americans, where they are right now.

He said, ''Mohammad Fazl, his returning is like pouring 10,000 Taliban fighters into the battle on the side of Jihad. Now the Taliban has the right lion to lead them in the final moment before victory in Afghanistan.''

So that is another issue altogether. These people are released to come back and kill Americans. But the point is, that law was aimed specifically at the President that he cannot do that. He did it. So when I see these things happen, I think I have never seen this before.

I am not a real student of history, but certainly I have read an abundant amount of the history of this institution as well as the President and what is going and what should go on in Washington and what our Founding Fathers envisioned. Our Founding Fathers never envisioned they would have a President who would blatantly break the law, specifically break the law.

That is what is happening now. That example is just one of many I could give. So enjoy the speech tonight. I think you are going to see that another one of our laws looks as though it is going to be broken. That would be our immigration laws that are on the books now.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Republican leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO DENZEL MCGUIRE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words about a staffer I will be very sad to lose tomorrow. Denzel McGuire is one of the most genuine people you will ever meet. She always has a smile on her face and a ready joke, and she is the only Senate staffer I know of who can plan on—listen to this—a personal birthday song from Speaker BOEHNER every year. She also has a determination that is as strong as steel. She is a master at negotiating. And all Members—even the Speaker—have learned it is wise to stay in her good graces.

Denzel has worked for some of the most respected Members of this body, including Jon Kyl and Judd Gregg. She has taken on some of the thorniest issues over her more than 20 years here in Congress.

In this job you get accustomed to hearing bad news, but what I tell people is that if I have to hear bad news from someone, I would rather have it come from Denzel. She always has a plan moving forward, and there is usually a joke slipped in there as well.

Denzel is too modest to say so herself, but she has been in the middle of a lot of big legislative battles around here. She has been in the mix on pretty much everything you could imagine that has to do with budgets and government funding issues—in other words, pretty much everything. She has also worked a lot of late nights. She has plenty of war stories, but she has never lost her optimism or her good humor. Now, that is no mean feat.

I am really going to miss Denzel, but she has more than earned a break, and I wish her nothing but the best as she moves on to the next chapter in her life. I am sure she will be a great success.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS DOBY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would also like to say a quick word about Chris Doby, the Senate financial clerk, who will be leaving us soon after more than three decades of service.

Chris came to the Senate in 1983 after graduating from Radford University. He was a junior auditor back in those days. Today he has a broad range of duties. He has weathered a lot of storms. He is also one of the most popular guys in the Senate because he is responsible for making sure everybody gets paid. But Senators' staffs are not the only ones who have nice things to say about Chris. His colleagues praise his sincerity, his steady hand, his confidence, and his friendliness.

Chris is the consummate family man. He has three daughters: Colleen, Caroline, and Courtney; a grandson he adores; and a wife of 31 years, Cathy. I know he is looking forward to spending more time with all of them. He is probably looking forward to the end of his daily commute too. It is a 2-hour trek from the District to his home in Virginia. That is 2 hours each way, every day. I understand that Cathy has a to-do list for Chris that is a mile long, so we know he will have a lot on his plate when he leaves here. But we thank him for his long and dedicated service in the Senate.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL KENNEDY

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I wish to take a moment to pay tribute to my former chief of staff, Michael Kennedy. In my 38 years as a Senator, I have

seen many talented staffers come and go, but few have left such a lasting impression as Michael. He is someone for whom I have a deep appreciation and much respect. That is why it was so difficult for me when I learned Michael would be leaving my office to pursue an opportunity in the private sector. I had come to rely so much on his counsel, his leadership, and his savvy. It was very difficult and hard to let him go. I know I speak for everyone on my staff when I say Michael will be sorely missed.

Before Michael came to my office, he was living in Salt Lake City and working at Utah State University as the vice president for Federal and State relations. Under his leadership, that university developed its first professional program, secured critical line-item funding, enhanced its footprint and resource portfolio, and became a key player in facilitating the merger of two Utah schools.

Michael was also the point man for all matters related to Capitol Hill and the Utah State legislature. His reputation for hard work and integrity helped him craft strong relationships throughout the State. He knew the landscape, customs, and culture of Utah better than almost anyone. His experience and his reputation proved invaluable to me.

I know these tributes sound like eulogies with the way we talk about people as if they had already passed on. Considering how hard Michael worked, I am surprised this isn't his eulogy. His energy and work ethic always amazed me, as did his sense of style. Perhaps the only thing sharper than Michael's mind was his wardrobe. Few people can pull off a navy suit with pink lining and silver cufflinks, but Michael did so with ease. Of course, you might not know Michael was such a sharply dressed staffer because his boss usually stole the fashion spotlight, and after Washingtonian magazine named me the best-dressed man in Congress, I can only hope that some of my style rubbed off on him. However, if people knew how little I paid for my clothing, I think they might want to take back that honor.

Michael took a pay cut when he joined my staff nearly 4 years ago, and he always joked that his next job would be as an unpaid summer intern. I like to think Michael's financial sacrifice was emblematic of his desire to serve the State of Utah and improve this great country through the Senate. His willingness to serve was most evident in the way he always put the needs of constituents and staff above his own.

Michael's dedication to my staff was only surpassed by his dedication to his family, and I truly believe he owes his success to the constant support of his wife Natalie—an absolutely beautiful woman whom I have been blessed to know. Natalie and her family have been friends of mine since she was young. Natalie grew up as a friend of my children, so naturally I felt protective and wanted the best for her.

When she announced her engagement to Michael, Elaine and I were delighted. Still, I was surprised that someone as impressive as Natalie would agree to Michael's engagement proposal. I guess to his long list of talents and accomplishments, we could add marrying out of his league.

I was very grateful that Natalie knew very well the rigors and intensity of serving on a Senate staff, having worked previously with Senator Bob Bennett. Not only was she an invaluable support to Michael, she was also there to help me in any way she could. She was wonderful.

While Michael was serving as my chief of staff, Natalie gave birth to their daughter Emily—or as I like to call her ''Sweet Pea.'' Shortly after her birth, Michael's family gathered in my Capitol office and gave Sweet Pea a father's blessing, as is the tradition in our faith. It was a sacred experience for Elaine and me to join Michael and Natalie and both their families for that special occasion.

Michael's family wasn't the only one to grow in the time he was with me. During those few years, we had 12 new babies and 4 spouses added to the families of our staff. Whenever there was a birth or marriage, Michael went out of his way to make sure they were taken care of. He fostered an atmosphere of camaraderie, friendship, and family friendliness that was critical for my office's ability to serve the people of Utah. People always knew he was genuinely concerned for them and their needs as they tried to adjust to the wonderful changes of a growing family.

Nevertheless, I know there were plenty of times when Michael would rather have been with Natalie than with me. One particular instance comes to mind. During the end of the 112th Congress, Michael and I rang in the new year together during an extended voting session. Michael bought a bottle of blue Powerade from the downstairs vending machine here at the Capitol, and we counted down the seconds on my Senate clock. I knew he wanted to be with his family, but I was grateful for his sacrifice in staying with me.

This intense dedication was the norm for Michael Kennedy. Every night that I left the Senate, Michael would be there to wish me a safe drive home and continue his work for me late into the night. Whenever I traveled, he was always by my side and ready to help. Together we spent a lot of time on the road, visiting each of Utah's 29 counties. We drove from meeting to meeting across beautiful western landscapes and had many memorable conversations. Though road trips can often be long and tedious, Michael's sharp intellect and good humor made him one of the greatest traveling companions I have ever had.

I have been extremely fortunate when it comes to my staff. I have had the privilege of serving with some of the most gifted and devoted people our Nation has to offer. Each of them has brought something unique and important to their service, but I have to say that even among the select fraternity of talented Senate staffers, Michael Kennedy belongs in an elite class.

I have no doubt Michael will enjoy enormous success in his new position. Success has been the defining characteristic of every endeavor he has undertaken. I have had many chiefs of staff over my 38 years in the Senate, but none has ever been better than Michael.

While the selfish part of me wishes he could have stayed in the Senate just a bit longer, I have to say that I wish Michael, Natalie, and darling Sweet Pea the very best going forward.

I don't say these things haphazardly. This young man is truly one of the finest people I have known in all of my experience in the Senate of the United States. He was dedicated, he was consecrated to his work, and he did everything he possibly could to help my staff and me do a better job in the Senate.

Michael is a true friend, and he will always be somebody whose friendship I revere. As I said, his wife is a wonderful friend as well, and Sweet Pea—I call her ''Pea'' now—is one of the cutest, most darling young girls that I have ever seen.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, this past Saturday, open enrollment began for the second round of State-based and Federal exchanges all across the country.

We can think about where we were a year ago today: The government was in shutdown. The Federal Web page where people went to enroll was a blank screen for many. There was frustration all across the country, and a lot of our friends on the other side of the aisle were claiming that this was proof the health care reform law could not work. They claimed it was a failure from the beginning.

Well, a year makes a big difference. It is a year later, and we have 7 million, 8 million people who have insurance on these exchanges across the country. We have lowered the number of people without insurance by 25 percent in a year's period of time. That is remarkable. In my State of Connecticut, where we run the best exchange in the entire country, we have cut the number of uninsured in half in

just a year's period of time. That is an even more stunning number. Health care rates of inflation are as low as they have been in most of our lifetimes. The State of Connecticut is actually spending less on Medicaid than it was a year or two ago, and quality is getting better. By most all of the indices that we follow, the number of people who are readmitted to a hospital after a surgery or the number of infections people get while they are in the hospital are all lower than they were when the bill first went into effect.

While a lot of my Republican friends come to the floor with stories about people who have bad insurance with the health care bill, the data clearly is on our side. The data tells only one story that the Affordable Care Act is working. But we have a lot of stories, too—millions of them, as it turns out. I have never denied that there will be people who have bad experiences with the health care system, with the Affordable Care Act, and with the exchanges. But they are in the vast minority. The majority are people such as Christina who is a small business owner from Stratford, CT. Several years ago, she left a job that provided employer-based coverage to start her own business in Bridgeport. It was her dream to start her own business. But as with a lot of Americans who have a dream to start their own business, she was reticent about doing it because she was worried about losing her health care insurance. She stayed insured on COBRA until it expired, and then she went on the individual market. She recalls having to fill out a 15-page questionnaire asking, as she says, ''anything that I had ever remotely discussed with my doctor.'' Unfortunately for her, she got a rejection notice from a carrier that basically just copied and pasted what she wrote in the application and said: Here is your preexisting condition, and that is why you are uninsurable. Her only remaining option was to go into Connecticut's high-risk pool.

While she was shopping around for insurance, she decided to get her annual mammogram at age 40, and the hospital told her they found something suspicious on that mammogram.

Facing a potential cancer diagnosis without health care coverage created an enormous amount of anxiety for her. It was at that moment that it struck her how important it was for people to have coverage. So she went to Access Health, which is our State-based exchange, to look at plans, and she realized she had another option. She found a gold exchange plan. It asked her to pay $430 a month, which was a big difference from the $1,200 per month that she was paying under the high-risk pool. By the way, a lot of the repeal-and-replace crowd say we should replace the exchanges with high-risk pools. Well, for Christina, that was a big financial risk to her. She went from $2,500 a month down to $430. She says: I am thankful that there was a solution for me to be able to keep my business and to have affordable health insurance that can't be taken away.

Now, Christina hopefully is going to be what a lot of people call job creators. She is hopefully going to hire a lot of people for her new business. She is going to do it because she was able to start that new business because of the Affordable Care Act.

On Saturday, the first day of enrollment, HHS said that 100,000 people submitted applications for coverage, and more than 500,000 people were able to log on to healthcare.gov. And more than a million, just since open enrollment has begun, have been window shopping for insurance options. By and large, Web sites across the country are working, and they are allowing people to come back and shop for plans. It is really important that people do come back and shop for plans, because what we know is that the insurance industry likes this bill as well. Now, a lot of people on our side of the aisle don't like the fact that the insurance industry likes this bill so much, but they like it so much that there are about 25 percent more insurers that are offering plans on these exchanges. So if a person is on a plan for a year, they should know there are likely more options out there for them. They should go on the State exchange or Federal exchange and check it out. There are going to be more options with potentially better fits for people.

That is not to say that people haven't been really happy with the insurance coverage they have. Here is some other news we have gotten in since the last time I was on the floor. The Gallup poll surveyed Americans who had bought insurance in the first year on these plans, and what they found is pretty remarkable. Seventy percent of the people who bought insurance in the new marketplace last year rated it as good or excellent. Would that we had the same ratings for the Senate. Seventy percent of the people say the coverage they got was good or excellent. Three in four of the newly insured say they are satisfied with this aspect of their health care insurance. That is compared to 61 percent among the general population with insurance.

So people are actually more satisfied on the exchange-based plans than they are on nonexchange-based plans. If people are satisfied now, they may be able to get an even better deal because more insurers are now signing up.

The other good news is that premiums are going to be, on average, lower. Now, that is an impossible thing to say in the current health care environment. People are just not used to hearing that premiums from year to year are going to be lower, but that is the truth. A study from Kaiser and a study from the Wakely Consulting Group—Kaiser looked at the second lowest-cost silver plan in 49 cities around the country and found the premiums are going to be decreasing slightly from last year. Wakely looked at the largest county in each of the 34 States with marketplaces run by the Federal Government and found on average that the rate decrease was going to be 1 percent. We, frankly, would be happy if rate of increase was only 2 or 3 percent, because on average in 2008, the premium increase was 10 percent. In 2009 it was 10.8 percent, and in 2010 it was 11.7 percent. We are having an average premium decrease in the exchanges this year. That is more proof that as folks get more coverage, as people get access to preventive care, they are driving down overall health care costs because less people get into crisis, less people have to run to the emergency room, and they get cheaper cost care earlier on. That is better for them, better for the taxpayers, and better for their bottom line.

Kara from Granby, CT, has this story. When Kara was born, the doctors immediately told her parents that she was going to face a lifetime of obstacles because she was diagnosed with only one ailing kidney and a slight hearing impairment. Lucky for her, her parents found a great doctor at Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

About the time she was 1 year old, her kidney had started to fail, and a kidney transplant was recommended. Her father gave her one of his, and she was able to graduate from high school and college without having any major health problems. But she remembers always being warned by her parents about how difficult her life was going to be because of her health ailment but also because of the fact that her life decisions were going to be dictated by whether she could get health care. So she was so relieved when she found out she could stay on her parents' plan until she was 26, under the new health care law. That was critical to her because her health, after she graduated college, took a sudden downward turn. She began having frequent headaches, and her voice became really hoarse. What she thought was a virus ended up to be diagnosed as a brain tumor.

Because of the ACA and her parents' insurance, she was able to get great coverage. She went out to go look for a job but wasn't able to find one that offered health care insurance, and she went on Medicaid before she could sign up for health care insurance herself. Her tumor reappeared, but even despite this latest setback, her doctors still believe they can extract the tumor, and her prognosis is good. But she has health care, and she has had continuous health care because of the Affordable Care Act, because of Medicaid's being expanded throughout the States.

Kara says that I know for sure that I wouldn't have made it this far in life without health care. It is incredibly essential to have it. You never know what is going to happen to you. Don't take your health for granted. Kara, from Granby, has health insurance continuously because of the Affordable Care Act. Differences are being made all over the country.

I will tell just one more story. That is one from the middle section of the State from Ohio. Jim worked for 37 years for the same company. He was typically putting in 50-hour workweeks that included travel and working weekends. It started to take a toll on his health, and he knew he had to retire. If he wanted to live longer, if he wanted to enjoy his years in his sixties and seventies, he had to retire, but he couldn't do it because he needed health care for him and his family. His wife is a cancer survivor. She had been diagnosed with leukemia 15 years ago. The only way she was going to be able to get insurance was through his employer. He had to keep working even though it was the wrong thing for his health because of his job lock caused by his necessity to get health insurance from this job he was connected to.

The Affordable Care Act changed all of that. He retired in March of this year. He went and did his home homework on healthcare.gov. The plan he chose would have cost him $1,200 per month to cover him and his wife, but with the subsidy he received, with the tax credit he received, their premium costs were $127 a month. Jim is shopping as we speak for plans in 2015, but he knows he is going to live a longer life, and he will be able to be there for his wife and for his family because of the Affordable Care Act.

Jim has a pretty interesting take on all of this. He says he got to leave his job and spend more time with his family and spend more time concentrating on his health. He says: ''I am much healthier and happier than I was before. Plus,'' he adds, ''I am helping the economy. When I left my job, they had to hire someone else, so I am a job creator too.''

This is one of the great benefits of the Affordable Care Act. It reduces job lock. People who have to stay in jobs, people such as Jim but also people such as the first woman we talked about, Christina, who was able to start her own business because of the Affordable Care Act.

Open enrollment is upon us. People have 25 percent more options. On average, people have premiums that are lower than they were last year. People can sign up for something better than they had or they can join the 8 million people who have signed up on the exchanges and participated in Medicare expansion all across the country. People can be part of this pretty amazing story that is being told all across the country.

An Affordable Care Act that is insuring more people than ever before in this country, contributing to a stabilization of health care costs across this country, that still leaves us with a lot of room to go. There are still way too many people paying way too much for health care, but it at least charts us in the right direction and is making people healthier all at the same time, which is what this is all about. It is not just about saving money. It is about allowing people a better quality of life, and it is doing that as well.

As we mark the coming second week of open enrollment, it is important again to point out a very simple fact, which is the Affordable Care Act works.

I yield back and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, with regard to the health care law, the proof has come out today. The administration has been cooking the books. That is not just me saying it. It has come out all across the press. USA Today, just out: ''Obama administration gave bad health exchange numbers.'' Associated Press: ''Oops, administration erred on health law signups.''

Let's take a look at this. The Department of Health and Human Services said Thursday—this is reading from USA Today—it made a mistake in how it calculated enrollments under the Affordable Care Act, including 400,000 dental plans in its figures for medical plans. Those dental plans allow the Obama administration to claim more than 7 million enrollments and 7 million was long considered the magic number, the magic number that would allow the new health insurance exchanges to be sustainable. What does the Secretary of Health and Human Services say? Today she said this mistake is unacceptable. I agree with the Secretary.

This mistake is unacceptable, but it is not a surprise to the American people. We have questioned a long time what numbers the administration was putting out. I think it is fascinating that the administration has continued to lower and lower the numbers as more and more information and research has been done, and they can hide it no longer that they were cooking the books. Earlier today Bloomberg went up to the—with the story based on analysis from the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The committee found the Obama administration has included people who purchased this stand-alone dental coverage and now HHS has admitted the duplicity. Let's take a look at this. On May 1 Health and Human Services released exchange enrollment information for a period from October 1, 2013, through April 19, 2014. At the time Health and Human Services said over 8 million people had selected a plan through an exchange, either the State or Federal exchange.

In the report, HHS also disclosed 1.1 million selected to stand-alone dental plans through the Federal exchanges. A footnote in that report said totals for stand-alone dental plans do not include individuals who are enrolled in the marketplace plans that provide integrated medical and dental coverage. So then on May 21, and after previously touting the 8.1 million exchange enrollees, Health and Human Services decided they would stop issuing additional reports. No more monthly ObamaCare exchange enrollment information. September 18, in testimony before the House Oversight Committee, the CMS Administrator, Marilyn Tavenner, testified that there were 7.3 million people enrolled in the health insurance marketplace coverage as of August 15. Remember the magic number for saying this was a sustainable program was still 7 million.

When we take a look at the oversight committee's analysis it shows nearly 400,000 of these enrollees didn't purchase insurance through the exchange for health care, rather stand-alone dental coverage. That takes the total number to under 7 million.

On November 10, earlier this month, Secretary Burwell said there were 7.1 million exchange enrollees as of the end of October. However, she also failed to break out the coverage of those stand-alone dental insurance policies, indicating the true number as of last month, likely closer to 6.7 million or 6.8 million individuals.

The nearly 20 percent drop in the exchange enrollees suggests that once many people learn about the ObamaCare problems, extremely high deductibles, narrow networks, they stop paying. They stop paying their premium in spite of the fact that there continues to be large government subsidies they are receiving. This drop is likely the central reason HHS dramatically lowered its exchange estimates earlier this month saying that by the end of the next year, instead of the 13 million people predicted by the Congressional Budget Office that there would be about only 9.1 million people enrolled.

I have heard from my colleague from Connecticut who came and told an individual story, but the health care law overall remains very unpopular. It is so unpopular that as of earlier this week and all of the polling ever done about the health care law, it is more unpopular now than ever before. Popularity is at an alltime low and unpopularity, disapproval is at an alltime high. Why would that be? There are a number of reasons. One is the front page of the New York Times the other day. November 15, cost of coverage under the care act set to increase. President Obama stood before the American people and said under his plan the cost of insurance policies would go down $2,500 per family. They have not gone down. They headed in the other direction, and again this year the cost of coverage under the health care act is set to increase. It is no surprise people are concerned when the President tells them one thing and something else happens, they question the President.

There are a number of reasons it is not popular. That is just one. The

President's solutions of putting many more people on Medicaid under the health care law, a program that has already failed and is failing and continues to be a problem—the front page of the Wall Street Journal, Friday, 14 of November, ''As More Join Medicaid, Health Systems Feel Strain''—stories about people who can't get care, people who are providers who can't afford to provide the care for Medicaid patients because the reimbursement is so low. That is the President's solution—force more people on to Medicaid because the President's focus during all of these discussions has been on coverage. As a doctor I will tell you the focus should be on the word ''care.'' People want care, and they know what they want. They know what they need in health care reform.

They want affordable care, quality care, and choice. That is what a Republican plan will look like to replace and strip out the terrible parts of this health care law. Then for people living all across the country in rural communities—I know in the Presiding Officer's State and in mine, we know what impact the loss of a rural hospital has on that community.

But yet, front page, USA Today, last weekend, November 14 to 16, ''Rural Hospitals in Critical Condition.'' ObamaCare critics say the law is speeding up the demise of the facilities. There is a map of the United States, a list of 43 hospitals that have closed since January of 2010 as a result of the health care law.

You say: Is it as a result of the health care law? I believe it is, because it was Ezekiel Emanuel, one of the architects of the health care law, who said and recently wrote that between now and the year 2020, up to 1,000 hospitals in the United States were likely to close. We know what the impact of the cuts that happen to our seniors on Medicare as a result of the health care law will have to rural hospitals, where a disproportionate number of the patients are seniors on Medicare. The hospitals cannot sustain themselves.

That was part of the original budget numbers as they looked at the health care law, as we debated it on this Senate floor and said: Please do not pass this, Democrats—who one by one by one voted for the health care law—because it is going to impact our rural hospitals.

Now we see 43 hospitals in rural communities all around the country and tell stories of people who could not get care, had to travel such a long distance in that critical hour after a heart attack, were unable to survive. So the health care law continues to be very unpopular across the country. Yes, it is possible for colleagues to come to the floor and tell a story about one individual whose life may have been improved as a result of the health care law. But across the country, there are many people who are finding they cannot keep their doctor, they cannot keep their child's pediatrician, they cannot go to the hospital in their local community because of the specific components of the health care law which have caused so much damage and wreaked havoc in communities all around America.

I continue to hear from people in Wyoming who have lost the insurance that worked for them and they liked. They had to buy other insurance, much more expensive, that covered things they did not need, did not want, and cannot afford. Many now find themselves for the first time without insurance when they had it before. It worked for them and their families.

So that is why all across the country, people are saying: This health care law is not working for me. That is why the signups are down and the belief is that fewer people are going to sign up because for them they do not feel they are getting good value. They see what they are going to have to pay out of pocket for deductibles, what they have to pay out of pocket for copays, what their premiums are. As a result, they are saying: No, thank you.

Even with the subsidies, Health and Human Services has significantly lowered their predictions of how many people will sign up for the health care law this year. That is in spite of the fact that the fines are going up.

Then, on top of all of this, there is a health care MIT economist, Professor Jonathan Gruber, who has made comments that are disparaging of American citizens. He has said not just once but time and time again, as the videos continue to come out of this Gruber miniseries of TV videos, that this health care law was sold to the American people by trying to confuse them. He has questioned their intelligence. It was NANCY PELOSI who said: First you have to pass it before you get to find out what is in it.

American people are furious about the way this administration has treated them, has behaved toward them, and has acted upon their willingness to believe an administration and believe a Speaker of the House at a time people wanted health care reform in America. People did not get what they wanted. They did not get what they were promised.

So, today, I come to the floor to say to my colleague who just spoke about the health care law, that perhaps for the folks he mentioned it has worked. We want health care to work for people all across the country so they can get the care they need, from a doctor they choose, at lower cost. That is what they want. So today, the proof comes out, the administration has been cooking the books. As USA Today says, the Obama administration gave bad health exchange numbers and the Associated Press starts its story on this very same topic with one word, ''Oops!''

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF NOAH BRYSON MAMET TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 892.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Noah Bryson Mamet, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Noah Bryson Mamet, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic.

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie K. Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF COLLEEN BRADLEY BELL TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO HUNGARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 631.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Colleen Bradley Bell, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Hungary.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to have reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Colleen Bradley Bell, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Hungary.

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Bill Nelson, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Elizabeth Warren, Barbara Boxer, Tom Udall, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Carl Levin, Joe Manchin III, Bernard Sanders.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF NANI A. COLORETTI TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 772.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Harry Reid, Tim Johnson, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Brian Schatz, Charles E. Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ROBERT S. ADLER TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 918.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert S. Adler, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Robert S. Adler, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Harry Reid, John D. Rockefeller IV, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie K. Hirono, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CHARLOTTE A. BURROWS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1069.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Brian Schatz, Charles E. Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF P. DAVID LOPEZ TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1067.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I don't know if you are getting the drift, but each one of these is the same.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is still on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Brian Schatz, Charles E. Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, December 1, 2014, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 892 and 631; further, that if cloture is invoked on either one of these nominations, that on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., all postcloture time be expired, and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of all of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that there be 2 minutes of debate prior to each vote and all rollcall votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; further, with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 663, 671, 672, and 923, as well as the nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brigadier General Jon K. Kelk

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Nathaniel S. Reddicks

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. James C. Witham

COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Coast Guard under title 14, U.S.C., section 211(A)(2):

To be lieutenant commander

Angela R. Holbrook
Martha A. Rodriguez

FOREIGN SERVICE

PN1381—3 Foreign Service nominations (2) beginning Leslie Meredith Tsou, and ending Lon C. Fairchild, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO THE KENTUCKY COMMUNITIES ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL (KCEOC) COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Kentucky Communities Economic Opportunity Council, KCEOC, Community Action Partnership—an organization that for the past 50 years has been dedicated to the cause of destroying the roots of poverty in Southeastern Kentucky.

KCEOC was one of the first community action agency organizations in the country to be established to target the causes of poverty on the State and local level. Founded in 1964, it can now celebrate five decades serving its community.

Based out of Knox County, KY, KCEOC helps over 7,000 Kentuckians achieve financial stability every year through a number of antipoverty programs. This includes Head Start and Early Head Start, programs that aim to build children's educational foundation from an early age. KCEOC is also involved in job training and career planning, providing affordable housing, and food and clothing drives.

The KCEOC Community Action Partnership recognizes that a ''hand up'' is more effective than a ''hand out.'' They are dedicated to providing Kentuckians mired in poverty with the means and assistance necessary to break the chain of poverty that has afflicted too many Southeastern Kentuckians for generations.

Although there are many more programs instituted by KCEOC that cover

a diverse range of problems—including an IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, a Summer Food Service Program, and a KCEOC Aquatic Club—at their core they are all designed to impact the people of the community in a positive way. This is an objective that the organization continues to achieve, year after year.

When one Kentuckian who benefitted from KCEOC's services was asked what mattered to him the most, he replied:

> Getting my education. I had never planned on getting my GED or going to college. [The staff at KCEOC] really pushed me and encouraged me.

I especially want to thank the leadership of KCEOC, including its president/CEO, Mr. Paul D. Dole, who was honored in 2013 as one of the region's top entrepreneurs in Southern and Eastern Kentucky at the 2013 Excellence in Entrepreneurship event, hosted by the Center for Rural Development in Somerset.

For their 50 years of serving the community of Southeastern Kentucky, I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring KCEOC. May their next 50 years be as beneficial to the Commonwealth of Kentucky as their first.

CONGO CONFLICT MINERALS LAW UPDATE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is not very often that Congress can make a policy change that has life-or-death consequences for millions of people, but in 2010 a law was enacted that is changing the money supply for warlords in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Many may not realize that almost 5.5 million people have been killed during the long-running conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has been the most deadly since World War II. Tragically, women and children have suffered the most, as we too often see in conflicts. Millions have been displaced from their homes, and the prevalence of rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war is almost beyond belief. The U.N. reports that about 1,000 women are assaulted every day in Congo, which is roughly equivalent to 12 percent of all Congolese women.

One of the drivers and funders of this conflict is paradoxically that which fills the DRC with such potential—its natural resources. Instead of paying for the nation's peace, education, roads and public health programs, the DRC's mineral wealth has been siphoned off to fund the armed groups that vie for local and regional control of vast areas far from Congo's capital, Kinshasa.

Tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold are found in everyday electronics, jewelry, airplanes, and manufacturing equipment. But these minerals also have provided weapons and salaries to fighters, including conscripted child soldiers, who then visit unspeakable horrors on innocent civilians in return.

Over 4 years ago, I joined former Senators Brownback and Feingold and Congressman JIM MCDERMOTT in drafting a simple transparency reporting requirement for U.S.-registered corporations that source these four minerals from the DRC or its neighbors. And in early June, after protracted legal challenges, the first of those annual reports was filed at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The electronics industry, in general, has been out front on this push for great transparency, but sadly, the jewelry industry has lagged far behind on its due diligence and reporting. Some companies have made more than a good-faith effort to determine the origins of the minerals they and their suppliers use, and a few of those companies, I am proud to say, call Illinois home.

One of the leaders, across all industries, on this is Motorola Solutions, headquartered in Schaumbergn, IL. Motorola Solutions emerged early as a company dedicated to cleaning up its supply chain, and to do so, it helped establish Solutions for Hope, dedicated to developing a closed-pipe supply chain. Kester, a subsidiary of Illinois Tool Works, makes electronic and automobile components and has been a leader in transparency of the smelters it uses. John Deere, headquartered in Moline, IL, painstakingly described its due diligence processes and even detailed the sources of minerals that its suppliers used. Others, like AAR Corporation, based out of Wood Dale, and Dover Corporation, headquartered in Downers Grove, developed conflict-mineral specific compliancy programs and provided detailed information on steps to identify risks in their supply chains. Lake Forest's IDEX Corporation underwent efforts to create a sourcing policy that in its first year of filing covered 90 percent of suppliers.

I am sorry to say not all companies took this reporting requirement seriously, hiding behind the 2-year grace period that allows them to avoid questions. My hope is that these Illinois companies serve as an example for next year's filings nationwide. And here is why—this rule is yielding real, tangible, positive results already.

The Government Accountability Office issued a report in late June that confirmed the opposite of claims made by those seeking to dismantle this reporting requirement. This rule has expanded the options for clean minerals sourcing in Central Africa. In fact, the number of certified conflict-free smelters has more than tripled in the past year alone. Intel has created its first conflict-free computer chip, while using responsibly sourced minerals from Congo and took its reporting a step further by voluntarily submitting it to third-party audits. Under the Conflict-Free Smelter Program, the number of international smelters operating free from conflict minerals continues to grow. Almost 90 smelters (40 percent of the world's total smelters) are certified as conflict-free and more than 150 companies and industry associations participate in the program.

After being refined the origins of the material become difficult to track. Smelters purchase materials from a variety of sources, so the smelter or refiner is a critical point in the supply chain, where we can look for assurances about whether the material has been purchased from conflict-free sources. Apple has confirmed that its entire tantalum supply chain is conflict free. Dutch smart phone manufacturer Fairphone is making its products with conflict-free raw materials. Fairphone has already sold 35,000 units and is hoping to expand production as more consumers embrace conflict-free electronics. Fairphone and others are leading by example and proving that conflict-free is not only possible but that it can be profitable too.

The Enough Project recently reported on the effect of this legislation, and it is good news. Armed groups and the Congolese army are no longer present at 2/3 of tin, tantalum, and tungsten mines surveyed in eastern Congo. It also appears that responsible sourcing initiatives might be contagious—Congo-Brazzaville, the DRC's neighbor to the west, has begun its own program to determine clean sources of minerals as well. I am also happy to say that our counterparts in the European Union are reviewing a bill based on our law to require European companies to provide similar transparency in their own supply chains. China has instituted similar rules, and other nations are following close behind.

The Congress has emerged as a world leader on conflict-minerals reporting, and the early results suggest that the people of the DRC should not have to suffer unspeakable violence that can be traced back to our cell phones, wedding rings, and cars. The filings are far from perfect, but we have begun the process. I appreciate those industry players that are leading the way. I can only hope that by cutting off this rich source of funding for the fighting in the Congo, we can help spare its citizens from the senseless violence that is tearing the country apart.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE WASHINGTON, IL TORNADOES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, people throughout Illinois have been reflecting this week on the 1-year anniversary of the day that rare November tornadoes tore through Illinois, causing widespread devastation and eight deaths in our State. The outbreak, which happened on November 17, 2013, destroyed hundreds of homes and rendered thousands uninhabitable.

This tornado event was the deadliest and costliest in the State of Illinois for the month of November—and it was the fourth largest outbreak for the State overall. Two of the tornadoes that day rated EF4. That means the winds were more than 166 miles per hour. In fact, the National Weather Service clocked a peak wind of 190 miles per hour on that day. Washington, Gifford,

Brookport, East Peoria, Pekin, the list of cities touched by the tornadoes in the State goes on and on.

I visited Washington, IL, near Peoria, 5 days after the tornado—and Gifford, IL, just a few days after that. What I saw was heartbreaking. In the city of Washington, alone, 1,108 homes were damaged—most were damaged very badly. Five hundred ninety-five of those homes were destroyed. I saw bare foundations where families had lived just days before. Trees had been reduced to splinters. Street signs had been torn out of the ground making it nearly impossible to see where one block ended and another began.

The loss of homes and property was really difficult to bear, but the real tragedy lies in the lives that were claimed. Three people died in Washington, two people died in Washington County near St. Louis, and three were killed in downstate Massac County, which is located along the Ohio River.

It is a miracle more lives were not lost, particularly in the path of the EF4 tornado that touched down in East Peoria, traveled through the city of Washington and continued up to Long Point, IL. In Washington, many lives may have been saved by the fact that so many members of the community were in church when the tornado came through. When the sirens went off, 500 people inside Crossroads United Methodist Church huddled in a storm shelter in the building. Half a mile away, at the Apostolic Christian Church, many of the 450 or so people who were there took refuge in Sunday school rooms. The tornado, spinning at nearly 200 miles per hour changed course by several degrees just seconds before impact and went right between those two churches. Neither church was damaged.

I can't say enough about the tireless efforts the emergency personnel who were there from the minute the sirens went off. They were there to help under the most extraordinary circumstances. I supported Governor Quinn's request for a Federal disaster declaration for 15 counties in the State. The President granted ''individual assistance'' to people in Champaign, Douglas, Fayette, Grundy, Jasper, LaSalle, Massac, Pope, Tazewell, Vermilion, Wabash, Washington, Wayne, Will, and Woodford Counties. This declaration allowed people in those communities whose homes and businesses were damaged to start repairs and to find temporary housing if they needed it. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has provided more than $28 million in loans to the tornado victims. The Small Business Administration also made loans available to businesses in the affected counties. To date, it has provided 305 loans for a total of $25.8 million.

The people who live and work in the damaged communities have made incredible progress rebuilding. Washington Mayor Gary Manier predicted last year that the city would rebuild within a year. The task proved far greater than anyone would have thought but the city has made great strides. Building permits have been issued for more than 70 percent of the damaged properties. More than 25 percent of the destroyed homes have been replaced and reoccupied. Work remains to be done but the city has seen enormous progress.

Thousands of volunteers have helped with the cleanup. Ben Davidson, executive pastor at Bethany Community Church, has coordinated volunteer efforts since the early stages. He says volunteers have accounted for 13,000 workdays and 70,000 hours. Although most volunteers have been from central Illinois, people from all over the State continue to show up on weekends to help plant trees and cut weeds on neglected properties. Hearing the stories of Illinoisans working together to help neighbors and even strangers get back on their feet makes me proud to be from Illinois. Thank you to everyone engaged in the rescue and cleanup at every level.

I also want to recognize the hard work and dedication of: Jonathon Monken, head of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency; Gifford Mayor Derald Ackerman; Brookport Mayor John Klaffer; and Metropolis Mayor Billy McDaniel. They were there when their constituents and their communities needed them the most.

I am thinking of all those whose lives were affected by this tragic event. We are rebuilding—as Americans always do—and will be stronger for it.

NOMINATION OF LAUREN McFERRAN

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. Presidet, this morning we convened a hearing to consider the President's nomination of Lauren McFerran to fill an impending vacancy on the National Labor Relations Board. Ms. McFerran is well known to most of us as a senior staffer on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and I look forward to her speedy confirmation. She has been nominated to fill a vacancy that will result from the departure next month of a current Board member, Nancy Schiffer. I would like to thank Ms. Schiffer for her dedicated service. She has been a highly respected Board member, and I wish her every success in her future endeavors.

The National Labor Relations Board is an agency that is absolutely critical to our country, to our economy, and to our middle class. Over 75 years ago, Congress enacted the National Labor Relations Act, guaranteeing American workers the right to form and join a union and bargain for a better life. The act sets forth a national policy to encourage collective bargaining. Specifically, the act states:

> It is declared to be the policy of the United States to eliminate the causes of certain substantial obstructions to the free flow of commerce and to mitigate and eliminate these obstructions when they have occurred by encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining and by protecting the exercise by workers of full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of their own choosing, for the purpose of negotiating the terms and conditions of their employment or other mutual aid or protection.

For union and nonunion workers alike, the act provides essential protections. It gives workers a voice in the workplace, allowing them to join together and speak up for fair wages and benefits, and for safe working conditions. These rights ensure that the people who do the real work in this country have a shot at receiving a fair share of the benefits when our economy grows—and with rising income inequality in our country, these rights are more important than ever.

The NLRB is the guardian of these fundamental rights. Workers themselves cannot enforce the NLRA, but they can turn to the Board if they have been denied the basic protections provided under the law. In short, the Board plays a vital role in vindicating workers' rights. In the past 10 years, the NLRB has secured opportunities for reinstatement for 22,544 employees who were unjustly fired. It has recovered more than $1 billion on behalf of workers whose rights were violated.

The Board also provides relief and remedies to our Nation's employers. For example, employers can turn to the Board for relief if a union commences a wildcat strike or refuses to bargain in good faith during negotiations. The NLRB has a long history of helping businesses resolve disputes efficiently. By preventing or resolving labor disputes that could disrupt our economy, the work that the Board does is vital to every worker and every business across the Nation.

That is why it is so important that we maintain a fully functional, five-member NLRB. I am proud of the fact that, just a little over a year ago, we were able to confirm members to completely fill the board for the first time in over a decade. Now, we need to fill a soon-to-be open seat so that the Board can continue to function effectively.

Ms. McFerran is not the first nominee for this seat. In September, the HELP Committee approved the nomination of a dedicated public servant, Sharon Block. Republicans and Democrats agreed on Ms. Block's reputation and qualifications, but her nomination was withdrawn in the face of circumstance beyond her control. As a result, Ms. Block will not have the opportunity to serve on the Board. Ms. Block is a tremendous public servant whose qualifications are unaffected and undiminished by the present circumstances and I look forward to Ms. Block's future service to our country.

I am heartened, however, by the President's decision to nominate Lauren McFerran. Ms. McFerran currently serves as Chief Labor Counsel and Deputy Staff Director on my HELP committee. I am proud to have her as a member of my staff; she has served the committee with excellence and

great professionalism; and I know firsthand that the President could not have found a more able successor to Ms. Schiffer. Ms. McFerran is an incredibly talented lawyer with deep knowledge of labor law. She is a person of sterling integrity and strong character. She will be a great asset to the Board.

It is my hope that by promptly confirming Ms. McFerran's nomination to fill the looming vacancy we can continue the progress that has been made recently, and begin a new era where orderly transitions on the NLRB are the norm. We should set a new precedent of confirming nominees—Democratic and Republican alike—in a timely manner.

I have no doubt that Ms. McFerran will do an excellent job in this important position. I look forward to moving her nomination expeditiously.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR WILLIAM J. BURNS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today I honor a truly remarkable diplomat and legendary statesman. After 33 years of service to our Nation, Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns is retiring from the U.S. Department of State. Having served under 10 Secretaries and twice postponing his retirement, Ambassador Burns has had an enormous impact on the trajectory of U.S. foreign policy and I would like to recognize his many years of distinguished service and thank him for his tireless efforts.

Ambassador Burns joined the Foreign Service in 1982 and, within a year of joining, he had already made a name for himself as someone willing to go above and beyond the call of duty. Over the course of his 33 years in the Foreign Service, he has served in countless posts, including as Ambassador to Jordan, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Ambassador to Russia, and Under Secretary for Political Affairs. Since 2011, he has served as Deputy Secretary of State, holding the rare distinction of being only the second career diplomat to rise to the position.

It is a testament to both his character and unique skills that nearly every person who has had the pleasure of meeting Ambassador Burns has a story to tell about it. He has deftly steered our foreign policy through countless challenges over the past three decades and handled with skill sensitive diplomatic missions that few were willing and capable of taking on. That he has one of the most distinguished tenures as a career Foreign Service officer in memory is made all the more remarkable by his modesty and humility.

Ambassador Burns embodies the mission of the Department of State at its finest. He has been a mentor for generations of Department of State personnel and is an inspiration to all public servants, myself included. America is stronger and the world a better place thanks to his service. And while the Department of State will feel his absence, I am relieved to know that he will continue to play an important and constructive role in global affairs through his new position as president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. I thank him for his willingness to serve our country and I wish him and his family the best as they embark on a new journey.

TRIBUTE TO JENELLE KRISHNAMOORTHY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute and to extend my thanks to an extraordinary individual, Jenelle Krishnamoorthy, who has served on my staff, with one small interruption of service, for a decade.

Jenelle came to my staff in the summer of 2003 as a fellow, later becoming a permanent staff member and eventually rising to lead my health policy team on the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. From the time she arrived, it was clear that Jenelle was an exceptional talent—one possessing not just deep knowledge of health care and public health, but also with uncommon instincts about this institution and about how to accomplish great things in an increasingly divided Congress.

Throughout my career, I have been guided by a conviction that our country does not have a health care system, but rather a sick care system. If you get sick, you get care. We spend far too much time and riches treating disease once it has occurred, and far too little preventing it in the first place. Among my first charges to Jenelle when she arrived on staff was to think about how we make America a wellness society, one in which we make the healthy choice the easy choice. How do we, I asked her, change our workplaces, our schools, our communities, our child care settings, and our health care system so that we prevent the onset of chronic disease, rather than patch and fix and treat once a person gets sick?

Jenelle responded with a broad vision of a wellness society—a vision that has guided her work, and my own, for the past 10 years. Looking back over those 10 years, the breadth of what she has accomplished is truly remarkable.

The Affordable Care Act is one of the great health laws of the last 75 years. As my designee on that bill, Jenelle secured passage of a number of groundbreaking policy changes that have changed the landscape of our health care system. In particular, Jenelle was the primary drafter of the prevention title of that bill. As a result of that, every single American can now receive recommended preventive health care services absolutely free of charge. Routine services such as mammograms, vaccinations, diabetes and cancer screenings, among other things, are now cost free, forever, because of Jenelle's work.

As part of that bill, Jenelle was also the intellectual force behind the Prevention Fund, which creates a public health partnership between the Federal Government and communities across the country by providing billions of dollars for communities to invest in proven preventive efforts such as tobacco cessation, childhood obesity prevention, HIV prevention, and public health workforce development. As a result, across the country, communities, from small towns in Iowa to our largest urban centers, are working together to weave health promotion into the very fabric of our communities and the lives of our citizens.

Through her work on the Affordable Care Act, Jenelle also played a key role in expanding nutrition labeling to chain restaurants around the country, giving hundreds of millions of consumers access to critical nutrition information that they need to take control of their own health, and also successfully fought for new policies to promote breastfeeding.

Jenelle's contributions to the health of our country go far beyond the Affordable Care Act. As the health policy director for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Jenelle shepherded passage of the Food Safety Modernization Act, the most significant reform of our food safety system in the country in decades. This law strengthened the Food and Drug Administration with critical new authorities to protect Americans by establishing a better and more modern system for keeping our food safe from farm to fork.

And just as she did with the food safety system, Jenelle also spearheaded efforts to improve the safety and quality of drugs and medical devices. In successfully leading committee passage of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, Jenelle helped ensure the safety of our drugs and medical devices, alleviate the effects of drugs shortages and manufacturing problems, and implemented long sought reform to help bring critical drugs and medical devices to patients faster.

Remarkably, these are just the highlights of Jenelle's accomplishments in the area of health policy and health promotion. Just in this Congress, Jenelle has led 16 bills into law, including bills to respond more quickly and effectively to public health disasters, to facilitate organ donation, to provide equitable funding to children's hospitals and ensure a steady supply of pediatric doctors, and to speed the approval of new sunscreens to protect Americans from skin cancer. Her efforts in the health arena in this Congress have made the HELP Committee one of the most productive in this Congress. For making me look good as the Chairman of the HELP Committee, I owe Jenelle a special debt of gratitude.

Americans take for granted the safety of our food supply and our drugs and medical equipment. When people go to their doctors and receive a free, often lifesaving mammogram, they do not

think of the reasons for it. When a smoker of several decades finally receives the help that he needs to quit so that he can watch his grandchildren grow up, he most likely does not pause to reflect on why he received free cessation services. But none of these things happened accidentally. They came to pass because of the heroic and humble efforts of a dedicated public servant, Jenelle Krishnamoorthy. For 10 years now, Jenelle has shown up for work in my office with the singular goal of improving the health of Americans. She has succeeded beyond measure. For that, I owe her my thanks, and so too do tens of millions of Americans.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today I express my opposition to the President's plan to grant executive amnesty to 4 million to 5 million illegal immigrants residing in the United States.

By circumventing Congress on immigration and instituting his will through executive actions, President Obama is eroding the very foundation of our country and form of government. This sets a dangerous precedent where future Presidents can flout any law they happen to disagree with and alter the law without going through Congress. Each branch of government is to act as a check against the others and not sit idly by as one exercises authority it does not have. A constitutional law professor should know that.

I believe we all agree that our immigration system is broken—both the legal system which allows individuals to visit and work in our country and the failures which continue to allow others to reside illegally within our borders. The first step we need to take to fix our system is to secure our borders and bolster interior enforcement. We cannot reduce illegal immigration without better border security and entry/exit enforcement measures. We also need to ensure that we have a strong, workable employment verification system in place, because if Congress can ensure that only authorized job seekers gain employment in this country, then we remove the incentive for illegal immigration—and we cannot grant those who are here illegally amnesty.

Yet this week the President intends to circumvent the will of Congress by illegally granting amnesty to 4 millions to 5 million illegal immigrants. This cannot stand. The American people do not want it, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have advocated against it, and the President himself has said more than 20 times that he does not have the authority to take this action. I am certain that the Republicans in the Senate will take action next year when we become the majority, and I look forward to being a part of that cause.

But I must be clear: this is part of a much larger fight. I know all of my colleagues remember the unconstitutional NLRB recess appointments the President made in 2012. In that case, the Supreme Court rejected his move, but it hasn't stopped the President from pushing forward. He has proposed a cap and tax proposal through regulation that Congress has already rejected, and I know my colleagues from coal-producing States intend to fight that EPA rule with me. I know my colleagues from Western States also intend to join me in fighting the EPA's proposed rule that could allow the administration to regulate all bodies of water, no matter how small, and regardless of whether the water is on public or private property.

This week's action is the latest step too far by the President, and I will continue to fight executive overreach—including amnesty by executive order—whether by targeting rampant, unaccountable Federal spending, working to reverse illegal executive orders with legitimate Federal laws or using the Congressional Review Act to reject the President's actions. I will be looking closely at every option.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2013

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to thank Chairman HARKIN, Ranking Member ALEXANDER, and sponsors Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BURR for their tremendous work to bring the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 to passage. I thank all of my colleagues in the House and Senate who helped get us to this point.

As many of my colleagues have commented, it is well past time that we take up a reauthorization of this important legislation. The Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, has not been reauthorized since 1996. In the nearly two decades since, our understanding of early childhood development, and the importance of high-quality child care and early learning, has expanded dramatically.

Investing in high-quality early learning opportunities such as child care and pre-K sets children on the path to success. This bill updates Federal standards to ensure that the Federal Government is supporting high-quality child care for low-income children. The legislation we have passed sets a new standard for child care in America, making sure that Federal dollars are going to providers who are committed to providing child care that meets certain criteria, such as health and safety standards.

Many of these changes reflect proposals I have put forth in previous Congresses to improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant, such as the Starting Early, Starting Right Act. I am encouraged that we were able to reach consensus on many of the provisions I have supported in the past, and that they are represented in this bill.

I would have liked to go further. I believe we need to increase our investment in high-quality child care, and make it easier for child care providers to access training and education opportunities that will help them become better at caring for children and helping them learn. I would like to increase the incentives for States to invest in quality ratings and improvement systems, QRIS, which encourage child care providers to make continuous improvements in the quality of the care they provide and the facilities they use, often through financial incentives such as higher reimbursement rates when a certain quality level is reached.

While the authorized appropriations levels in this bill represent a 16% increase over the next 6 years—we still have a long way to go. Nationwide, the number of children served with CCDBG funding from 2012 to 2013 fell by 47,500 children. In Pennsylvania, nearly 2,800 fewer children were served. The important provisions for health, safety, and quality in this bill are not without their cost, and Congress must fully fund them. No family, child care provider, or State should have to make a choice between serving more children or providing quality care. We owe our most vulnerable children no less.

Even with the continued need for more funding, I still believe this legislation represents a significant improvement over current law and major progress for families. For the first time, we are requiring all States to develop robust health and safety standards, and to institute a consistent background check system for child care providers.

We are requiring States to formally coordinate their early learning programs, to improve service coordination and delivery. We are allowing children who qualify for a subsidy to receive a year of care before their eligibility is re-determined, promoting stability and continuity for the entire family and encouraging the child to develop strong relationships with his or her teachers and peers in child care.

We are increasing the investment in quality, from the 4 percent per year currently required in law to 9 percent within 5 years, and including a separate set-aside for infants and toddlers. Quality is a continuum, and a continual investment; it is not a one-time purchase, it is something we need to support and sustain.

I thank Chairman HARKIN, Ranking Member ALEXANDER, and Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BURR again for all of the work that they and their staff have done to get us to this point. When Congress works together children and family in this Nation all benefit. With the President's signature, parents can rest a little easier knowing that when they leave their child at child care, they will receive great care.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

VIRGINIA'S COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY THROUGH EDUCATION INNOVATION

• Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, the key to America's continued success lies in improving our Nation's educational system. With the changing needs of our workforce, it is imperative that we utilize research in STEM fields and the humanities to improve our country's economic prosperity. Even in lean times, Virginia focused on the link between research and the creative new innovations that are leading this Nation's economic recovery; the Commonwealth's continued commitment to bridging these undertakings is commendable.

The Virginia Longitudinal System was created by a partnership between the Virginia Department of Education, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Virginia Community College System, and the Virginia Employment Commission. This vital research tool, the first of its kind in the Nation, provides policymakers, researchers, and citizens with information that will prepare and connect Virginians with employment opportunities. Funded with a grant awarded under the stimulus bill—the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009—the data system allows State agencies and researchers to study the behaviors and transitions of students through the public school systems, into college, and on to the workforce so Virginia leaders can make informed decisions and create education and workforce policy based on consistent and relevant data.

Earlier this year, several education organizations, including the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Center for Excellence in Education, Center for Innovative Technology, Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Business Higher Education Council, and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, held the Virginia Higher Education Research Summit. The summit focused on the importance of increasing funding for academic research at Virginia's colleges and universities, showcased the strengths of private/public partnerships between Virginia's universities and the private sector, provided a forum for discussing best practices related to intellectual property issues, and strengthened the public's understanding of where Virginia's research dollars come from, including from Federal, State, and private sources.

If we are to win the race for talent, we need a long-term plan that produces the best workforce in the world. I am encouraged by these institutions' open discussion of one of our Nation's most pressing problems—investing in innovative research ideas that will drive our economy and the middle class into the future. I recognize the efforts of these stakeholders and the Commonwealth as they build on the substantial successes already achieved by Virginia's colleges and universities.•

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARK A. SCHRAMEK

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to congratulate Lt. Col. Mark A. Schramek on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Air Force after more than 20 years of service. A native of Duluth, MN, he has served our country with distinction both at home and abroad.

An intelligence officer by training, Lieutenant Colonel Schramek has held a number of important operational and headquarters assignments. In 2009, he became a Congressional liaison officer for the U.S. Air Force, a demanding and important position within the Department of Defense. As a Congressional liaison officer, he developed and implemented effective legislative strategies and supported some of the most important programs to the Department of Defense.

Having worked with Lieutenant Colonel Schramek over the past few years, I am pleased to commend him for his distinguished service to our country. I wish him and his family the very best as they begin the next chapter of their lives.•

CONGRATULATING BILL DEIST

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish today to congratulate Bill Deist, of Winnemucca, NV, on his retirement. After serving the community of Humboldt County for over 15 years, Bill will be retiring in December 2014. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate him on his retirement after many years of hard work and dedication to Humboldt County and the Silver State.

Bill stands as a shining example of someone who has devoted their life to the betterment of their community. He started serving the Silver State in 1997 when he moved to Carlin, NV. His experience of over 19 years as the city manager in John Day, OR, made him an extremely qualified candidate to become the Carlin city manager—a position that he held for 2 years. After his years as the city manager, Bill became the Humboldt County administrator, a position that he has held with integrity for the past 15 years.

Upon becoming the Humboldt County administrator, Bill became a person known for getting things done. He always worked well with all city, county, and State governments throughout his career. His consistent priority was to create initiatives geared toward the betterment and improvement of the lives of the Humboldt County citizens. Among his many accomplishments, Bill has been credited with the creation of a strong county budget and upon his retirement, he will be leaving the county debt free and fiscally strong.

While representing Humboldt County for 4 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, and now as its U.S. Senator, I have had the distinct pleasure of working closely with Bill on important Northern Nevada priorities. Bill was an integral part of the Pine Forest review and assessment working group that worked for years to develop recommendations that were ultimately included in the Pine Forest Range Recreation Enhancement Act, legislation I have fought to enact as a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. This bill, which would greatly benefit Humboldt County once enacted, has near unanimous support among residents because of the indepth work done prior to introduction. In fact, it is frequently looked to in Congress as a national model for how public lands bills should be developed at the grassroots level. Public input and local support is critical to all my public lands work in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee on behalf of the State, and Bill's input has been vital in nearly every effort I have been involved in benefiting the county.

Bill exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and community service and should be proud of his long and meaningful career. I am grateful for his dedication and commitment to the people of Humboldt County and to the State of Nevada. Today, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Bill on his retirement, and I offer my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make the Silver State an even better place. I offer my best wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come.•

RECOGNIZING DR. NORMAN CHRISTOPHER FRANCIS

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and honor Dr. Norman Christopher Francis, who has devoted much of his life to increasing access to, quality of, and affordability of postsecondary education for students. Dr. Francis recently retired from his remarkable tenure as president of Xavier University, a renowned Historically Black University and one of Louisiana's most cherished institutions of higher education. He has left behind an indelible mark of impressive leadership and results. On behalf of the U.S. Senate and the State of Louisiana, I applaud Dr. Francis for his devotion to Louisiana's higher education system and thank him for his many years of service.

Dr. Francis began his journey in the field of higher education country more than 60 years ago as a student at Xavier University and grew into a cherished leader who later served as the university's president for 46 years. This makes him the longest tenured leader of any university in America—quite a remarkable achievement. He is one of the most admired and respected leaders not only in New Orleans and Louisiana but in our Nation today. In an extraordinary career, he took an active and vital leadership role during the tumultuous decades of civil rights battles in

Louisiana. Decades later, he helped Governor Kathleen Blanco guide our State out of one of its darkest periods following the devastating impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority. His leadership and expertise played an important role in the rebuilding of a world-class quality, State public higher education system.

On a personal note, Dr. Francis is one of our family's closest and most cherished friends, and he has most certainly earned his retirement. And as a devoted family man, I know he is looking forward to more time with his dear wife Blanche, children and growing grandchildren.

I am proud that Louisiana's higher education system, especially our valued Historically Black Colleges and Universities, have had the strong leadership and guidance of Dr. Francis over the years and I am grateful for his service. Dr. Francis' leadership as the president of Xavier University will be missed; however, I have full faith and trust that he will continue to lead in improving the educational prospects and outcomes for Louisiana's students in whatever role he pursues next. Once again, I am privileged and honored to formally recognize Dr. Norman Christopher Francis for his commitment and efforts to strengthen higher education in Louisiana and the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO STUART CAMPBELL

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Stuart Campbell, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Stuart is a graduate of Central High School in Aberdeen, SD. Currently, Stuart is attending Georgetown University, where he is majoring in Science and Technology in International Affairs. Stuart is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Stuart Campbell for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ROSS DIETRICH

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Ross Dietrich, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Ross is a graduate of Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, Ross is attending the University of South Dakota, where he is working toward an M.A. in addiction studies. Ross is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ross Dietrich for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MARIA ECKRICH

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Maria Eckrich, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Maria is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, Maria is attending American University's School of International Service, where she is studying global governance, politics, and security. Maria is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Maria Eckrich for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ANNE KEOUGH

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Anne Keough, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Anne is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, Anne is attending George Washington University, where she is majoring in international affairs/security policy and Arabic. Anne is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Anne Keough for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MEGAN REIFFENBERGER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Megan Reiffenberger, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Megan is a graduate of Watertown High School in Watertown, SD. Currently, Megan is attending George Mason University, where she is majoring in English. Megan is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Megan Reiffenberger for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KELSEY SAKOS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kelsey Sakos, an intern in my Rapid City, SD office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Kelsey is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, Kelsey is attending Black Hills State University, where she is majoring in political science/social science. Kelsey is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kelsey Sakos for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING PROFESSORS OF THE YEAR

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I congratulate the four national winners of the U.S. Professor of the Year Award. Since 1981, this program has recognized outstanding undergraduate instructors throughout the country. A U.S. Professor of the Year was also recognized in 30 states and the District of Columbia.

This award is hailed as one of the most prestigious honors bestowed upon a professor. To be nominated for this award requires dedication to the art of education and excellence in every aspect of the profession. There is no doubt that professors who personally vest themselves in each student shape the leaders of tomorrow. These individuals should be proud of their accomplishments and contributions to a brighter future.

I am particularly proud of Dr. Branislav Notaros, the State winner from Colorado. As a professor of electrical and computer engineering and Director of the Electromagnetics Laboratory at Colorado State University, Dr. Notaros' research has been instrumental in advancing the field of electromagnetics. He has won numerous awards in recognition of his work, including the 2005 IEEE Microwave Prize and the 2009 CSU Excellence in Teaching Award.

I commend and thank Dr. Notaros and all the winners for their leadership and passion for educating our nation's young leaders. No doubt they have inspired an untold number of students. I wish all of the honorees the very best in all their endeavors. Congratulations and best regards.

The four national award winners are: Outstanding Baccalaureate Colleges Professor of the Year: Laurie Grobman, Professor of English and Women's Studies, Pennsylvania State University Berks; Outstanding Community Colleges Professor of the Year: John Wadach, Professor of Engineering Science and Physics, Monroe Community College; Outstanding Doctoral and Research Universities Professor of the Year: Sheri Sheppard, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Stanford University and Outstanding Master's Universities and Colleges Professor of the Year: Patricia H. Kelley, Professor of Geology, University of North Carolina Wilmington.

The 30 state and District of Columbia winners are:

Alabama—Eric J. Fournier, Professor of Geography, Samford University;

Arizona—James Sousa, Mathematics Instructor, Phoenix College;

California—Mitch Malachowski, Professor of Chemistry, University of San Diego;

Colorado—Branislav M. Notaroš, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Colorado State University;

Connecticut—Hisae Kobayashi, Senior Lecturer in Japanese, Connecticut College;

District of Columbia—Heidi Elmendorf, Associate Professor of Biology, Georgetown University;

Delaware—Beth Morling, Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Delaware;

Florida—Rosany H. Alvarez, Mathematics Professor, Miami Dade College;

Georgia—John A. Knox, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, Department of Geography, University of Georgia;

Idaho—Karen Launchbaugh, Professor of Rangeland Ecology, University of Idaho;

Illinois—Dan Gebo, Professor of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University;

Indiana—Michelle A. Whaley, Teaching Professor, Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame;

Kentucky—Cindy S. Tucker, Associate Professor, Computer and Information Technologies, Bluegrass Community and Technical College;

Maryland—KenYatta Rogers, Professor of Theatre, Montgomery College Rockville Campus;

Massachusetts—Beth McGinnis-Cavanaugh, Professor of Physics and Civil Engineering Technology, Springfield Technical Community College;

Michigan—Cynthia Wade, Math Professor, St. Clair County Community College;

Minnesota—Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson, Professor of Film, Minnesota State University Moorhead;

Mississippi—Kenneth Sufka, Professor of Psychology and Pharmacology, University of Mississippi;

Missouri—Andrea Nichols, Professor of Sociology, St. Louis Community College at Forest Park;

Nebraska—Greg W. Zacharias, Professor of English and Director, Center for Henry James Studies, Creighton University;

New Jersey—Darrin M. York, Professor of Chemistry, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey;

New York—Cynthia Jones, Lecturer, English Department, Hostos Community College of The City University of New York;

North Carolina—Karen Hornsby, Associate Professor of Philosophy, North Carolina A&T State University;

Ohio—Elizabeth George, Professor of Physics, Wittenberg University;

Oregon—Jennifer Corpus, Professor of Psychology, Reed College;

Pennsylvania—Richard L. Wallace, Professor of Environmental Studies, Ursinus College;

South Carolina—Milind N. Kunchur, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of South Carolina;

Texas—Collin Thomas, Professor of Biology, Collin College;

Virginia—Paul Hanstedt, Professor of English, Roanoke College;

West Virginia—Kateryna A.R. Schray, Professor, Department of English, Marshall University; and

Wisconsin, Scott Cooper, Professor of Biology and Director of Undergraduate Research and Creativity, University of Wisconsin—La Crosse.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:48 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3398. An act to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3583. An act to expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program.

H.R. 4012. An act to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible.

H.R. 5448. An act to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

H.R. 5681. An act to provide for the approval of the Amendment to the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes.

H.R. 5728. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes.

At 11:58 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 119. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3398. An act to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4012. An act to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3583. An act to expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–7899. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment for Commercial Space Adjudications; Second Amendment'' ((RIN2120–AK55) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0822)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7900. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Alma, NE'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0745)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7901. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Cando, ND'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0746)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7902. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Encinal, TX'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0741)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7903. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Thomas, OK'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0263)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7904. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revocation of Restricted Areas R–4105A and R–4105B; No Man's Land Island, MA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0760)) received

during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7905. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Change of Controlling Agency for Restricted Areas; California'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0722)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7906. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airplane and Engine Certification Requirements in Supercooled Large Drop, Mixed Phase, and Ice Crystal Icing Conditions'' ((RIN2120–AJ34) (Docket No. FAA–2010–0636; Amdt. Nos. 25–140 and 33–34)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7907. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Orders of Compliance, Cease and Desist Orders, Orders of Denial, and Other Orders'' ((RIN2120–AK43) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0505; Amdt. No. 13–36A)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7908. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Departing IFR/VFR When Weather Reporting Is Not Available; Confirmation of Effective Date'' ((RIN2120–AK49) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0502; Amdt. No. 135–131)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7909. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Fiberglas-Technik Rudolf Lindner GmbH and Co. KG Gliders'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0292)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7910. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0287)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7911. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0581)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7912. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0140)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7913. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Beechcraft Corporation (Type Certificate Previously Held by Hawker Beechcraft Corporation; Raytheon Aircraft Company; Beech Aircraft Corporation) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0345)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7914. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0705)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7915. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0532)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7916. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. Air Data Pressure Transducers'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0285)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7917. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France) Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0832)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7918. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0451)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7919. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2007–28413)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7920. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0548)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7921. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0431)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7922. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0290)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7923. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0283)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7924. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters, Inc. (Previously Eurocopter France) Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0757)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7925. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Alexandria Aircraft LLC Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0438)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7926. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Brantly International, Inc. Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2012–1093)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13,

2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7927. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0740)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7928. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0516)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7929. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0494)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7930. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0654)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7931. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0650)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7932. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0058)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7933. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Harmonization of Airworthiness Standards—Miscellaneous Structures Requirements'' ((RIN2120–AK13) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0109)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–351. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas a portion of revenue generated from outer continental shelf oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf to ensure that those states develop necessary infrastructure to support outer continental shelf development and preserve environmental integrity; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

Whereas oil and gas development in federal areas, both onshore and offshore, requires additional investment in state infrastructure and increases demand on state and local government resources; and

Whereas, under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, the federal government recognizes the effects of oil and gas development in federal onshore areas by sharing with the states 50 percent of revenue from mineral production on federal land within each state's boundaries; and

Whereas, under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the federal government recognizes the effect oil and gas development in federal near-shore areas has on states by sharing with those states 27 percent of revenue collected from federal oil and gas leases within three miles of the states' coastlines; and

Whereas, under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, the federal government recognizes the effect that oil and gas development in federal offshore areas has on the states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, and recognizes the contributions to national energy, security, and economic interests made by sharing with those states 37.5 percent of revenue from federal oil and gas leases in outer continental shelf areas adjacent to each state; and

Whereas the federal government fails to recognize the same effects on and contributions made by other oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas, including this state and California; and

Whereas the Alaska outer continental shelf region encompasses the Beaufort, Chukchi, and Bering seas, Cook Inlet, and the Gulf of Alaska, includes over 1,000,000,000 acres, and contains more than 6,000 miles of coastline, which is more coastline than the rest of the United States combined; and

Whereas there are presently 607 active oil and gas leases and more than 3,300,000 acres of leased land in the Alaska outer shelf continental region; and

Whereas federal government grants do not adequately address the need for additional investment in state infrastructure or the increased demands on state and local government resources resulting from outer continental shelf development, especially in this state, which has more coastline, more rural communities, and less infrastructure than any other state; and

Whereas outer continental shelf revenue sharing would allow states to build infrastructure such as marine ports, airports, utilities, and housing, and increase state services, such as oil spill and emergency response and environmental monitoring and mitigation, which would likely lead to expanded, safer exploration and development activity and increase overall revenue to the federal government; and

Whereas additional state infrastructure and increased availability of state and local government resources would likely increase interest in and bids during future federal outer continental shelf oil and gas lease sales, which have generated over $2,750,000,000 in revenue for the federal government in the Alaska outer continental shelf region alone since 2005; and

Whereas outer continental shelf revenue sharing could provide a stable funding source for and help fulfill the mission of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a national fund created to safeguard natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage and to provide recreation opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas a portion of revenue generated from outer continental shelf oil and gas production to ensure the states develop necessary infrastructure to support outer continental shelf development and preserve environmental integrity.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Eric Cantor, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM–352. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the United States Congress to enact legislation that would require approval by Acts of the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress before establishing an international designation of land or water in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15

Whereas Alaska and the Russian Far East are close neighbors across the Bering Sea, and archaeologists believe that the area was a migration route used by many peoples moving from Asia and populating North and South America; and

Whereas some of the indigenous peoples of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East speak the same language and share the same customs and traditions but have, until recent times, been separated by political differences between their respective countries; and

Whereas, in recent years, various events and exchanges have been organized to reconnect the residents of Western Alaska and those of the Russian Far East; and

Whereas the areas of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East have been referred to as Beringia; and

Whereas, in 2010, the United States and Russia began negotiations to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of establishing an international protected area in the Bering Strait region that would include the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, the Cape Krusenstern National Monument, and, in the Chukotka region of Russia, the yet-to-be-created Beringia International Park; and

Whereas the National Park Service identifies and defines Beringia as the area bounded

on the east by the Mackenzie River in Canada, on the west by the Lena River in Russia, on the north by 72 degrees North latitude, and on the south by the southern tip of Kamchatka, leaving only the south-central and southeastern limits to be determined; and

Whereas the federal government historically has attempted to expand the scope of its influence beyond Alaska park boundaries, including the attempt to establish game buffer zones around Denali National Park and Preserve; and

Whereas, during the past two decades, the National Park Service has repeatedly expanded the size of the area identified as Beringia; and

Whereas the National Park Service manages the Shared Beringian Heritage Program and seeks to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between the United States and Russia and between the indigenous peoples of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East by promoting cultural exchange, supporting subsistence opportunities, and working toward an international designation for the land and water in the area identified as Beringia; and

Whereas, for many years, the National Park Service has pursued a program to establish a Beringia International Park that potentially could evolve into a world heritage site or a marine biosphere reserve and would include land and water in Alaska and the Russian Far East; and

Whereas officials of the United States Department of State and the National Park Service have traveled throughout Russia and spoken before the Russian Duma in Moscow; and

Whereas the international designations contemplated by the National Park Service for the areas included in Beringia are an invitation and another means for United States and foreign environmental nongovernmental organizations to oppose resource development on public and Alaska Native land and water in the state; and

Whereas many Alaskans are concerned that the proposed Beringia International Park would impede future rights of access for the Red Dog Mine, the primary economic engine in Northwest Alaska; and

Whereas Alaska Native corporations and the state specifically selected much of their land because of the mineral potential and the opportunity to create jobs and other economic opportunities for the people of the state; and

Whereas, in September 2012, Governor Sean Parnell sent a letter to then United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton asking for time to conduct a meaningful review of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding regarding Beringia and to provide input on the possible effects of the Memorandum of Understanding on the region and the state; and

Whereas, on January 17, 2013, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed a decree creating Beringia National Park as a Russian National Park in the Chukotka Region; and

Whereas, in October 2013, members of the Alaska State Legislature learned that the United States Department of State, the National Park Service, and the Russian Federation were in the final stages of formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a transboundary protected area in the Bering Strait region; and

Whereas the current effort to formalize a transboundary protected area would be the first step in imposing international designations and could reduce the sovereignty of the state and the United States over the burdened parts of the state, in violation of the Alaska Statehood Compact, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

Whereas the Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the management, protection, maintenance, enhancement, rehabilitation, and extension of fish and wildlife resources in the state, including management responsibilities on National Park Service land; and

Whereas, in the 1982 Master Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service, the parties agreed to ''consider carefully the impact on the State of Alaska of proposed treaties or international agreements relating to fish and wildlife resources which could diminish the jurisdictional authority of the State, and to consult freely with the State when such treaties or agreements have a significant impact on the State''; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature asserts that any international Memorandum of Understanding or other action to designate land or water in the state as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or classification of land or water that affects the proper use of the land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation should require approval by Acts of the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress before taking effect; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United States Department of State and the United States Department of the Interior cease all further action to establish an international designation of land or water in the state until the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature approve; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Congress enact a law that requires Congressional approval of any international designation that affects the use of land or water by the state or the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that, if the United States Department of State or the United States Department of the Interior nevertheless pursues or proposes the designation of land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or classification of land or water that affects the proper use of the land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation, the governor be actively involved in the process and development of any joint action plan; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the state, including the departments responsible for the management of fish and wildlife and other natural resources, be an integral if not primary part of any discussion, agreement, understanding, or other process or document that affects the use or development of fish and wildlife and other natural resources in the state; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor and the attorney general to reserve all legal remedies, including the recovery of damages, for a taking of the natural resources of the state in violation of the Alaska Statehood Compact, should a designation of land and water in the state as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification hamper the use or development of the natural resources of the state.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John F. Kerry, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis, director of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska; the Honorable Michael C. Geraghty, Alaska Attorney General; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress: and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM–353. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the United States Congress to act on the request of the governor to acquire for the State additional land in the Tongass National Forest from the United States Government by purchase or negotiation or by seeking amendment to the Alaska Statehood Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2

Whereas the Tongass National Forest was created in 1907 by a proclamation of President Theodore Roosevelt; and

Whereas, under the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85–508, 72 Stat. 339), the federal government provided Alaska with a 103,350,000-acre land entitlement, which was considered to be sufficient for the newly formed state to become economically self-supporting; and

Whereas the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85–508, 72 Stat. 339) gave the state 25 years to select land for entitlement; and

Whereas the 25-year period established in the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85–508, 72 Stat. 339) as the period in which the state may select land for entitlement was later extended, in effect, by various legislation, with the result that approximately 5,500,000 acres of the land entitlement granted to the state by the Act have not yet been conveyed; and

Whereas, from the 1950s through the early 1990s, the commercial harvest of timber formed a major part of the economy of Southeast Alaska; and

Whereas the commercial harvest of timber no longer forms a major part of the economy of Southeast Alaska because the timber industry does not have access to an adequate amount of timber that can be economically harvested from the Tongass National Forest; and

Whereas, in the past four years, several efforts to revitalize the timber industry in Southeast Alaska have failed because a timber industry cannot exist without an adequate timber supply; and

Whereas the United States Congress has placed 40 percent of the Tongass National Forest off limits for commercial use, and the United States Forest Service has administratively set aside an additional 58 percent of the Tongass National Forest; and

Whereas, at the present time, only two percent of the Tongass National Forest is managed for the purpose of providing local communities with the opportunity to harvest timber; and

Whereas 91 percent of the old growth timber standing in the Tongass National Forest in 1954 remains standing, and the remaining nine percent that has been harvested has now been replaced with young growth timber

that will begin maturing in about 30 years; and

Whereas findings prepared by the Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force in June 2012 reveal that the timber industry is vitally important to statewide and regional economies in the state; and

Whereas the principal barrier to job creation in the Southeast Alaska timber industry is the lack of a sufficient amount of timber that can be economically harvested from the Tongass National Forest; and

Whereas an unrealistic Tongass Land Management Plan dictated by Washington, D.C., endless environmental legal appeals, and a lack of political will by public officials who are in a position to support meeting timber harvest targets have prevented the United States Forest Service from providing the timber industry access to enough economically harvestable timber in the Tongass National Forest to make the timber industry commercially viable in Southeast Alaska; and

Whereas because the United States Forest Service has not been able to provide the timber industry with access to enough economically harvestable timber in the Tongass National Forest to sustain the timber industry in Southeast Alaska, it is time for the United States Congress to act on the governor's request to acquire additional land in the Tongass National Forest that will provide enough economically harvestable timber to create a sustainable economic base for the communities of Southeast Alaska; and

Whereas sec. 6 of the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85–508, 72 Stat. 339) limited the state's selection of land from the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest to 400,000 acres with the intention of preserving timber for federal long-term sales; and

Whereas sec. 6 of the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85–508, 72 Stat. 339) allowed the state to select land in other regions of the state without restricting the use of the land to recreation and community expansion, and, because the timber industry in Southeast Alaska has become unsustainable, the state should be entitled to acquire some of its remaining land entitlement under the Alaska Statehood Act from the Tongass National Forest: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the United States Congress to act on the governor's request to negotiate state land entitlements under sec. 6 of the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85–508, 72 Stat. 339) or work to amend the Alaska Statehood Act for the purpose of acquiring forested land in the Tongass National Forest; and be it further

Resolved, That, if the United States Congress fails to convey forested land in the Tongass National Forest either by negotiating state land entitlements under the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85–508, 72 Stat. 339) or by amending the Alaska Statehood Act, the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor to negotiate the purchase of forested land in the Tongass National Forest from the federal government.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska.

POM–354. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the United States Congress to enact legislation that would require approval by Acts of the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress before establishing an international designation of land or water in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15

Whereas Alaska and the Russian Far East are close neighbors across the Bering Sea, and archaeologists believe that the area was a migration route used by many peoples moving from Asia and populating North and South America; and

Whereas some of the indigenous peoples of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East speak the same language and share the same customs and traditions but have, until recent times, been separated by political differences between their respective countries; and

Whereas in recent years, various events and exchanges have been organized to reconnect the residents of Western Alaska and those of the Russian Far East; and

Whereas the areas of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East have been referred to as Beringia; and

Whereas, in 2010, the United States and Russia began negotiations to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of establishing an international protected area in the Bering Strait region that would include the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, the Cape Krusenstern National Monument, and, in the Chukotka region of Russia, the yet-to-be created Beringia International Park; and

Whereas the National Park Service identifies and defines Beringia as the area bounded on the east by the Mackenzie River in Canada, on the west by the Lena River in Russia, on the north by 72 degrees North latitude, and on the south by the southern tip of Kamchatka, leaving only the south-central and southeastern limits to be determined; and

Whereas the federal government historically has attempted to expand the scope of its influence beyond Alaska park boundaries, including the attempt to establish game buffer zones around Denali National Park and Preserve; and

Whereas, during the past two decades, the National Park Service has repeatedly expanded the size of the area identified as Beringia; and

Whereas the National Park Service manages the Shared Beringian Heritage Program and seeks to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between the United States and Russia and between the indigenous peoples of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East by promoting cultural exchange, supporting subsistence opportunities, and working toward an international designation for the land and water in the area identified as Beringia; and

Whereas, for many years, the National Park Service has pursued a program to establish a Beringia International Park that potentially could evolve into a world heritage site or a marine biosphere reserve and would include land and water in Alaska and the Russian Ear East; and

Whereas officials of the United States Department of State and the National Park Service have traveled throughout Russia and spoken before the Russian Duma in Moscow; and

Whereas the international designations contemplated by the National Park Service for the areas included in Beringia are an invitation and another means for United States and foreign environmental nongovernmental organizations to oppose resource development on public and Alaska Native land and water in the state; and

Whereas many Alaskans are concerned that the proposed Beringia International Park would impede future rights of access for the Red Dog Mine, the primary economic engine in Northwest Alaska; and

Whereas Alaska Native corporations and the state specifically selected much of their land because of the mineral potential and the opportunity to create jobs and other economic opportunities for the people of the state; and

Whereas, in September 2012, Governor Sean Parnell sent a letter to then United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton asking for time to conduct a meaningful review of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding regarding Beringia and to provide input on the possible effects of the Memorandum of Understanding on the region and the state; and

Whereas, on January 17, 2013, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed a decree creating Beringia National Park as a Russian National Park in the Chukotka Region; and

Whereas, in October 2013, members of the Alaska State Legislature learned that the United States Department of State, the National Park Service, and the Russian Federation were in the final stages of formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a transboundary protected area in the Bering Strait region; and

Whereas the current effort to formalize a transboundary protected area would be the first step in imposing international designations and could reduce the sovereignty of the state and the United States over the burdened parts of the state, in violation of the Alaska Statehood Compact, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

Whereas the Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the management, protection, maintenance, enhancement, rehabilitation, and extension of fish and wildlife resources in the state, including management responsibilities on National Park Service land; and

Whereas, in the 1982 Master Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service, the parties agreed to "consider carefully the impact on the State of Alaska of proposed treaties or international agreements relating to fish and wildlife resources which could diminish the jurisdictional authority of the State, and to consult freely with the State when such treaties or agreements have a significant impact on the State": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature asserts that any international Memorandum of Understanding or other action to designate land or water in the state as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or classification of land or water that affects the proper use of the land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation should require approval by Acts of the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress before taking effect; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United States Department of State and the United States Department of the Interior cease all further action to establish an international designation of land or water in the state until the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature approve; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Congress enact a law that requires Congressional approval of any international designation that affects the use of land or water by the state or the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that, if the United States Department of State or the United States Department of the Interior nevertheless pursues or proposes the designation of land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or classification of land or water that affects the proper use of the land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation, the governor be actively involved in the process and development of any joint action plan; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the state, including the departments responsible for the management of fish and wildlife and other natural resources, be an integral if not primary part of any discussion, agreement, understanding, or other process or document that affects the use or development of fish and wildlife and other natural resources in the state; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor and the attorney general to reserve all legal remedies, including the recovery of damages, for a taking of the natural resources of the state in violation of the Alaska Statehood Compact, should a designation of land and water in the state as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification hamper the use or development of the natural resources of the state.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John F. Kerry, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis, director of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska; the Honorable Michael C. Geraghty, Alaska Attorney General; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM–355. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas a portion of revenue generated from outer continental shelf oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf to ensure that those states develop necessary infrastructure to support outer continental shelf development and preserve environmental integrity; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

Whereas oil and gas development in federal areas, both onshore and offshore, requires additional investment in state infrastructure and increases demand on state and local government resources; and

Whereas, under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, the federal government recognizes the effects of oil and gas development in federal onshore areas by sharing with the states 50 percent of revenue from mineral production on federal land within each state's boundaries; and

Whereas, under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the federal government recognizes the effect oil and gas development in federal near-shore areas has on states by sharing with those states 27 percent of revenue collected from federal oil and gas leases within three miles of the states' coastlines; and

Whereas, under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, the federal government recognizes the effect that oil and gas development in federal offshore areas has on the states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, and recognizes the contributions to national energy, security, and economic interests made by sharing with those states 37.5 percent of revenue from federal oil and gas leases in outer continental shelf areas adjacent to each state; and

Whereas the federal government fails to recognize the same effects on and contributions made by other oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas, including this state and California; and

Whereas the Alaska outer continental shelf region encompasses the Beaufort, Chukchi, and Bering seas, Cook Inlet, and the Gulf of Alaska, includes over 1,000,000,000 acres, and contains more than 6,000 miles of coastline, which is more coastline than the rest of the United States combined; and

Whereas there are presently 607 active oil and gas leases and more than 3,300,000 acres of leased land in the Alaska outer shelf continental region; and

Whereas federal government grants do not adequately address the need for additional investment in slate infrastructure or the increased demands on state and local government resources resulting from outer continental shelf development, especially in this state, which has more coastline, more rural communities, and less infrastructure than any other state; and

Whereas outer continental shelf revenue sharing would allow states to build infrastructure such as marine ports, airports, utilities, and housing, and increase state services, such as oil spill and emergency response and environmental monitoring and mitigation, which would likely lead to expanded, safer exploration and development activity and increase overall revenue to the federal government; and

Whereas additional state infrastructure and increased availability of state and local government resources would likely increase interest in and bids during future federal outer continental shelf oil and gas lease sales, which have generated over $2,750,000,000 in revenue for the federal government in the Alaska outer continental shelf region alone since 2005; and

Whereas outer continental shelf revenue sharing could provide a stable funding source for and help fulfill the mission of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a national fund created to safeguard natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage and to provide recreation opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas a portion of revenue generated from outer continental shelf oil and gas production to ensure the states develop necessary infrastructure to support outer continental shelf development and preserve environmental integrity.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Eric Cantor, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM–356. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to repeal the excise tax on medical devices; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 20

Whereas a new federal excise tax of 2.3 percent on the sale of taxable medical devices by manufacturers, producers, and importers of those devices took effect January 1, 2013; and

Whereas the medical device tax is imposed on United States sales, rather than profits, of medical device manufacturers, producers, and importers and will be particularly damaging to innovative start-up companies; and

Whereas the medical device tax was projected to raise $20,000,000,000, but that estimate has risen to over $30,000,000,000; and

Whereas the medical device tax will substantially increase the cost of health care and takes direct aim at American innovation by punishing the researchers and manufacturers of devices such as heart stents, pacemakers, patient monitors, artificial hips, limbs, and hearts, and a multitude of other medical devices; and

Whereas thousands of layoffs in the United States have already occurred because of the medical device tax; and

Whereas the medical device tax threatens regional economic vitality, badly needed jobs, and patients' hopes for new, life-saving products and treatments; and

Whereas the repeal of the medical device tax has strong bipartisan support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM–357. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska memorializing support for the strategic recommendation of the January 30, 2014, preliminary report of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission to ''continue to pursue, and actively expand, all avenues of participation in

the Arctic Council, including involvement in working groups and by building partnerships with permanent participants''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

Whereas, by its very existence, the state enables the United States to be an Arctic nation; and

Whereas, in April 2012, the Alaska State Legislature established the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission to ''develop an Arctic policy for the state and produce a strategy for the implementation of an Arctic policy''; and

Whereas the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission has been working with the National Strategy for the Arctic Region Task Force on how to best craft an Arctic policy that benefits and creates opportunity for the state and the entire United States; and

Whereas the Arctic resources of the state are immense and, with responsible development, could contribute significantly to the economy of the United States and to the entire pan-Arctic region; and

Whereas the Bering Strait serves as the gateway to the Arctic for the marine traffic of the United States and other nations between the Pacific Ocean and the Arctic; and

Whereas the marine traffic through the Bering Strait choke point has been increasing; and

Whereas the Arctic Council is the intergovernmental forum in which all eight Arctic nations participate; and

Whereas the Arctic Council includes six Arctic indigenous communities, four of which are resident in the state, and six permanent working groups, each of which directly affects the state; and

Whereas Canada is the current chair of the Arctic Council, and the United States will be the chair from May 2015 until 2017; and

Whereas the United States should seek local and scientific expertise from the state to inform the nation's input at the Arctic Council; and

Whereas, in December 2012, the Governor proposed to the United States Department of State four priorities for consideration while the United States is chair of the Arctic Council; and

Whereas it is important for the priorities of the state and the United States to be in alignment while the United States holds the position of chair of the Arctic Council; and

Whereas, when the United States ascends to chair of the Arctic Council in 2015, the United States Department of State will appoint one individual as chair of the Arctic Council: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Department of State to consider the priorities of the state while it holds the position of chair of the Arctic Council, including the priorities of the Governor, creating jobs and economic opportunity for Arctic residents, preventing suicide, developing safe and sustainable sanitation facilities for small, isolated Arctic communities, and securing safe and reliable shipping; and be it further:

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United States Department of State work in partnership with state officials to appoint a chair of the Arctic Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature supports the strategic recommendation of the January 30, 2014, preliminary report of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission to ''continue to pursue, and actively expand, all avenues of participation in the Arctic Council, including involvement in working groups and by building partnerships with permanent participants.''

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John F. Kerry, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Robert Menendez, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; the Honorable Bob Corker, ranking member, U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., Commandant of the United States Coast Guard; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Fran Ulmer, Chair, U.S. Arctic Research Commission; the Honorable Kathryn D. Sullivan, Ph.D., Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator, U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable John Paul Holdren, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; the Honorable Kerri-Ann Jones, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Alice Hill, Senior Counselor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM–358. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania uring the President and Congress of the United States to urge the Government of Iraq to take immediate steps to protect the safety and constitutional rights of all Iraqi citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 430

Whereas, Iraq is currently embroiled in a surge of violence arising from an Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) led offensive that began in the Anbar province, has spread to key locations such as Mosul, Tikrit and Samarra and continues to engulf the region in violence and instability; and

Whereas, on June 29, 2014, ISIL leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi renamed the group the Islamic State and pronounced himself caliph of a new Islamic Caliphate encompassing the areas under his control; and

Whereas, Mr. al-Baghdadi has a stated mission of spreading the Islamic State and caliphate across the region through violence against Shiites, non-Muslims and unsupportive Sunnis; and

Whereas, upon taking control over northwestern Iraq and Syria, ISIL issued a warning to Christians living under its jurisdiction to convert to Islam, to pay a burdensome religious tax or to be executed; and

Whereas, over 1,000,000 people have been displaced by violence in Iraq and reports have surfaced of targeted harassment, persecution and killings of Iraqi religious minorities by the Islamic State with little to no protection from the Government of Iraq and other security forces; and

Whereas, reports indicate that Islamic State militants have been marking homes of Christians with the Arabic letter ''N,'' for ''Nazara'' (Christian), beheading children and crucifying captives. ISIL's actions are a crime against humanity and nothing more than genocide or ethnic cleansing against religious minority groups; and

Whereas, the Iraqi constitution provides for religious freedom by stating:

(1) ''no law may be enacted that contradicts the principles of democracy'';

(2) ''no law may be enacted that contradicts the rights and basic freedom stipulated in this Constitution''; and

(3) ''[This Constitution] guarantees the full religious rights to freedom of religious belief and practice of all individuals such as Christians, Yazidis, and Mandean Sabeans'';

Whereas, President Barack Obama recently declared on Religious Freedom Day, ''Foremost among the rights Americans hold sacred is the freedom to worship as we choose . . . [W]e also remember that religious liberty is not just an American right; it is a universal human right to be protected here at home and across the globe. This freedom is an essential part of human dignity, and without it our world cannot know lasting peace''; and

Whereas, the atrocities being committed against Christians and other ethnic and religious minority communities in Iraq are unconscionable and represent a crime against humanity: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and the Congress of the United States to publicly denounce the crimes against humanity occurring in Iraq and to take prudent action to protect Iraqi Christians and other religious minorities from persecution from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant; and

Resolved, That the President and Congress urge the Government of Iraq to take immediate steps to protect the safety and constitutional rights of all Iraqi citizens; and

Resolved, That the President and Congress work with the Government of Iraq to bring Islamic State militants to justice before an international forum for war crimes and crimes against humanity; be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM–359. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska opposing the warrantless collection of telephone call data by the National Security Agency; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

Whereas the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides ''The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized''; and

Whereas the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides ''No person shall . . . be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law''; and

Whereas, on December 16, 2013, United States District Court Judge Richard Leon ruled that the National Security Agency's program, bulk collection, and querying of telephone record in metadata are likely unconstitutional; and

Whereas the legislature objects to the dragnet approach to data collection allowed by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, a court that operates in secret and, under sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, issues orders that perpetuate the warrantless collection of data of nearly all Americans; and

Whereas the National Security Agency stores the date and time of calls, their duration, and the participating telephone numbers of the calls of nearly all Americans in a centralized database, which allows National Security Agency analysts to access not only those numbers, but the numbers with which the numbers have been in contact, and, in turn, the numbers in contact with those numbers; and

Whereas the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, in its January 2014 report

titled ''Report on the Telephone Records Program Conducted under Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act and on the Operations of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court,'' questions the legal basis for the National Security Agency's mass telephone call data collection program; and

Whereas, when telephone call data of Americans is collected by the National Security Agency, that data is not related to specific investigations of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

Whereas orders issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court at the request of the federal government require telephone companies to provide new calling records on a daily basis, a Mandate not grounded in statute; and

Whereas sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act is designed to enable the Federal Bureau of Investigation to obtain records in the course of investigations, but the National Security Agency's mass collection of the records is not consistent with that design; and

Whereas the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 prohibits telephone companies from sharing consumer data with the government except in special circumstances, and the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board concluded that the National Security Agency's telephone call data collection program may violate the Act; and

Whereas the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board found that the National Security Agency's telephone call data collection program has not prevented, discovered, or identified terrorist attacks, plots, or suspects that threatened the security of the United States; and

Whereas the widespread collection of telephone call data of Americans reveals highly sensitive personal information; and

Whereas the legislature resolutely opposes the continuation of the National Security Agency's warrantless data collection program; and

Whereas the legislature views the National Security Agency's storage in a central database of the telephone call metadata of all Americans as all unconstitutional practice that should be immediately suspended; and

Whereas the history of government coercion, persecution, and abuse of personal information and human life in the twentieth century prompts the legislature to seek to protect the liberty of future generations from an oppressive and tyrannical federal government; and

Whereas the fundamental rights of Americans to speak freely and associate with others are threatened and are likely being diminished by the National Security Agency's mass collection of telephone call data; and

Whereas the National Security Agency's mass collection of telephone call data may intimidate or chill the freedom of expression of individuals and groups that disagree with certain government policies or result in extreme scrutiny of those persons simply for opposing those policies; and

Whereas the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court has deviated from its purpose to authorize warrants for electronic surveillance relating only to a specific person, a specific place, or a specific communications account or device; and

Whereas the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court operates in a secretive manner that prevents the court from hearing public input regarding government requests to conduct surveillance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to end the mass telephone call data collection program conducted under sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, because of its lack of a statutory foundation and because it raises serious constitutional concerns under the Fourth and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to eliminate all stored metadata upon ending the mass telephone call data collection program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to authorize the creation of a panel of private sector lawyers to serve as advocates for the public before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to increase public knowledge and oversight; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges judges of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to write opinions in a manner that allows the government to declassify and release the opinions to the public; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to work to declassify past opinions and release those opinions to the public; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests the United States Attorney General and members of the intelligence and judiciary committees of the United States Congress to inform the Alaska State Legislature of the federal government's activities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and provide the Alaska State Legislature with copies of reports submitted under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the Governor to prohibit the use of state personnel and resources to assist the National Security Agency in its collection of mass data on Alaskans without a specific search warrant; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature considers the National Security Agency's unilateral collection of the telephone call data of all Americans a violation of statute, an unconstitutional program, and a troubling overreach by the federal government; the Alaska State Legislature has sworn to uphold both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alaska and will not assist the federal government by facilitating programs that are tyrannical in nature, that subject Americans to unreasonable and unwarranted searches, and that violate the fundamental principle of liberty; let this resolution serve as a notice to this Administration and all future Administrations that Alaskans reject surrendering their liberty in the name of an unconstitutional program.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chair, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Vice Chair, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Mike Rogers, Chair, U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable C. A. Dutch Ruppersburger, Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Jeh Johnson, United States Secretary of Homeland Security; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska; General Keith B. Alexander, United States Army, Director, National Security Agency; Richard H. Ledgett, Jr., Deputy Director, National Security Agency; James B. Comey, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM–360. Urging the United States Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Veterans who served in the waters defined by and in the airspace over the combat zone in Vietnam, and urging the United States Congress to pass the Toxic Exposure Research and Military Family Support Act of 2013 and to establish a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 25

Whereas, during the Vietnam War, the United States military sprayed over 19,000,000 gallons of Agent Orange and other herbicides over Vietnam to reduce forest cover and crops used by the enemy; those herbicides contained dioxin, which has since been identified as carcinogenic and has been linked with numerous serious and disabling diseases affecting thousands of veterans; and

Whereas the United States Congress passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991 to address the plight of veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in the Republic of Vietnam; the Act amended Title 38 of the United States Code presumptively to recognize as service-connected certain diseases among military personnel who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975; that presumption has provided access to appropriate disability compensation and medical care for Vietnam veterans diagnosed with illnesses such as Type II diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, Parkinson's disease, multiple myeloma, peripheral neuropathy, AL Amyloidosis respiratory cancers, and soft tissue sarcomas, and others yet to be identified; and

Whereas, under a 2001 directive, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has denied the presumption of a service connection for herbicide-related illnesses to Vietnam veterans who cannot furnish written documentation that they had ''boots on the ground'' in-country, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy, Marine, and Air Force veterans to pursue their claims for benefits; moreover, personnel who served on ships in the ''Blue Water Navy'' in Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne toxins, which not only drifted offshore but washed into streams and rivers draining into the South China Sea; and

Whereas the United States Navy has been excluded from coverage under the Agent Orange Act of 1991 although Agent Orange has been verified, through various studies and reports, to be a wide-spreading chemical that was able to reach Navy ships through the air and through waterborne distribution routes; and

Whereas warships positioned off the Vietnamese coast routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water; a 2002 Australian study found that the distillation process, rather than removing toxins, in fact concentrated dioxin in water used for drinking, cooking, and washing; the Australian Department of Veterans Affairs conducted that study after it found that Vietnam veterans of the Royal Australian Navy had a higher rate of mortality from diseases associated with Agent Orange than did Vietnam veterans of other branches of the military; and

Whereas the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found a higher

risk of specific cancers among United States Navy veterans than among veterans of other branches of the military; and

Whereas herbicides containing dioxin did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore; and

Whereas Representative Christopher Gibson and 168 cosponsors, including Representative Don Young, introduced the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013; and

Whereas more than 30 veterans service organizations support the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013; and

Whereas, by not passing the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013, a precedent could be set selectively to provide certain groups with injury-related medical care while denying that care to other groups, without any financial, scientific, or consistent reasoning; and

Whereas, when the Agent Orange Act of 1991 passed with no dissenting votes, congressional leaders stressed the importance of responding to the health concerns of Vietnam veterans and ending the bitterness and anxiety that had surrounded the issue of herbicide exposure; the federal government has also demonstrated its awareness of the hazards of Agent Orange exposure through its involvement in the identification, containment, and mitigation of dioxin ''hot spots'' in Vietnam; and

Whereas the United States Congress should reaffirm the nation's commitment to the well-being of all of its veterans and direct the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to administer the Agent Orange Act of 1991 under the presumption that herbicide exposure in the Republic of Vietnam included inland waterways, offshore waters, and airspace, encompassing the entire combat zone; and

Whereas S. 1602 was introduced in the United States Senate on October 29, 2013, by Senator Richard Blumenthal; and

Whereas S. 1602 would establish a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the armed forces of the United States, provide services to those descendants, and establish an advisory board on exposure to toxic substances: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Veterans who served in the waters defined by the combat zone and in the airspace over the combat zone; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to pass S. 1602, the Toxic Exposure Research and Military Family Support Act of 2013, and to establish a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barak Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs; the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM–361. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska condemning the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials that prohibited religious holiday messages, music, and gifts from being conveyed to veterans at Veterans Health Administration facilities and requesting that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs ensure that the violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

Whereas, in December 2013, federal Veterans Health Administration facilities in Texas, Georgia, Iowa, and Alabama violated the religious freedom rights of convalescing veterans in their care; and

Whereas a Veterans Health Administration hospital in Dallas, Texas, did not distribute to the veterans in its care holiday cards that used certain language, including ''Merry Christmas'' and ''God bless you''; and

Whereas a Veterans Health Administration hospital in Augusta, Georgia, denied Christmas carolers from the local high school the opportunity to sing in public areas of the hospital; and

Whereas two other Veterans Health Administration facilities in Iowa and Alabama prohibited the distribution of Christmas gifts and Christmas gift bags; and

Whereas a Veterans Health Administration official cited the policy of the Veterans Health Administration for the nondistribution of the holiday cards; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration official stated that, in order to respect veterans religious beliefs, all donated holiday cards are reviewed by a multidisciplinary team of staff led by the chaplaincy services to determine whether the cards are appropriate and can be freely distributed to patients; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration official stated that the process for reviewing holiday cards was not fully explained to the particular group involved and apologized for any misunderstanding; and

Whereas the officials at the Veterans Health Administration facilities described in this resolution ignored the policies established by the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding holiday practices at the facilities; and

Whereas those holiday cards, gifts, and presentations came from caring citizens, including young children, who took the time to recognize the heroic actions of men and women who have sacrificed so much in the service of their country in times of both peace and war; and

Whereas, although Christmas Day has origins in religious beliefs, it is recognized as a civic holiday for federal employees; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration violates the right to religious freedom of the veterans in its care by not allowing them to receive certain holiday cards and gifts and to attend certain presentations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature condemns the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials that prohibited religious holiday messages, music, and gifts from being conveyed to veterans at Veterans Health Administration facilities and respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs ensure that the violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs reconsider the policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities and rewrite those policies so that the violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature finds it very troubling that the established policies and procedures of the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs on holiday practices at the Veterans Health Administration facilities are apparently being ignored and respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs review the present established policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities and train personnel on those policies so that the apparent violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs provide each member of the Alaska State Legislature with a written assurance that the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials described in this resolution do not reflect the policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Verdie Bowen, Director, Office of Veterans Affairs, Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; Susan Yeager, Director, Alaska VA Healthcare System; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM–362. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska condemning the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials that prohibited religious holiday messages, music, and gifts from being conveyed to veterans at Veterans Health Administration facilities and requesting that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs ensure that the violations of veterans rights described in this resolution do not occur again; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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Whereas a Veterans Health Administration hospital in Augusta, Georgia, denied Christmas carolers from the local high school the opportunity to sing in public areas of the hospital; and

Whereas two other Veterans Health Administration facilities in Iowa and Alabama prohibited the distribution of Christmas gifts and Christmas gift bags; and

Whereas a Veterans Health Administration official cited the policy of the Veterans Health Administration for the nondistribution of the holiday cards; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration official stated that, in order to respect veterans' religious beliefs, all donated holiday cards are reviewed by a multidisciplinary team of staff led by the chaplaincy services to determine whether the cards are appropriate and can be freely distributed to patients; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration official stated that the process for reviewing holiday cards was not fully explained to the particular group involved and apologized for any misunderstanding; and

Whereas the officials at the Veterans Health Administration facilities described in this resolution ignored the policies established by the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding holiday practices at the facilities; and

Whereas those holiday cards, gifts, and presentations came from caring citizens, including young children, who took the time to recognize the heroic actions of men and women who have sacrificed so much in the service of their country in times of both peace and war; and

Whereas, although Christmas Day has origins in religious beliefs, it is recognized as a civic holiday for federal employees; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration violates the right to religious freedom of the veterans in its care by not allowing them to receive certain holiday cards and gifts and to attend certain presentations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature condemns the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials that prohibited religious holiday messages, music, and gifts from being conveyed to veterans at Veterans Health Administration facilities and respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs ensure that the violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs reconsider the policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities and rewrite those policies so that the violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature finds it very troubling that the established policies and procedures of the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs on holiday practices at the Veterans Health Administration facilities are apparently being ignored and respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs review the present established policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities and train personnel on those policies so that the apparent violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs provide each member of the Alaska State Legislature with a written assurance that the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials described in this resolution do not reflect the policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Verdie Bowen, Director, Office of Veterans Affairs, Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; Susan Yeager, Director, Alaska VA Healthcare System; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

H.R. 1447. A bill to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1744. A bill to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2520. A bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Jorge Luis Alonso, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Haywood Stirling Gilliam, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Amit Priyavadan Mehta, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Allison Dale Burroughs, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Jeanne E. Davidson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

John Robert Blakey, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Amos L. Mazzant, III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Robert Lee Pitman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Robert William Schroeder III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 2947. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to clarify the authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to prescribe just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential terms, conditions, and compensation applicable to wholesale demand response resource participation in organized wholesale energy, capacity, and ancillary service markets; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 2948. A bill to extend the requirement that drug manufacturers that increase prices faster than inflation pay an additional rebate to State Medicaid programs to include manufacturers of generic drugs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2949. A bill to improve motor vehicle safety by encouraging the sharing of certain information; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 2950. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Physician Ambassadors Helping Veterans program to seek to employ physicians at the Department of Veterans Affairs on a without compensation basis in practice areas and specialties with staffing shortages and long appointment waiting times; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 2951. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is informed of the interment of deceased veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2952. A bill to establish the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 2953. A bill to prohibit an alien who is a national of a country with a widespread Ebola virus outbreak from obtaining a visa and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2954. A bill to improve the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2955. A bill to revise the Inland Waterways Trust Fund financing rate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2956. A bill to prevent caller ID spoofing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2957. A bill to limit the disturbance to American families caused by electioneering phone calls by expanding the National Do Not Call Registry to include Super PACs and other third-party political groups, to prohibit robo-calls to Americans who have listed their telephone numbers on the Registry,

and to prohibit push-polling; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2958. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the employer wage credit for employees who are active duty members of the Uniformed Services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2959. A bill to ensure that claims for benefits under the Black Lung Benefits Act are processed in a fair and timely manner, to protect miners from pneumoconiosis (commonly known as ''black lung disease''), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2960. A bill to provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2961. A bill to establish the Office of Planning for Future Intercity Transportation within the Office of the Secretary of Transportation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2962. A bill to repeal the tax increase imposed by Obamacare on taxpayers who incur catastrophic medical expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. NELSON, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2963. A bill to remove a limitation on a prohibition relating to permits for discharges incidental to normal operation of vessels; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2964. A bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2965. A bill to provide that members of the Armed Forces performing hazardous humanitarian services in West Africa to combat the spread of the 2014 Ebola virus outbreak shall be entitled to tax benefits in the same manner as if such services were performed in a combat zone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2966. A bill to improve the understanding and coordination of critical care health services; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. Res. 585. A resolution designating December 3, 2014, as ''National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 586. A resolution calling on the Government of Burma to develop a non-discriminatory and comprehensive solution that addresses Rakhine State's needs for peace, security, harmony, and development under equitable and just application of the rule of law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 587. A resolution encouraging reunions of Korean-Americans who were divided by the Korean War from their relatives in North Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HELLER, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. TESTER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 588. A resolution recognizing that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 589. A resolution honoring the life of Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts, from 1993 to 2014; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WALSH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. THUNE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 590. A resolution recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. HAGAN (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. LEVIN)):

S. Res. 591. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Education Week; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 526

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 666

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 666, a bill to prohibit attendance of an animal fighting venture, and for other purposes.

S. 838

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect employees in the building and construction industry who are participants in multiemployer plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 1361

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1361, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1674

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1674, a bill to help establish, enhance, and increase access to early childhood parent education and family engagement programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1815

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1815, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to include occupational therapists as behavioral and mental health professionals for purposes of the National Health Service Corps.

S. 2047

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to prohibit the marketing of electronic cigarettes to children, and for other purposes.

S. 2288

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2288, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand existing tax credits to encourage the capture, utilization, and sequestration of carbon dioxide.

S. 2301

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2301, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 2434

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2434, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that working families have access to affordable health insurance coverage.

S. 2520

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2520, a bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act.

S. 2591

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2591, a bill to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2621

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2621, a bill to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes.

S. 2685

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

S. 2732

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2732, a bill to increase from $10,000,000,000 to $50,000,000,000 the threshold figure at which regulated depository institutions are subject to direct examination and reporting requirements of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

S. 2746

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2746, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, supra.

S. 2828

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2828, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2828, supra.

S. 2848

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2848, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments under the Airport Improvement Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2874

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2874, a bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to eliminate the use of valid court orders to secure lockup of status offenders, and for other purposes.

S. 2920

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2920, a bill to deny Social Security benefits and other benefits to individuals who participated in Nazi persecution.

S. 2930

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2930, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2943

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2943, a bill to amend Public Law 110–299 to extend the time period during which permits are not required for certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2943, supra.

S. 2944

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 2944, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes.

S. 2945

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2945, a bill to repeal section 910 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

S. RES. 26

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 26, a resolution recognizing that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States.

S. RES. 565

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 565, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President and the Secretary of State should ensure that the Canadian Government does not permanently store nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin.

S. RES. 580

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 580, a resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption

Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

S. RES. 583

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 583, a resolution designating November 30, 2014, as ''Drive Safer Sunday''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3749

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3749 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3870

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3870 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3947

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3947 intended to be proposed to S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2954. A bill to improve the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce my comprehensive proposal to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, the main law governing institutions of higher education in this country. My bill, the Higher Education Affordability Act, is the product of extensive conversations between both parties in Congress and stakeholders across the higher education community. Over the past year, our Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee has held 12 bipartisan hearings on reauthorizing the Higher Education Act on issues ranging from teacher preparation and accreditation to federal student loans and the States' role in higher education. These hearings were purposely designed to better inform members of Congress and the public on the most pressing issues in higher education and how best to address them at the federal level.

In June, I put forward a discussion draft that included many of the ideas and policies discussed in our hearings. I asked the entire higher education community—including institutions, accreditors, and student advocacy organizations—to weigh in and offer suggestions on how best to strengthen my initial proposal.

I am pleased to say they delivered abundantly on that request. We received comments from over 120 organizations from across the country. What I have put forward today is a direct result of our hearings and the feedback we received. This bill provides clear guidelines based on all the work we have done to date on how we should move forward with reauthorization in a way that puts students and families first. It takes a holistic approach in addressing the most urgent issues in higher education: increasing college affordability, helping struggling borrowers, strengthening accountability, and improving transparency throughout the higher education system.

On the matter of affordability, my bill includes a number of policies designed to reduce college costs for students on the front end. It proposes a new federal partnership with States to incentivize them to reinvest in their systems of higher education. For too long, States have been cutting funding for their institutions of higher education and passing those costs onto students and their families. This is a trend in cost-shifting that must stop. The bill also reinstates year-round Pell Grants to enable students to get their degrees faster and establishes a pilot program to reward institutions that do a good job of graduating low-income students. My bill also creates two grant programs to promote statewide and institutional innovation in higher education. Making sure college is affordable requires an all-hands-on-deck approach: the Federal government, states, students and their families all need to do their part.

We also hope to empower students and families through greater transparency by giving students and families better information on college costs and outcomes from the beginning of the college selection process and all the way through graduation. The bill promotes a seamless process from high school to post-graduation to ensure that students know exactly what they are getting into with regard to college quality and costs before they get started.

On the matter of student debt, my bill takes a range of steps to help student borrowers better manage their loans. It provides for better up-front and exit counseling for students regarding their federally guaranteed loans. It eliminates fees on federal loans to save students money. My bill also strengthens consumer protections for student loans, and it creates a safety net for borrowers who are seriously delinquent on their loans by automatically enrolling them in an income-based repayment plan with affordable monthly payments. To ensure that private student debt is treated no differently than any other consumer debt, my bill would allow private student loans to be discharged in bankruptcy, as they were before the law was changed in 2005.

My bill would hold schools more accountable to both students and taxpayers by ensuring that no Federal money goes to marketing and advertising instead of education. I am also introducing new metrics, including a repayment rate, by which to better measure schools' performance. The bill also changes the current ''90/10'' rule to ''85/15'' to ensure that for-profit schools are not wholly subsidized by the Federal government. For those bad actors making record-breaking profits through fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars, my bill includes a number of provisions designed to penalize this behavior and to stop it.

Our country has reached a critical point in higher education. Beyond disagreements on specific policy issues, we must come together to decide whether higher education should be preserved, first and foremost, as a public good. Over the past two decades, rising college costs have been shifted unfairly onto the backs of students and families. The central question we must ask is whether this accelerating trend is the right direction for this country—whether paying for college should be the sole responsibility of students and families or our shared responsibility as a nation. My bill reflects the overall belief that all stakeholders—states, the Federal Government, students and families—should invest together in higher education to keep college affordable and accessible to all. Our country's economic future and the promise of equal opportunity depend upon this critical investment.

It is unacceptable to ask students and their families to shoulder the bulk of college costs. Historically, this has never been the case, and we should not allow this unfortunate trend to grow worse. My bill would get us back on the right track, ensuring that our higher education system is affordable, transparent, and ultimately accountable to our students and taxpayers. Higher education should serve as an equalizer of opportunity for all, and that is a promise that we must fulfill together.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2956. A bill to prevent caller ID spoofing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, in 2010 Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the Truth in Caller ID Act, which prohibits caller ID spoofing when it is used to defraud or harm Americans.

What is caller ID spoofing? It is a technique that allows a telephone caller to alter the phone number that appears on the recipient's Caller ID screen. In other words, spoofing allows someone to hide behind a misleading telephone number to try to scam consumers or trick law enforcement officers.

The Truth in Caller ID Act put in place tough new sanctions to crack down on phone scams, empowering States to help the Federal Government track down and punish these fraudsters.

Since then spoofing technology has evolved to give fraudsters new tools to pull the wool over our eyes. They take advantage of innovative text messaging services to trick unsuspecting Americans into sending money or providing sensitive personal information.

I believe our laws must evolve and adapt to the new tactics and technologies used by these criminals. That is why I am introducing the Phone Scam Prevention Act of 2014, to update the protections we put in place in 2010 and give consumers the tools they need to help them protect themselves.

The bill does 3 simple things.

First, it extends the current prohibition on Caller ID spoofing to calls coming from outside the United States and stops crooks from using text messaging services to scam consumers.

Second, it ensures consumers have access to what are known as ''whitelist services,'' where the technology exists. Whitelist services allow consumers to pick a list of approved phone numbers to ring through to their phone. All other numbers are automatically forwarded to voicemail or rerouted to a different number.

Calls from first responders, government agencies, and other important entities would still ring through to the consumer's phone.

Several phone companies currently offer whitelist services to their customers. It only makes sense to allow more Americans to have access to these valuable services so that they can help protect themselves from abusive phone calls.

Third, the bill directs the Federal Communications Commission, FCC, to develop Caller ID authentication standards within 5 years from the date of enactment to ensure Caller ID information is accurate, or at the very least warn consumers when such information cannot be verified.

An international group of telecom engineers, including specialists at the FCC, are currently working to develop such standards. The bill would merely accelerate the timeline for the standards to be finalized and move us to a more secure telephone system sooner.

When in place, Caller ID authentication will give consumers the information they need to judge the legitimacy of the call. Scammers will no longer be able to use spoofing technology to claim to be from the IRS, your bank, your utility company, or law enforcement and bilk you out of all your savings.

I invite my colleagues to join Senators COLLINS, DONNELLY, BOOKER, and me in support of the Phone Scam Prevention Act of 2014. Working together, I am hopeful that we can finally stop many of the fraudsters behinds these phone scams.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2956

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 ''Phone Scam Prevention Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF WHITELIST SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of title II of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 232. AVAILABILITY OF WHITELIST SERVICES.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'voice service' means any service that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan or any successor plan adopted by the Commission under section 251(e)(1);

''(2) the term 'exempt entity' means—

''(A) the Federal Government, a State, a political subdivision of a State, or an agency thereof; and

''(B) any entity with respect to which the Commission determines that allowing calls that originate from that entity to connect directly with the voice service customer premises equipment (commonly referred to as 'CPE') of a subscriber would serve the public interest; and

''(3) the term 'whitelist' means a list of telephone numbers, designated by a subscriber, for which calls originating from those numbers to the subscriber are permitted to connect directly with the voice service CPE of the subscriber.

''(b) REQUIREMENT TO OFFER WHITELIST SERVICE.—A provider of a voice service shall offer each subscriber the option to designate a whitelist, if technically feasible (as determined by the Commission on a periodic basis).

''(c) TREATMENT OF NONAPPROVED TELEPHONE NUMBERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a subscriber elects to designate a whitelist under subsection (b), the provider of the voice service of the subscriber shall ensure that any call the provider receives for termination that is not associated with a telephone number on the whitelist of the subscriber or the telephone number of an exempt entity is processed according to preferences set by the subscriber with respect to the whitelist, including by limiting or disabling the ability of an incoming call to connect with the CPE of the subscriber.

''(2) SAFE HARBOR.—Whitelist processing that, in accordance with the preferences of a subscriber, limits or disables connection with the CPE of a subscriber shall not be considered to be—

''(A) blocking traffic; or

''(B) an unjust or unreasonable practice under section 201 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 201).

''(d) NUMBER OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS ON WHITELIST FREE OF CHARGE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A provider of a voice service shall allow a subscriber (or a designated representative thereof) to designate not less than 10 telephone numbers to be on the whitelist under subsection (b), free of charge.

''(2) TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF EXEMPT ENTITIES.—The telephone number of an exempt entity shall not be considered to be on the whitelist of a subscriber for purposes of calculating the 10 telephone numbers that may be designated under paragraph (1).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 232 of the Communications Act of 1934, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. AUTHENTICATION OF CALL ORIGINATION.

Part I of title II of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), as amended by section 2, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 233. AUTHENTICATION OF CALL ORIGINATION.

''(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'voice service' means any service that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan or any successor plan adopted by the Commission under section 251(e)(1).

''(b) DEVELOPMENT OF AUTHENTICATION STANDARDS BY COMMISSION.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of the Phone Scam Prevention Act of 2014, the Commission shall develop authentication standards for providers of a voice service to validate the calling party number and caller identification information of a call originated through a voice service so that the subscriber receiving the call may obtain—

''(1) a secure assurance of the origin of the call, including—

''(A) the calling party number; and

''(B) caller identification information for the call; or

''(2) notice that an assurance described in paragraph (1) is unavailable.

''(c) ADOPTION OF AUTHENTICATION STANDARDS BY ENTITIES.—Each provider of a voice service that is allocated telephone numbers from the portion of the North American Numbering Plan that pertains to the United States shall adopt the authentication standards developed under subsection (b).''.

SEC. 4. EXPANDING AND CLARIFYING PROHIBITION ON INACCURATE CALLER ID INFORMATION.

(a) COMMUNICATIONS FROM OUTSIDE UNITED STATES.—Section 227(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(1)) is amended by striking ''in connection with any telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service'' and inserting ''or any person outside the United States if the recipient of the call is within the United States, in connection with any voice service''.

(b) COVERAGE OF TEXT MESSAGES AND OTHER VOICE SERVICES.—Section 227(e)(8) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(8)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service'' and inserting ''voice service (including a text message sent using a text messaging service)'';

(2) in the first sentence of subparagraph (B), by striking ''telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service'' and inserting ''voice service (including a text message sent using a text messaging service)'';

(3) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

''(C) TEXT MESSAGE.—The term 'text message'—

''(i) means a real-time or near real-time message consisting of text, images, sounds, or other information that is transmitted from or received by a device that is identified as the transmitting or receiving device by means of a telephone number;

''(ii) includes a short message service (commonly referred to as 'SMS') message, an enhanced message service (commonly referred to as 'EMS') message, and a multimedia message service (commonly referred to as 'MMS') message; and

''(iii) does not include a real-time, 2-way voice or video communication.

''(D) TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE.—The term 'text messaging service' means a service that permits the transmission or receipt of a text message, including a service provided as part of or in connection with a voice service.

''(E) VOICE SERVICE.—The term 'voice service' means any service that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan or any successor plan adopted by the Commission under section 251(e)(1).''.

(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify, limit, or otherwise affect—

(1) the authority, as of the day before the date of enactment of this Act, of the Federal Communications Commission to interpret the term ''call'' to include a text message (as defined under section 227(e)(8)) of the Communications Act of 1934, as added by subsection (b)); or

(2) any rule or order adopted by the Federal Communications Commission in connection with—

(A) the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 (Public Law 102–243; 105 Stat. 2394) or the amendments made by that Act; or

(B) the CAN-SPAM Act of 2003 (15 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.).

(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall prescribe regulations to implement the amendments made by this section.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 6 months after the date on which the Federal Communications Commission prescribes regulations under subsection (d).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 585—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 3, 2014, AS ''NATIONAL PHENYLKETONURIA AWARENESS DAY''

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 585

Whereas phenylketonuria is a rare, inherited metabolic disorder that is characterized by the inability of the body to process the essential amino acid phenylalanine, and which causes intellectual disability and other neurological problems, such as memory loss and mood disorders, when treatment is not started within the first few weeks of life;

Whereas phenylketonuria is also referred to as ''PKU'' or Phenylalanine Hydroxylase Deficiency;

Whereas newborn screening for PKU was initiated in the United States in 1963 and was recommended for inclusion in State newborn screening programs under the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–204);

Whereas approximately 1 out of every 15,000 infants in the United States is born with PKU;

Whereas PKU is treated with medical food;

Whereas the 2012 Phenylketonuria Scientific Review Conference affirmed the recommendation of lifelong dietary treatment for PKU made by the National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference Statement 2000;

Whereas the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics and Genetic Metabolic Dieticians International published medical and dietary guidelines on the optimal treatment of PKU in 2014;

Whereas medical foods are medically necessary for children and adults living with PKU;

Whereas adults with PKU who discontinue treatment are at risk for serious medical issues such as depression, impulse control disorder, phobias, tremors, and pareses;

Whereas women with PKU must maintain strict metabolic control before and during pregnancy to prevent fetal damage;

Whereas children born from untreated mothers with PKU may have a condition known as ''maternal phenylketonuria syndrome'', which can cause small brains, intellectual disabilities, birth defects of the heart, and low birth weights;

Whereas although there is no cure for PKU, treatment involving medical foods, medications, and restriction of phenylalanine intake can prevent progressive, irreversible brain damage;

Whereas access to health insurance coverage for medical food varies across the United States, and the long-term costs associated with caring for untreated children and adults with PKU far exceed the cost of providing medical food treatment;

Whereas gaps in medical foods coverage has a detrimental impact on individuals with PKU, their families, and society;

Whereas scientists and researchers are hopeful that breakthroughs in PKU research will be forthcoming;

Whereas researchers across the United States are conducting important research projects involving PKU; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness of PKU among the general public and the medical community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 3, 2014, as ''National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day'';

(2) encourages all people in the United States to become more informed about phenylketonuria; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the National PKU Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with phenylketonuria.

SENATE RESOLUTION 586—CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA TO DEVELOP A NON-DISCRIMINATORY AND COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION THAT ADDRESSES RAKHINE STATE'S NEEDS FOR PEACE, SECURITY, HARMONY, AND DEVELOPMENT UNDER EQUITABLE AND JUST APPLICATION OF THE RULE OF LAW, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 586

Whereas, of the 1,500,000 members of the Rohingya ethnic minority community worldwide, over 1,200,000 stateless Rohingya live in Burma, mostly in northern Rakhine State, including 140,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs);

Whereas the security, stability, and development of Rakhine State is dependent on the rule of law and non-discriminatory access to citizenship, livelihoods and services, and protection for all residents;

Whereas, on November 12, 2014, President Barack Obama traveled to Burma, where he ''stressed the need to find durable and effective solutions for the terrible violence in Rakhine state, solutions that end discrimination, provide greater security and economic opportunities, protect all citizens, and promote greater tolerance and understanding,'' while noting that legitimate government is a government based on ''the recognition that all people are equal under the law'';

Whereas the Department of State has, since 1999, regularly expressed its particular concern for severe legal, economic, and social discrimination against Burma's Rohingya population in its Country Report for Human Rights Practices;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Burma reported a ''long history of discrimination and persecution against the Rohingya Muslim community which could amount to crimes against humanity'';

Whereas the current Government of Burma, like its predecessors, continues to use the Burma Citizenship Law of 1982 to exclude Rohingya from a list of legally recognized ethnic groups, despite many having lived in Rakhine State for generations, thereby rendering Rohingya stateless and vulnerable to exploitation and abuse;

Whereas, in its March 2014 census, the first in over 30 years, the Government of Burma reneged on its commitment to allow all people in Burma to self-identify and ordered the Rohingya to ethnically identify as ''Bengali'', resulting in their exclusion from census data and thereby severely undermining the validity of the data for Rakhine State and creating the potential for further discrimination and conflict;

Whereas local and national policies and practices discriminate against Rohingya by denying them freedom of movement outside their villages and camps, restricting access to livelihood, education, and health care;

Whereas authorities have required Rohingya to obtain official permission for marriages, with reportedly onerous, humiliating, and financially prohibitive requirements for approval;

Whereas a two-child policy sanctioned solely upon the Rohingya population in two

townships in northern Rakhine State hinders the ability of additional children to access basic government services, marry, or acquire property and restricts the rights of women, sometimes resulting in serious health consequences due to illegal and unsafe abortions;

Whereas persecution, including arbitrary arrest, detention, and extortion of Rohingya and other Muslim communities, continues to be widespread;

Whereas violence targeting Rohingya in Maungdaw, Buthidaung, and Sittwe in June and July 2012 resulted in the deaths of at least 57 Muslims and the destruction of 1,336 Rohingya homes and left thousands displaced;

Whereas, between October 21–30, 2012, numerous people were killed, and a village in Mrauk-U township was destroyed during deadly ethnic violence between the Rakhine and Rohingya communities;

Whereas the lack of a credible independent investigation has resulted in persistent questions about violence that may have resulted in the death of Rohingya in a village in Maungdaw township in January 2014, and human rights groups reported mass arrests and arbitrary detention of Rohingya in the aftermath of this violence;

Whereas local, state, and national security police and border officers have failed to protect those vulnerable to attack and, in some cases, participated in violence against Rohingya and other Muslims;

Whereas the Government of Burma has relocated displaced Rohingya into displacement camps where they have limited access to adequate shelter, clean water, food, sanitation, health care, livelihoods, or basic education for their children;

Whereas thousands of Rohingya are entirely reliant on international assistance for food, clean water, and health care because they are not permitted to move for work and therefore cannot provide for their families;

Whereas, in February 2014, the Government of Burma suspended the activities of Nobel Laureate Médecins Sans Frontières, the primary provider of healthcare to hundreds of thousands in Rakhine State;

Whereas the Government of Burma entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Médecins Sans Frontières in September 2014 but all services have not resumed;

Whereas attacks on organizations and their property in Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State, in March 2014 caused over 300 international aid workers to evacuate the area, and while many of these aid workers have now returned, they have not yet been able to resume full operations, leaving many more people vulnerable, particularly in the area of health care;

Whereas the denial of unhindered humanitarian assistance when populations are in need of such services is a severe breach of a government's responsibility to protect and support its residents and suggests disregard for individuals who suffer the effects of disease and malnourishment as a result of a lack of assistance;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled to neighboring countries, including 34,000 that have registered in official camps in Bangladesh, plus another 300,000 to 500,000 that are unregistered in Bangladesh, and at least 35,000 in Malaysia, plus many thousands more in Thailand and Indonesia;

Whereas, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, approximately 100,000 Rohingya have fled from Rakhine State, and up to 2,000 Rohingya who fled Burma by boat are presumed dead or are missing at sea since 2012;

Whereas up to 200,000 Rohingya, who fled persecution from Burma up to 20 years ago and sought refugee protection in Bangladesh, continue to face discrimination, statelessness, and other hurdles to accessing necessary services in their country of refuge;

Whereas, according to the Department of State's 2014 Trafficking in Persons Report, the Rohingya community in Bangladesh is especially vulnerable to human trafficking, and unregistered Rohingya who were trafficking victims may have been detained indefinitely in Bangladesh due to lack of documentation;

Whereas the Government of Bangladesh has banned marriage registrars from officiating marriages involving Rohingyas attempting to wed one another and those seeking unions with Bangladeshi nationals; and

Whereas, in Thailand, according to the United States Department of State's 2014 Trafficking in Persons Report, corrupt civilian and military officials are alleged to have profited from the smuggling of Rohingya asylum seekers from Burma and Bangladesh and allegedly have been complicit in their sale into forced labor on commercial fishing vessels: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Government of Burma to develop a non-discriminatory and comprehensive solution that addresses Rakhine State's needs for peace, security, harmony, and development under equitable and just application of the rule of law;

(2) welcomes the Government of Burma's announcement that Médecins Sans Frontières has been invited back to work in Rakhine State and encourages the Government of Burma to ensure that the organization is able to resume operations alongside other humanitarian organizations without undue restrictions on their humanitarian operations;

(3) calls on the Government of Burma to end all forms of persecution and discrimination, including freedom of movement restrictions, of the Rohingya people and ensure respect for internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma;

(4) calls on the Government of Burma to respect the Rohingya's right to self-identification, redraft the Citizenship Law of 1982 so that it conforms to internationally recognized legal standards, and include both Rakhine and Rohingya leaders and community members in the redrafting process;

(5) calls on the Government of Burma to support an international and independent investigation into the violence that has occurred in Rakhine State since June 2012, implement the recommendations put forth, and prosecute the perpetrators of violence consistent with due process;

(6) calls on the Government of Burma to conform to international norms on the provision of unrestricted humanitarian access by international organizations to all in need, without discrimination based on nationality, race, ethnicity, gender, religious belief, or political opinion;

(7) calls on the regional governments to protect the rights of Rohingya asylum seekers and refugees, as well as respect the international legal principle of non-refoulement; and

(8) calls on the United States Government and the international community to call on the Government of Burma to take all necessary measures to end the persecution and discrimination of the Rohingya population and to protect the fundamental rights of all ethnic and religious minority groups in Burma.

SENATE RESOLUTION 587—ENCOURAGING REUNIONS OF KOREAN-AMERICANS WHO WERE DIVIDED BY THE KOREAN WAR FROM THEIR RELATIVES IN NORTH KOREA

Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 587

Whereas the division of the Korean Peninsula into the Republic of Korea (referred to in this Resolution as ''South Korea'') and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (referred to in this Resolution as ''North Korea'') separated more than 10,000,000 Koreans from their family members;

Whereas since the signing of the Korean War armistice agreement on July 27, 1953, there has been little to no contact between Korean Americans and their family members who remain in North Korea;

Whereas North and South Korea first agreed to divided family reunions in 1985 and have since held 19 face-to-face reunions and 7 video-link reunions;

Whereas the aforementioned reunions have subsequently given approximately 22,000 Koreans the opportunity to briefly reunite with their loved ones;

Whereas the most recent family reunions between North Korea and South Korea took place in February 2014 after a suspension of more than 3 years;

Whereas the United States and North Korea do not maintain diplomatic relations, and certain limitations exist for Korean Americans to participate in inter-Korean family reunions;

Whereas more than 1,700,000 Americans are of Korean descent;

Whereas the number of first generation Korean and Korean American divided family members is rapidly diminishing given their advanced age;

Whereas many Korean Americans with family members in North Korea have not seen or communicated with their relatives in more than 60 years;

Whereas Korean Americans and North Koreans both continue to suffer from the tragedy of being divided from their loved ones;

Whereas the inclusion of Korean American families in the reunion process would constitute a positive humanitarian gesture by North Korea and contribute to the long-term goal of peace on the Korean Peninsula shared by the Governments of North Korea, of South Korea, and of the United States;

Whereas the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181) requires the President to submit a report to Congress every 180 days on ''efforts, if any, of the United States Government to facilitate family reunions between United States citizens and their relatives in North Korea'';

Whereas in the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 (Public Law 111–242), Congress urged ''the Special Representative on North Korea Policy, as the senior official handling North Korea issues, to prioritize the issues involving Korean divided families and, if necessary, to appoint a coordinator for such families'':

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate:

(1) recognizes the significance of North Korea's past willingness to resume reunions of divided family members between North Korea and South Korea;

(2) acknowledges North Korea's release in November 2014 of incarcerated American citizens Kenneth Bae and Matthew Miller;

(3) encourages North Korea to permit reunions between Korean Americans and their relatives still living in North Korea;

(4) calls on the Department of State to further prioritize efforts to reunite Korean Americans with their divided family members;

(5) acknowledges the efforts of the American Red Cross to open channels of communication between Korean Americans and their family members who remain in North Korea;

(6) encourages the Government of South Korea to include United States citizens in future family reunions planned with North Korea; and

(7) praises humanitarian efforts to reunite all individuals of Korean descent with their relatives and engender a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

SENATE RESOLUTION 588—RECOGNIZING THAT ACCESS TO HOSPITALS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FOR PATIENTS IN RURAL AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS OF COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HELLER, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. TESTER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 588

Whereas access to quality health care services determines whether individuals in the United States can remain in the communities they call home and whether their children will return to those communities to raise families of their own;

Whereas more than 60,000,000 individuals in rural areas of the United States rely on rural hospitals and other providers as critical access points to health care;

Whereas rural areas of the United States need quality health care services to attract and retain business and industry;

Whereas, to ensure that communities in the United States survive and flourish, Congress must address the unique health care needs of individuals in rural areas of the United States;

Whereas individuals in rural areas of the United States are, per capita, older, poorer, and sicker than individuals in urban areas of the United States;

Whereas, according to the Department of Health and Human Services, ''rural areas have higher rates of poverty, chronic disease, and uninsurance, and millions of rural Americans have limited access to a primary care provider'';

Whereas, according to the Department of Agriculture, individuals in rural areas of the United States have higher rates of age-adjusted mortality, disability, and chronic disease than individuals in urban areas of the United States;

Whereas the 20 percent of the population of the United States that lives in rural areas is scattered over 90 percent of the landmass of the United States;

Whereas the geography and weather of rural areas of the United States can make accessing health care difficult, and cultural, social, and language barriers compound rural health challenges;

Whereas individuals in rural areas of the United States are more likely to be uninsured and less likely to receive coverage through an employer than individuals in urban areas of the United States;

Whereas access to health care continues to be a major challenge in rural areas of the United States, as—

(1) 77 percent of the 2,050 rural counties in the United States are designated as primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas (commonly referred to as ''HPSAs'');

(2) rural areas of the United States have fewer than half as many primary care physicians per 100,000 people as urban areas of the United States; and

(3) more than 50 percent of patients in rural areas of the United States travel at least 20 miles to receive specialty medical care, compared to only 6 percent of patients in urban areas of the United States;

Whereas, because rural hospitals and other providers face unique challenges in administering care to patients, Congress has traditionally supported those providers by implementing—

(1) specific programs to address rural hospital closures that occurred in the 1980s by providing financial support to hospitals that are geographically isolated and in which Medicare patients make up a significant percentage of hospital inpatient days or discharges; and

(2) a program established in 1997 to support limited-service hospitals that, being located in rural areas of the United States that cannot support a full-service hospital, are critical access points to health care for rural patients;

Whereas hospitals in rural areas of the United States achieve high levels of performance, according to standards for quality, patient satisfaction, and operational efficiency, for the types of care most relevant to rural communities;

Whereas, in addition to the vital care that rural health care providers provide to patients, rural health care providers are critical to the local economies of their communities and are one of the largest types of employers in rural areas of the United States where, on average, 14 percent of total employment is attributed to the health sector;

Whereas a hospital in a rural area of the United States is typically one of the top 2 largest employers in that area;

Whereas 1 primary care physician in a rural community annually generates approximately $1,500,000 in total revenue, and 1 general surgeon in a rural community annually generates approximately $2,700,000 in total revenue;

Whereas the average Critical Access Hospital, a limited-service rural health care facility, creates 107 jobs and generates $4,800,000 in annual payroll, and the wages, salaries, and benefits provided by a Critical Access Hospital can amount to 20 percent of the output of a rural community's economy;

Whereas hospitals in rural communities play a vital role in caring for the residents of those communities and preserving the special way of life that communities in the United States foster; and

Whereas the closure of a hospital in a rural community often results in severe economic decline in the community and the departure of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and other health providers from the community, and forces patients to travel long distances for care or to delay receiving care, leading to decreased health outcomes, higher costs, and added burden to patients: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States;

(2) recognizes that preserving and strengthening access to quality health care in rural areas of the United States is crucial to the success and prosperity of the United States;

(3) recognizes that strengthening access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States makes Medicare more cost-effective and improves health outcomes for patients;

(4) recognizes that, in addition to the vital care that rural health care providers provide to patients, rural health care providers are integral to the local economies and are one of the largest types of employers in rural areas of the United States; and

(5) celebrates the many dedicated medical professionals across the United States who work hard each day to deliver quality care to the nearly 1 in 5 people in the United States living in rural areas, because the dedication and professionalism of those medical professionals preserves the special way of life and sense of community enjoyed and cherished by individuals in rural areas of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 589—HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS M. MENINO, MAYOR OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, FROM 1993 TO 2014

Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 589

Whereas Thomas Menino was born on December 27, 1942, in Readville, in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston where he lived his entire life;

Whereas Thomas Menino was a devoted husband, a loving father, and an adoring grandfather;

Whereas Thomas Menino was elected to the Boston City Council in 1983 to represent District 5, including the Hyde Park neighborhood where he lived;

Whereas Thomas Menino served as City Council president and became acting mayor of Boston in July 1993;

Whereas Thomas Menino was elected as the 53rd Mayor of Boston in November 1993, the first Italian-American mayor of the city of Boston;

Whereas Mayor Menino subsequently was elected to 4 additional terms, serving an unprecedented 20 years as Mayor of Boston;

Whereas Mayor Menino took pride in being known as the ''Urban Mechanic'', focusing on the nuts and bolts issues that kept the city moving forward, from fixing potholes to cleaning up public parks;

Whereas Mayor Menino oversaw a period of growth and urban renewal in Boston, and worked to make Boston a city of safe, livable neighborhoods;

Whereas Mayor Menino led the resurgence of neighborhoods in Boston, from the waterfront and the innovation district of the waterfront to Dudley Square in Roxbury, creating a city with unbounded innovative potential;

Whereas Mayor Menino committed himself to being the ''Education Mayor'', using his political will and courage to improve education for all the children in the city;

Whereas Mayor Menino was a powerful advocate for research institutions in Boston, including the world-class hospitals and universities in the city;

Whereas Mayor Menino stood firmly for full equality for every person in every community in Boston, and focused on building an open, accepting, and inclusive city;

Whereas Mayor Menino was a constant presence at public events throughout Boston, greeting residents at countless ribbon cuttings, potluck dinners, and school plays;

Whereas more than half of city residents said they had personally met the Mayor and thousands said the Mayor had personally touched their lives;

Whereas Mayor Menino led Boston with resolve during times of both triumph and crisis, guiding the city following the terrorist attack at the 2013 Boston Marathon and demonstrating what it means to be ''Boston Strong''; and

Whereas Mayor Menino was one of the great leaders in the almost 400-year history of Boston, who transformed the city into a modern-day City on a Hill that is a model for the United States and the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the lifetime of service by Mayor Menino to the City of Boston and residents of the city;

(2) affirms the lasting contributions by Mayor Menino to the City of Boston and to the United States; and

(3) requests the Secretary of the Senate to prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Mayor Thomas Menino.

SENATE RESOLUTION 590—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WALSH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. THUNE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. REID of Nevada) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 590

Whereas from November 1, 2014, through November 30, 2014, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month;

Whereas Native Americans are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census estimated in 2010 that there were more than 5,000,000 individuals in the United States of Native American descent;

Whereas Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community;

Whereas Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future generations;

Whereas Native Americans speak and preserve indigenous languages, which have contributed to the English language by being used as names of individuals and locations throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress has consistently reaffirmed the support of the United States of tribal self-governance and self-determination and the commitment of the United States to improving the lives of all Native Americans by—

(1) enhancing health care and law enforcement resources;

(2) improving the housing and socioeconomic status of Native Americans; and

(3) approving settlements of litigation involving Indian tribes and the United States;

Whereas the United States is committed to strengthening the government-to-government relationship that it has maintained with the various Indian tribes;

Whereas Congress has recognized the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy, and the influence of the Confederacy on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of—

(1) freedom of speech;

(2) the separation of governmental powers; and

(3) the system of checks and balances between the branches of government;

Whereas with the enactment of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–33; 123 Stat. 1922), Congress—

(1) reaffirmed the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and

(2) recognized the important contributions of Native Americans to the culture of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans have made distinct and important contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including the fields of agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

Whereas Native Americans have served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces, and continue to serve in the Armed Forces in greater numbers per capita than any other group in the United States;

Whereas the United States has recognized the contribution of the Native American code talkers in World War I and World War II, who used indigenous languages as an unbreakable military code, saving countless lives in the United States; and

Whereas the people of the United States have reason to honor the great achievements and contributions of Native Americans and their ancestors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of November 2014 as National Native American Heritage Month;

(2) recognizes the Friday after Thanksgiving as ''Native American Heritage Day'' in accordance with the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–33; 123 Stat. 1922); and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe National Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 591—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Mr. REID of Nevada (for Mrs. HAGAN (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. LEVIN)) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 591

Whereas November 16 through November 22, 2014, marks the 93rd annual observance of ''American Education Week'';

Whereas public schools are the backbone of democracy in the United States, providing young people with the tools necessary to maintain the values of freedom, civility, and equality that are precious to the United States;

Whereas by equipping young people in the United States with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, public schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future;

Whereas people working in the field of public education, whether teachers, higher education faculty and staff, paraeducators, custodians, substitute educators, bus drivers, clerical workers, food service professionals, workers in skilled trades, health and student service workers, security guards, technical employees, or librarians, work tirelessly to serve children and communities throughout the United States with care and professionalism; and

Whereas public schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults, children, educators, volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of American Education Week; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe American Education Week by reflecting on the positive impact of all individuals who work together to educate children.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3950. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3951. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3952. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3953. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3954. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3955. Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Reid, of NV to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3956. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3957. Mr. REID (for Mr. HARKIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 669, to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

SA 3958. Mr. REID (for Mr. HARKIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 669, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3950. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1069. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL STUDY ON SPECIALIZED DEGREE-GRANTING GRADUATE PROGRAMS.

(a) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Air Force shall each submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the implementation by such Secretary of the recommendations in the report of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences entitled ''Review of Specialized Degree-Granting Graduate Programs of the Department of Defense in STEM and Management''.

(b) MATTERS RELATING TO AIR FORCE REPORT.—

(1) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report required by subsection (a), the Secretary of the Air Force shall consult with the AFIT Foundation.

(2) CERTAIN ELEMENTS.—The report of the Secretary of the Air Force under subsection (a) addressing recommendation 3-2 in the report of the National Research Council described in that subsection, regarding the chain of command of the Air Force Institute of Technology, shall include the following:

(A) Options for alternative chains of command for the Air Force Institute of Technology, and an identification of the preferred alternative among such options.

(B) An assessment of the effect of the chain of command, as recommended in such recommendation 3-2, on the ability of the Air Force Institute of Technology to support Air Force space, cyberspace, intelligence, and global strike missions, and the nuclear enterprise.

(C) A description of milestones and timetables for implementation of such recommendation 3-2.

(D) An assessment of the effects of implementation of such recommendation 3-2 on the military and civilian workforces of the Air Force.

(E) Such recommendations for legislative action with respect to implementation of such recommendation 3-2 as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

SA 3951. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1105. TEMPORARY AUTHORITIES FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING FACILITIES.

Section 1107 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 887; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING PROGRAMS.—The director of any STRL may appoint qualified candidates enrolled in a program of undergraduate or graduate instruction leading to a bachelor's or advanced degree in a scientific, technical, engineering, or mathematical course of study at an institution of higher education (as that term is defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) to positions described in paragraph (3) of subsection (b) as an employee in a laboratory described in that paragraph without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code (other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title).'';

(2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) CANDIDATES ENROLLED IN SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING PROGRAMS.—The positions described in this paragraph are scientific and engineering positions that may be temporary or term in any laboratory designated by section 1105(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 as a Department of Defense science and technology reinvention laboratory.''; and

(3) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) In the case of a laboratory described in subsection (b)(3), with respect to appointment authority under subsection (a)(3), the number equal to 3 percent of the total number of scientific and engineering positions in such laboratory that are filled as of the close of the fiscal year last ending before the start of such calendar year.''.

SA 3952. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1069. REPORT ON REINVESTMENT OF OPERATIONAL COSTS OF THE JOINT SYSTEMS MANUFACTURING CENTER.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the analysis, plans, and recommendations of the Army on means by which the operational costs associated with the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center could be equitably applied for long-term sustainability of that facility. The report may include such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate to implement any plans and recommendations set forth in the report.

SA 3953. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1047. LIMITATION ON DEACTIVATION OR RELOCATION OF MOBILIZATION-DEMOBILIZATION MISSION AT JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY.

The Secretary of the Army may not deactivate the mobilization-demobilization mission at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, or relocate such mission to another installation, until 30 days after the date on which the Secretary submits to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth a justification for the deactivation or relocation of such mission, including an assessment of any costs to be incurred, and cost-savings to be achieved, as a result of the deactivation or relocation of such mission.

SA 3954. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. ____. PROGRAM TO SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTITUTES FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may establish a program (referred to in this section as the ''Program'') for the purposes set forth in paragraph (2).

(2) PURPOSES OF PROGRAM.—The purposes of the Program are as follows:

(A) To improve measurably the ability of the United States manufacturing sector and to support military requirements and missions.

(B) To help the United States meet national security needs by minimizing the risk of dependence on foreign sources for critical components.

(C) To stimulate United States leadership in advanced manufacturing research, innovation, and technology that has a strong potential to generate substantial benefits to the United States.

(D) To facilitate the transition of innovative and transformative technologies into scalable, cost-effective, and high-performing manufacturing capabilities.

(E) To facilitate access by manufacturing enterprises to capital-intensive infrastructure, including high-performance computing, in order to improve the speed with which such enterprises commercialize new processes and technologies.

(F) To facilitate the execution of—

(i) joint research and development projects between industry partners; and

(ii) cost-shared research projects between the public and private sector.

(G) To accelerate measurably the development of a skilled defense advanced manufacturing workforce.

(H) To facilitate peer exchange of and the documentation of best practices in addressing advanced manufacturing challenges.

(I) To leverage non-Federal sources of support to promote a stable and sustainable business model without the need for long-term Federal funding.

(3) SUPPORT.—If the Secretary establishes the Program, the Secretary shall carry out the purposes set forth in paragraph (2) by supporting the establishment of one or more institutes for manufacturing innovation.

(4) METRICS.—If the Secretary establishes the Program, the Secretary shall—

(A) develop metrics for each institute for manufacturing innovation supported under the Program to measure achievement of the purposes of the Program; and

(B) implement procedures for evaluation of such institutes based on such metrics.

(b) INSTITUTES FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, an ''institute for manufacturing innovation'' is an institute that—

(A) has been established by a person or group of persons to address defense challenges in advanced manufacturing and to assist manufacturers in retaining or expanding industrial production of defense systems in the United States;

(B) has a predominant focus on research and development of manufacturing processes, novel materials, enabling technologies, supply chain integration practices, or such other aspects of advanced manufacturing as the Secretary considers relevant, with the potential—

(i) to ensure domestic sources for critical defense materiel;

(ii) to create or maintain a technical military advantage;

(iii) to improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing, in support of enhancing the affordability of defense systems;

(iv) to accelerate non-Federal investment in advanced defense manufacturing production capacity in the United States;

(v) to increase measurably the non-Federal investment in advanced manufacturing research; and

(vi) to enable the commercial application of new technologies or industry-wide manufacturing processes so as to improve the affordability of defense systems; and

(C) includes active participation among representatives from multiple industrial entities, research universities, community colleges, and such other entities as the Secretary considers appropriate, which may include industry-led consortia, career and technical education schools, Federal laboratories, State, local, and tribal governments, businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations.

(2) ACTIVITIES.—Activities of an institute for manufacturing innovation may include the following:

(A) Research, development, and demonstration projects, including proof-of-concept development and prototyping, to reduce the cost, time, and risk of commercializing new technologies and improvements in existing technologies, processes, products, and research and development of materials to solve pre-competitive industrial problems with economic or national security implications.

(B) Development and implementation of education and training courses, materials, and programs.

(C) Development of workforce recruitment, training, retention, and exchange programs and initiatives.

(D) Development of innovative methodologies and practices for supply chain integration and introduction of new technologies into supply chains.

(E) Development or updating of industry-led, shared-vision technology roadmaps for the development of technologies underpinning next-generation or transformational innovations, developed in coordination with government organizations.

(F) Outreach and engagement with small- and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises, in addition to large manufacturing enterprises.

(G) Coordinate with the Defense Production Act Committee on defense industrial base matters.

(H) Such other activities as the Secretary, in consultation with Federal departments and agencies whose missions contribute to or are affected by advanced manufacturing, considers consistent with the purposes described in subsection (a)(2).

(c) FUNDING FOR INSTITUTES FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary of Defense may provide funding for planning, establishing, or supporting an institute for manufacturing innovation.

(2) SELECTION.—

(A) COMPETITIVE, MERIT REVIEW.—In awarding funding under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall use appropriate, competitive, merit review.

(B) COLLABORATION.—In awarding funding under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall collaborate with Federal departments and agencies whose missions contribute to or are affected by advanced manufacturing.

(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding funding to plan, establish, or support an institute for manufacturing innovation, the Secretary shall consider, at a minimum, the following:

(i) The potential of the institute for manufacturing innovation to advance domestic defense manufacturing and the likelihood of military impact in the predominant focus areas of the institute for manufacturing innovation.

(ii) The commitment of continued financial support, advice, participation, and other contributions from non-Federal sources, to provide leverage and resources to promote a stable and sustainable business model without the need for long-term Federal funding.

(iii) Whether the financial support provided to the institute from non-Federal sources significantly outweighs the requested Federal funding.

(iv) How the institute will support core Department of Defense missions and address key technology priorities.

(v) How the institute will increase the non-Federal investment in advanced defense manufacturing research in the United States.

(vi) How the institute will engage with small- and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises, to improve the capacity of such enterprises to commercialize new processes and technologies.

(vii) How the institute will carry out educational and workforce activities that meet industrial needs related to the predominant focus areas of the institute for manufacturing innovation, including activities focused on veterans and military dependents.

(viii) How the institute will advance economic competitiveness both globally and domestically and generate substantial benefits to the United States that extend beyond the direct return to participants in the Program.

(ix) Whether the predominant focus of the institute is a manufacturing process, novel material, enabling technology, supply chain integration methodology, or other relevant aspect of advanced manufacturing that has not already been commercialized, marketed, distributed, or sold by another entity.

(x) How the institute will strengthen and leverage the assets of a region to support military requirements and missions.

(3) LIMITATIONS ON AWARDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—No funding may be provided under the Program to an institute for manufacturing innovation after the five-year period beginning on the date on which the Secretary first awards funding to an institute under the Program.

(B) MATCHING FUNDS AND WEIGHTED PREFERENCES.—The total Federal funding awarded to an institute for manufacturing innovation, including funding awarded under the Program, during a five-year period shall not exceed 50 percent of the total funding of the institute during that period.

(d) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.—

(1) APPOINTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND CONTRACTS.—The Secretary may appoint such personnel and enter into such contracts, funding agreements, and other agreements as the Secretary considers necessary or appropriate to carry out the Program, including support for research and development activities involving an institute for manufacturing innovation.

(2) ACCEPTANCE OR TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may accept from or transfer to other Federal agencies, or State or local governments, such sums as the Secretary considers necessary or appropriate to carry out the Program.

(3) USE OF RESOURCES.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Program, the Secretary may use, with the consent of a covered entity and with or without reimbursement, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of such covered entity.

(4) ACCEPTANCE OF RESOURCES.—In addition to amounts appropriated to carry out the Program, the Secretary may accept funds, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities from any covered entity to carry out the Program pursuant to section 2601 of title 10, United States Code.

(5) COVERED ENTITY.—For purposes of this subsection, a covered entity is any Federal department, Federal agency, instrumentality of the United States, State, local government, tribal government, Territory or possession of the United States, or of any political subdivision thereof, or international organization, or any public or private entity or individual.

SA 3955. Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. REID of Nevada to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. LOAN GUARANTEES FOR MEDICAL ISOTOPE PRODUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1703(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16513(a)), any medical isotope production facility used to produce molybdenum-99 (including nuclear reactors that use either high or low enriched uranium, nonreactor, accelerator-driven irradiation facilities, and associated radioisotope processing, waste management, and support facilities) shall be considered to be an advanced nuclear energy facility that is eligible for a guarantee under section 1703 of that Act.

(b) FUNDING.—The matter under the heading ''TITLE 17 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN

GUARANTEE PROGRAM'' in title III of division C of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–8; 123 Stat. 619) is amended by inserting ''or medical isotope production facilities used to produce molybdenum-99'' after ''nuclear power facilities''.

SA 3956. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division C, add the following:

TITLE XXXVI—VESSEL INCIDENTAL DISCHARGE

SEC. 3601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Vessel Incidental Discharge Act''.

SEC. 3602. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Beginning with enactment of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships in 1980 (22 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), the United States Coast Guard has been the principal Federal authority charged with administering, enforcing, and prescribing regulations relating to the discharge of pollutants from vessels engaged in maritime commerce and transportation.

(2) The Coast Guard estimates there are approximately 21,560,000 State-registered recreational vessels, 75,000 commercial fishing vessels, and 33,000 freight and tank barges operating in United States waters.

(3) From 1973 to 2005, certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel were exempted by regulation from otherwise applicable permitting requirements.

(4) Over the 32 years during which this regulatory exemption was in effect, Congress enacted statutes on a number of occasions dealing with the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, including—

(A) the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) in 1980;

(B) the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.);

(C) the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 4073);

(D) section 415 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 3434) and section 623 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (33 U.S.C. 1901 note), which established interim and permanent requirements, respectively, for the regulation of vessel discharges of certain bulk cargo residue;

(E) title XIV of division B of Appendix D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 2763), which prohibited or limited certain vessel discharges in certain areas of Alaska;

(F) section 204 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 1902a), which established requirements for the regulation of vessel discharges of agricultural cargo residue material in the form of hold washings; and

(G) title X of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (33 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), which provided for the implementation of the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this title is to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards and requirements for the management of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

SEC. 3603. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES.—The term ''aquatic nuisance species'' means a nonindigenous species (including a pathogen) that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of navigable waters or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.

(3) BALLAST WATER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''ballast water'' means any water, including any sediment suspended in such water, taken aboard a vessel—

(i) to control trim, list, draught, stability, or stresses of the vessel; or

(ii) during the cleaning, maintenance, or other operation of a ballast water treatment technology of the vessel.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''ballast water'' does not include any pollutant that is added to water described in subparagraph (A) that is not directly related to the operation of a properly functioning ballast water treatment technology under this title.

(4) BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—The term ''ballast water performance standard'' means the numerical ballast water discharge standard set forth in section 151.2030 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations or section 151.1511 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, as applicable, or a revised numerical ballast water performance standard established under subsection (a)(1)(B), (b), or (c) of section 3605.

(5) BALLAST WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY OR TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''ballast water treatment technology'' or ''treatment technology'' means any mechanical, physical, chemical, or biological process used, alone or in combination, to remove, render harmless, or avoid the uptake or discharge of aquatic nuisance species within ballast water.

(6) BIOCIDE.—The term ''biocide'' means a substance or organism, including a virus or fungus, that is introduced into or produced by a ballast water treatment technology to reduce or eliminate aquatic nuisance species as part of the process used to comply with a ballast water performance standard under this title.

(7) DISCHARGE INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A VESSEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel'' means—

(i) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel of—

(I)(aa) ballast water, graywater, bilge water, cooling water, oil water separator effluent, anti-fouling hull coating leachate, boiler or economizer blowdown, byproducts from cathodic protection, controllable pitch propeller and thruster hydraulic fluid, distillation and reverse osmosis brine, elevator pit effluent, firemain system effluent, freshwater layup effluent, gas turbine wash water, motor gasoline and compensating effluent, refrigeration and air condensate effluent, seawater pumping biofouling prevention substances, boat engine wet exhaust, sonar dome effluent, exhaust gas scrubber washwater, or stern tube packing gland effluent; or

(bb) any other pollutant associated with the operation of a marine propulsion system, shipboard maneuvering system, habitability system, or installed major equipment, or from a protective, preservative, or absorptive application to the hull of a vessel;

(II) weather deck runoff, deck wash, aqueous film forming foam effluent, chain locker effluent, non-oily machinery wastewater, underwater ship husbandry effluent, welldeck effluent, or fish hold and fish hold cleaning effluent; or

(III) any effluent from a properly functioning marine engine; or

(ii) a discharge of a pollutant into navigable waters in connection with the testing, maintenance, or repair of a system, equipment, or engine described in subclause (I)(bb) or (III) of clause (i) whenever the vessel is waterborne.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel'' does not include—

(i) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel of—

(I) rubbish, trash, garbage, incinerator ash, or other such material discharged overboard;

(II) oil or a hazardous substance as those terms are defined in section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321);

(III) sewage as defined in section 312(a)(6) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322(a)(6)); or

(IV) graywater referred to in section 312(a)(6) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322(a)(6));

(ii) an emission of an air pollutant resulting from the operation onboard a vessel of a vessel propulsion system, motor driven equipment, or incinerator; or

(iii) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel when the vessel is operating in a capacity other than as a means of transportation on water.

(8) GEOGRAPHICALLY LIMITED AREA.—The term ''geographically limited area'' means an area—

(A) with a physical limitation, including limitation by physical size and limitation by authorized route, that prevents a vessel from operating outside the area, as determined by the Secretary; or

(B) that is ecologically homogeneous, as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other Federal departments or agencies as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(9) MANUFACTURER.—The term ''manufacturer'' means a person engaged in the manufacture, assemblage, or importation of ballast water treatment technology.

(10) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

(11) VESSEL.—The term ''vessel'' means every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or practically or otherwise capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water.

SEC. 3604. REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall establish and implement enforceable uniform national standards and requirements for the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel. The standards and requirements shall—

(1) be based upon the best available technology economically achievable; and

(2) supersede any permitting requirement or prohibition on discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel under any other provision of law.

(b) ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary shall administer and enforce the uniform national standards and requirements under this title. Each State may enforce the uniform national standards and requirements under this title.

SEC. 3605. UNIFORM NATIONAL STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGULATION OF DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A VESSEL.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the requirements set forth in the final rule, Standards for Living Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters (77 Fed. Reg. 17254 (March 23, 2012), as corrected at 77 Fed. Reg. 33969 (June 8, 2012)), shall be the management requirements for a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel until the Secretary revises the ballast water performance standard under subsection (b) or adopts a more stringent State standard under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

(B) ADOPTION OF MORE STRINGENT STATE STANDARD.—If the Secretary makes a determination in favor of a State petition under section 3610, the Secretary shall adopt the more stringent ballast water performance standard specified in the statute or regulation that is the subject of that State petition in lieu of the ballast water performance standard in the final rule described under subparagraph (A).

(2) INITIAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES OTHER THAN BALLAST WATER.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue a final rule establishing best management practices for discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel other than ballast water.

(b) REVISED BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD; 8-YEAR REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the feasibility review under paragraph (2), not later than January 1, 2022, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue a final rule revising the ballast water performance standard under subsection (a)(1) so that a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel will contain—

(A) less than 1 living organism per 10 cubic meters that is 50 or more micrometers in minimum dimension;

(B) less than 1 living organism per 10 milliliters that is less than 50 micrometers in minimum dimension and more than 10 micrometers in minimum dimension;

(C) concentrations of indicator microbes that are less than—

(i) 1 colony-forming unit of toxicogenic Vibrio cholera (serotypes O1 and O139) per 100 milliliters or less than 1 colony-forming unit of that microbe per gram of wet weight of zoological samples;

(ii) 126 colony-forming units of escherichia coli per 100 milliliters; and

(iii) 33 colony-forming units of intestinal enterococci per 100 milliliters; and

(D) concentrations of such additional indicator microbes and of viruses as may be specified in regulations issued by the Secretary in consultation with the Administrator and such other Federal agencies as the Secretary and the Administrator consider appropriate.

(2) FEASIBILITY REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 2 years before January 1, 2022, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a review to determine the feasibility of achieving the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1).

(B) CRITERIA FOR REVIEW OF BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—In conducting a review under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider whether revising the ballast water performance standard will result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species, taking into account—

(i) improvements in the scientific understanding of biological and ecological processes that lead to the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species;

(ii) improvements in ballast water treatment technology, including—

(I) the capability of such treatment technology to achieve a revised ballast water performance standard;

(II) the effectiveness and reliability of such treatment technology in the shipboard environment;

(III) the compatibility of such treatment technology with the design and operation of a vessel by class, type, and size;

(IV) the commercial availability of such treatment technology; and

(V) the safety of such treatment technology;

(iii) improvements in the capabilities to detect, quantify, and assess the viability of aquatic nuisance species at the concentrations under consideration;

(iv) the impact of ballast water treatment technology on water quality; and

(v) the costs, cost-effectiveness, and impacts of—

(I) a revised ballast water performance standard, including the potential impacts on shipping, trade, and other uses of the aquatic environment; and

(II) maintaining the existing ballast water performance standard, including the potential impacts on water-related infrastructure, recreation, propagation of native fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and other uses of navigable waters.

(C) LOWER REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines on the basis of the feasibility review and after an opportunity for a public hearing that no ballast water treatment technology can be certified under section 3606 to comply with the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall require the use of the treatment technology that achieves the performance levels of the best treatment technology available.

(ii) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that the treatment technology under clause (i) cannot be implemented before the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall extend the implementation deadline for that class of vessels for not more than 36 months.

(iii) COMPLIANCE.—If the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) is extended, the Secretary shall recommend action to ensure compliance with the extended implementation deadline under clause (ii).

(D) HIGHER REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that ballast water treatment technology exists that exceeds the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall revise the ballast water performance standard for that class of vessels to incorporate the higher performance standard.

(ii) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that the treatment technology under clause (i) can be implemented before the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall accelerate the implementation deadline for that class of vessels. If the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) is accelerated, the Secretary shall provide not less than 24 months notice before the accelerated deadline takes effect.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—The revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1) shall apply to a vessel beginning on the date of the first drydocking of the vessel on or after January 1, 2022, but not later than December 31, 2024.

(4) REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD COMPLIANCE DEADLINES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish a compliance deadline for compliance by a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel) with a revised ballast water performance standard under this subsection.

(B) PROCESS FOR GRANTING EXTENSIONS.—In issuing regulations under this subsection, the Secretary shall establish a process for an owner or operator to submit a petition to the Secretary for an extension of a compliance deadline with respect to the vessel of the owner or operator.

(C) PERIOD OF EXTENSIONS.—An extension issued under subparagraph (B) may—

(i) apply for a period of not to exceed 18 months from the date of the applicable deadline under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) be renewable for an additional period of not to exceed 18 months.

(D) FACTORS.—In issuing a compliance deadline or reviewing a petition under this paragraph, the Secretary shall consider, with respect to the ability of an owner or operator to meet a compliance deadline, the following factors:

(i) Whether the treatment technology to be installed is available in sufficient quantities to meet the compliance deadline.

(ii) Whether there is sufficient shipyard or other installation facility capacity.

(iii) Whether there is sufficient availability of engineering and design resources.

(iv) Vessel characteristics, such as engine room size, layout, or a lack of installed piping.

(v) Electric power generating capacity aboard the vessel.

(vi) Safety of the vessel and crew.

(E) CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS.—

(i) DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall approve or deny a petition for an extension of a compliance deadline submitted by an owner or operator under this paragraph.

(ii) DEADLINE.—If the Secretary does not approve or deny a petition referred to in clause (i) on or before the last day of the 90-day period beginning on the date of submission of the petition, the petition shall be deemed approved.

(c) FUTURE REVISIONS OF VESSEL INCIDENTAL DISCHARGE STANDARDS; DECENNIAL REVIEWS.—

(1) REVISED BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a review, 10 years after the issuance of a final rule under subsection (b) and every 10 years thereafter, to determine whether further revision of the ballast water performance standard would result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

(2) REVISED STANDARDS FOR DISCHARGES OTHER THAN BALLAST WATER.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may include in a decennial review under this subsection best management practices for discharges covered by subsection (a)(2). The Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to revise 1 or more best management practices for such discharges after a decennial review if the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that revising 1 or more of such practices would substantially reduce the impacts on navigable waters of

discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel other than ballast water.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting a review under paragraph (1), the Secretary, the Administrator, and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies as determined by the Secretary, shall consider the criteria under section 3605(b)(2)(B).

(4) REVISION AFTER DECENNIAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to revise the current ballast water performance standard after a decennial review if the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that revising the current ballast water performance standard would result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

SEC. 3606. TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATION.

(a) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Beginning 60 days after the date that the requirements for testing protocols are issued under subsection (i), no manufacturer of a ballast water treatment technology shall sell, offer for sale, or introduce or deliver for introduction into interstate commerce, or import into the United States for sale or resale, a ballast water treatment technology for a vessel unless the treatment technology has been certified under this section.

(b) CERTIFICATION PROCESS.—

(1) EVALUATION.—Upon application of a manufacturer, the Secretary shall evaluate a ballast water treatment technology with respect to—

(A) the effectiveness of the treatment technology in achieving the current ballast water performance standard when installed on a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel);

(B) the compatibility with vessel design and operations;

(C) the effect of the treatment technology on vessel safety;

(D) the impact on the environment;

(E) the cost effectiveness; and

(F) any other criteria the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) APPROVAL.—If after an evaluation under paragraph (1) the Secretary determines that the treatment technology meets the criteria, the Secretary may certify the treatment technology for use on a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel).

(3) SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION.—The Secretary shall establish, by regulation, a process to suspend or revoke a certification issued under this section.

(c) CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.—

(1) IMPOSITION OF CONDITIONS.—In certifying a ballast water treatment technology under this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may impose any condition on the subsequent installation, use, or maintenance of the treatment technology onboard a vessel as is necessary for—

(A) the safety of the vessel, the crew of the vessel, and any passengers aboard the vessel;

(B) the protection of the environment; or

(C) the effective operation of the treatment technology.

(2) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—The failure of an owner or operator to comply with a condition imposed under paragraph (1) shall be considered a violation of this section.

(d) PERIOD FOR USE OF INSTALLED TREATMENT EQUIPMENT.—Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this title or any other provision of law, the Secretary shall allow a vessel on which a system is installed and operated to meet a ballast water performance standard under this title to continue to use that system, notwithstanding any revision of a ballast water performance standard occurring after the system is ordered or installed until the expiration of the service life of the system, as determined by the Secretary, so long as the system—

(1) is maintained in proper working condition; and

(2) is maintained and used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and any treatment technology certification conditions imposed by the Secretary under this section.

(e) CERTIFICATES OF TYPE APPROVAL FOR THE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.—

(1) ISSUANCE.—If the Secretary approves a ballast water treatment technology for certification under subsection (b), the Secretary shall issue a certificate of type approval for the treatment technology to the manufacturer in such form and manner as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.—A certificate of type approval issued under paragraph (1) shall specify each condition imposed by the Secretary under subsection (c).

(3) OWNERS AND OPERATORS.—A manufacturer that receives a certificate of type approval for the treatment technology under this subsection shall provide a copy of the certificate to each owner and operator of a vessel on which the treatment technology is installed.

(f) INSPECTIONS.—An owner or operator who receives a copy of a certificate under subsection (e)(3) shall retain a copy of the certificate onboard the vessel and make the copy of the certificate available for inspection at all times while the owner or operator is utilizing the treatment technology.

(g) BIOCIDES.—The Secretary may not approve a ballast water treatment technology under subsection (b) if—

(1) it uses a biocide or generates a biocide that is a pesticide, as defined in section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136), unless the biocide is registered under that Act or the Secretary, in consultation with Administrator, has approved the use of the biocide in such treatment technology; or

(2) it uses or generates a biocide the discharge of which causes or contributes to a violation of a water quality standard under section 303 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313).

(h) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the use of a ballast water treatment technology by an owner or operator of a vessel shall not satisfy the requirements of this title unless it has been approved by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) COAST GUARD SHIPBOARD TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION PROGRAM.—An owner or operator may use a ballast water treatment technology that has not been certified by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of this section if the technology is being evaluated under the Coast Guard Shipboard Technology Evaluation Program.

(B) BALLAST WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES CERTIFIED BY FOREIGN ENTITIES.—An owner or operator may use a ballast water treatment technology that has not been certified by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of this section if the technology has been certified by a foreign entity and the certification demonstrates performance and safety of the treatment technology equivalent to the requirements of this section, as determined by the Secretary.

(i) TESTING PROTOCOLS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall issue requirements for land-based and shipboard testing protocols or criteria for—

(1) certifying the performance of each ballast water treatment technology under this section; and

(2) certifying laboratories to evaluate such treatment technologies.

SEC. 3607. EXEMPTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any standards regarding a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel under this title apply to—

(1) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is less than 79 feet in length and engaged in commercial service (as defined in section 2101(5) of title 46, United States Code);

(2) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is a fishing vessel, including a fish processing vessel and a fish tender vessel, (as defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code);

(3) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is a recreational vessel (as defined in section 2101(25) of title 46, United States Code);

(4) the placement, release, or discharge of equipment, devices, or other material from a vessel for the sole purpose of conducting research on the aquatic environment or its natural resources in accordance with generally recognized scientific methods, principles, or techniques;

(5) any discharge into navigable waters from a vessel authorized by an on-scene coordinator in accordance with part 300 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, or part 153 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations;

(6) any discharge into navigable waters from a vessel that is necessary to secure the safety of the vessel or human life, or to suppress a fire onboard the vessel or at a shoreside facility; or

(7) a sovereign immune vessel of a foreign nation (including a time-chartered or voyage-chartered vessel) when engaged in noncommercial service.

(b) BALLAST WATER DISCHARGES.—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any ballast water performance standards under this title apply to—

(1) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel determined by the Secretary to—

(A) operate exclusively within a geographically limited area;

(B) take up and discharge ballast water exclusively within 1 Captain of the Port Zone established by the Coast Guard unless the Secretary determines such discharge poses a substantial risk of introduction or establishment of an aquatic nuisance species;

(C) operate pursuant to a geographic restriction issued as a condition under section 3309 of title 46, United States Code, or an equivalent restriction issued by the country of registration of the vessel; or

(D) continuously take on and discharge ballast water in a flow-through system that does not introduce aquatic nuisance species into navigable waters;

(2) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel consisting entirely of water suitable for human consumption; or

(3) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel in an alternative compliance program established pursuant to section 3608.

(c) VESSELS WITH PERMANENT BALLAST WATER.—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any ballast water performance standard under this title apply to, a vessel that carries all of its permanent ballast water in sealed tanks that are not subject to discharge.

(d) VESSELS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to apply to—

(1) a vessel owned or operated by the Department of Defense (other than a time-chartered or voyage-chartered vessel); or

(2) a vessel of the Coast Guard, as designated by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

SEC. 3608. ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may promulgate regulations establishing 1 or more compliance programs as an alternative to ballast water management regulations issued under section 3605 for a vessel that—

(1) has a maximum ballast water capacity of less than 8 cubic meters;

(2) is less than 3 years from the end of the useful life of the vessel, as determined by the Secretary; or

(3) discharges ballast water into a facility for the reception of ballast water that meets standards promulgated by the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary.

(b) PROMULGATION OF FACILITY STANDARDS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall promulgate standards for—

(1) the reception of ballast water from a vessel into a reception facility; and

(2) the disposal or treatment of the ballast water under paragraph (1).

SEC. 3609. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An interested person may file a petition for review of a final regulation promulgated under this title in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

(b) DEADLINE.—A petition shall be filed not later than 120 days after the date that notice of the promulgation appears in the Federal Register.

(c) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), a petition that is based solely on grounds that arise after the deadline to file a petition under subsection (b) has passed may be filed not later than 120 days after the date that the grounds first arise.

SEC. 3610. EFFECT ON STATE AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No State or political subdivision thereof may adopt or enforce any statute or regulation of the State or political subdivision with respect to a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a State or political subdivision thereof may enforce a statute or regulation of the State or political subdivision with respect to ballast water discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel that specifies a ballast water performance standard that is more stringent than the ballast water performance standard under section 3605(a)(1)(A) and is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act if the Secretary, after consultation with the Administrator and any other Federal department or agency the Secretary considers appropriate, makes a determination that—

(1) compliance with any performance standard specified in the statute or regulation can in fact be achieved and detected;

(2) the technology and systems necessary to comply with the statute or regulation are commercially available; and

(3) the statute or regulation is consistent with obligations under relevant international treaties or agreements to which the United States is a party.

(c) PETITION PROCESS.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—The Governor of a State seeking to enforce a statute or regulation under subsection (b) shall submit a petition requesting the Secretary to review the statute or regulation.

(2) CONTENTS; DEADLINE.—A petition shall—

(A) be accompanied by the scientific and technical information on which the petition is based; and

(B) be submitted to the Secretary not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall make a determination on a petition under this subsection not later than 90 days after the date that the petition is received.

SEC. 3611. APPLICATION WITH OTHER STATUTES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this title shall be the exclusive statutory authority for regulation by the Federal Government of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel to which this title applies. Except as provided under section 3605(a)(1)(A), any regulation in effect on the date immediately preceding the effective date of this Act relating to any permitting requirement for or prohibition on discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel to which this title applies shall be deemed to be a regulation issued pursuant to the authority of this title and shall remain in full force and effect unless or until superseded by new regulations issued hereunder.

SA 3957. Mr. REID (for Mr. HARKIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 669, to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: ''A bill to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.''.

SA 3958. Mr. REID (for Mr. HARKIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 669, to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Sudden Unexpected Death Data Enhancement and Awareness Act''.

SEC. 2. CONTINUING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO STILLBIRTH, SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH AND SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall continue activities related to still birth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood, including, as appropriate—

(1) collecting information, such as sociodemographic, death scene investigation, clinical history, and autopsy information, on stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood through the utilization of existing surveillance systems and collaborating with States to improve the quality, consistency, and collection of such data;

(2) disseminating information to educate the public, health care providers, and other stakeholders on stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexplained death in childhood; and

(3) collaborating with the Attorney General, State and local departments of health, and other experts, as appropriate, to provide consistent information for medical examiners and coroners, law enforcement personnel, and health care providers related to death scene investigations and autopsies for sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexplained death in childhood, in order to improve the quality and consistency of the data collected at such death scenes and to promote consistent reporting on the cause of death after autopsy to inform prevention, intervention, and other activities.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report that includes a description of any activities that are being carried out by agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, related to stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood, including those activities identified under subsection (a).

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.

This Act shall not be construed to increase the amount of appropriations that are authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 20, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SR–253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Examining Takata Airbag Defects and the Vehicle Recall Process.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 20, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 20, 2014, at 1 p.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Why Are Some Generic Drugs Skyrocketing in Price?''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on November 20, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be

authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 20, 2014, in room S–216 of the Capitol, immediately following the floor vote at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 20, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Wall Street Bank Involvement With Physical Commodities.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 20, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Amanda Clinton, a health care fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the calendar year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH DATA ENHANCEMENT AND AWARENESS ACT

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 669, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 669) to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Harkin substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the Harkin amendment to the title, which is also at the desk, be agreed to, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3958) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Sudden Unexpected Death Data Enhancement and Awareness Act''.

SEC. 2. CONTINUING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO STILLBIRTH, SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH AND SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall continue activities related to still birth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood, including, as appropriate—

(1) collecting information, such as sociodemographic, death scene investigation, clinical history, and autopsy information, on stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood through the utilization of existing surveillance systems and collaborating with States to improve the quality, consistency, and collection of such data;

(2) disseminating information to educate the public, health care providers, and other stakeholders on stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexplained death in childhood; and

(3) collaborating with the Attorney General, State and local departments of health, and other experts, as appropriate, to provide consistent information for medical examiners and coroners, law enforcement personnel, and health care providers related to death scene investigations and autopsies for sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexplained death in childhood, in order to improve the quality and consistency of the data collected at such death scenes and to promote consistent reporting on the cause of death after autopsy to inform prevention, intervention, and other activities.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report that includes a description of any activities that are being carried out by agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, related to stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood, including those activities identified under subsection (a).

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.

This Act shall not be construed to increase the amount of appropriations that are authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 669), as amended, was passed.

The amendment (No. 3957) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: ''A bill to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.''.

PROVIDING FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE ENFORCEMENT INSTRUCTION ON SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTPATIENT THERAPEUTIC SERVICES IN CRITICAL ACCESS AND SMALL RURAL HOSPITALS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4067.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4067) to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2014.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4067) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING THE FEDERAL CHARTER OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5441.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5441) to amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5441) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

STELA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5728.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5728) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today the Senate will finally act to send legislation to the President's desk that will ensure that Vermonters and 1.5 million Americans across the country will continue to receive satellite television programming at the end of the year. The legislation reauthorizes the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act, STELA, which creates a distant signal statutory license to receive broadcast television signals via satellite. This legislation is the product of four committees in the Senate and

House. As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I worked with Senator GRASSLEY on the copyright aspects of this legislation to focus on preventing disruption to consumers. Because of our work together, the Judiciary Committee unanimously reported its portion of this bill on June 26 and all of these provisions are in the bill the Senate will pass today.

Sending this bill to the President shows the American people that Congress can come together in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion to pass legislation. Vermonters who rely on the distant signal license for their broadcast programming can rest easy today knowing that their existing television stations will not disappear from their screens come December 31.

Over the years I have worked on the Judiciary Committee to ensure that all Vermonters have access to Vermont broadcast television stations. In previous reauthorizations, including STELA's most recent reauthorization in 2010, I have made it a priority to ensure that every Vermont satellite subscriber has the option to watch Vermont-focused programming. Local broadcast stations play an important role in informing and fostering a sense of community. This is particularly true in a small State like mine. I am proud to have made sure that residents in every corner of Vermont will continue to have a choice to see Vermont news.

The Judiciary Committee portion of this legislation reauthorizes the distant signal license for another 5 years. It is narrowly crafted to ensure that consumers do not see any disruption in service, but also designed to make sure that content holders who are paid royalties under this license continue to receive an annual cost of living adjustment beginning from the rate that is currently in place. The distant signal license is important to consumers. I recognize, however, that compulsory licenses do not always reflect the true market value of the content that is being licensed. The mechanisms to modestly increase the rate when appropriate remain in place. Through the Senate Judiciary Committee process, I worked with Senator DURBIN, who offered a non-controversial amendment to expand the carriage of low power television stations on cable systems. I was happy to support this amendment because improving the reach of these stations so that more viewers can see them will help to expand the diversity of voices available on cable. That is as important in Burlington, VT as it is in Chicago.

I share the concerns of several Senators who wanted this legislation to do more to promote competition. It is unfortunate that the House of Representatives would not agree to the Senate's stronger language in this regard, but I was willing to compromise because the threat of letting the law expire was too great. The language in the bill we will pass today is better than what was in the original House bill. Overall, this legislation is a win for viewers in Vermont and across the country. I look forward to the President signing it into law.

Mr. ROCKFELLER. Mr. President, the bill being considered by the Senate today represents what can happen through hard work on both sides of the aisle and in both chambers of Congress. The STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 will make sure that 1.5 million Americans do not lose access to distant broadcast network signals at the end of the year. It also adopts a number of pro-consumer video policy reforms, many of which originated in the bill that Senator THUNE and I worked diligently to pass through the Senate Commerce Committee. I am proud of this legislation, and pleased that it has garnered the unanimous support of both the House and the Senate.

I know not everyone in this body agreed with all of the specific policy provisions in the bill before us. But such is the nature of legislative compromise. I was sympathetic with many of those policy concerns, but failing to reauthorize STELA and disenfranchising millions of television viewers simply was not an option. I appreciate my colleagues' recognition of this important fact.

I want to thank Senator THUNE, as always, for his willingness to work with me in a strong bipartisan manner throughout this year-long reauthorization effort. I also want to thank Senators LEAHY and GRASSLEY for their good work and contributions to this must-pass legislation. And I am grateful to Representatives Upton, Waxman, Walden, and Eshoo for working with us in good faith to find consensus on an eminently reasonable compromise bill.

Of course, legislation of this magnitude does not come about without dedicated and savvy staff. So, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the tireless efforts of Ellen Doneski, John Branscome, Shawn Bone, David Quinalty, and Hap Rigby, as well as House Energy and Commerce staff David Redl, Grace Koh, Ray Baum, Shawn Chang, Margaret McCarthy, and David Grossman. Their commitment to public service is commendable, and the American people ultimately will benefit from their work.

This legislation, and the debate around it, has started what I believe will be a lasting conversation about the future of the video marketplace. Today's action takes positive steps toward a more consumer-centric video policy in this country. More importantly, it also represents what can be accomplished when we all go about our business legislating in a practical and productive way.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5728) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 580.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 580) expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 580) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of Monday, November 17, 2014, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 583.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 583) designating November 30, 2014 as ''Drive Safer Sunday.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 583) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ACCESS TO HOSPITALS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN RURAL AREAS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 588, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 588) recognizing that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 588) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS M. MENINO

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 589.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 589) honoring the life of Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts, from 1993 to 2014.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 589) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 590.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 590) recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, each November, we reflect on the tremendous contributions Native Americans have made and continue to make to our nation. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I am honored to continue that tradition by introducing this resolution, along with 26 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, honoring National Native American Heritage Month.

Native Americans have contributed immeasurably to the character and culture of the United States. They played an instrumental role as code talkers in both World Wars by using their Native languages on the battlefield, and to this day, they continue to serve in the military at a higher rate per capita than any other group in the country. In my home State of Montana, I am proud to represent more than 5,000 Native American veterans, as well as eight great tribal nations.

As we celebrate and commemorate the rich and diverse cultures and traditions of Native Americans nationwide, it is important to acknowledge the enduring challenges many tribal communities face in meeting the education, healthcare and general welfare needs of their people.

This month is an opportunity to recommit to strengthening the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the United States. It is also a reminder that the Federal government has treaty and trust obligations to the 566 Federally recognized tribes, and we must do more to ensure they have the tools they need to build stronger and healthier communities.

I look forward to continuing my work with Indian Country, and I hope my colleagues and the American people will join me in celebrating the accomplishments of Native Americans, not just this month, but throughout the year.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, each November, we recognize National Native American Heritage Month to celebrate the heritage and culture of the great nations that originally inhabited this country. During this month, we should reflect on the numerous achievements made over the previous year. Each day, individuals and organizations across Indian Country continually tackle tough issues and strive to make significant impacts for their people and tribes. It is these efforts that show the strength and vitality of Indian Country.

This year, across the Nation, Native American movements have unified and rallied the Native voice on several important issues to Indian County. Thousands of individuals have come together on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to share their views on environmental protections, treaty rights and the use of a racial slur by a professional sports league. A grassroots movement in South Dakota also spurred voters living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to get out the vote and approve the change of their county name from Shannon County to Oglala Lakota County. These actions reflect a positive drive in the Native community; a drive that tribal, local, State and Federal Governments cannot simply ignore.

As sovereign nations, tribes have the ability to empower and govern their own people. Native American leaders in South Dakota and across the country have recognized that preserving their culture is vital to future growth and success. Native languages are being revitalized and tribal cultures are being infused into programs. With its treaty and trust responsibility, the Federal Government must support this continued progress. I have always fully believed that the best ideas come from tribal governments and leaders, and not from Washington, DC. We must continue to work together to understand and implement successful approaches.

South Dakota is home to nine treaty tribes, each with its own distinct culture and heritage. Throughout my years of service, I have had the opportunity to work closely with many leaders from each reservation. I would like to personally honor each of the South Dakota tribes: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and the Yankton Sioux Tribe.

With the commencement of the National Native American Heritage Month, I encourage everyone to join in commemorating the unique culture of the indigenous peoples of the United States. Throughout the country, numerous tribes and organizations are coordinating educational events and celebrations. While the month of November is in tribute of traditions and accomplishments of tribal nations, it is important to contemplate the many more undertakings that must be addressed. We must all continue to work together to find positive solutions for Indian Country.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 590) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

APPOINTING THE DAY FOR THE CONVENING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 129, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 129) appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 129) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND A CONDITIONAL RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 119, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 119) providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate (Thanksgiving Week 2014).

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 119) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 119

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, November 20, 2014, through Friday, November 28, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2014, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, November 20, 2014, through Friday, November 28, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, December 1, 2014, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 3. (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after concurrence with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the Senate shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Thursday, November 20, through Monday, December 1, 2014, the majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President pro tempore and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 119 until 2 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, there will be two rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m.—cloture on the Mamet and Bell nominations on the Monday when we get back.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014, at 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:22 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 1, 2014, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

ANN DONNELLY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE SANDRA L. TOWNES, RETIRING.

ROSEANN A. KETCHMARK, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, VICE GARY A. FENNER, RETIRING.

TRAVIS RANDALL MCDONOUGH, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, VICE CURTIS L. COLLIER, RETIRED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 20, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DONALD LU, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

TAMARA WENDA ASHFORD, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

L. PAIGE MARVEL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL JON K. KELK

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. NATHANIEL S. REDDICKS

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JAMES C. WITHAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LUIS G. MORENO, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO JAMAICA.

IN THE COAST GUARD

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANGELA R. HOLBROOK AND ENDING WITH MARTHA A. RODRIGUEZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 4, 2014.

THE JUDICIARY

PAMELA PEPPER, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN.

BRENDA K. SANNES, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GEORGE ALBERT KROL, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN.

JAMES D. PETTIT, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA.

BRENT ROBERT HARTLEY, OF OREGON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

RAMIN TOLOUI, OF IOWA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

CARY DOUGLAS PUGH, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ROBERT M. SPEER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LISA AFUA SERWAH MENSAH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE JUDICIARY

MADELINE COX ARLEO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY.

WENDY BEETLESTONE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

VICTOR ALLEN BOLDEN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PAMELA LEORA SPRATLEN, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LESLIE MEREDITH TSOU AND ENDING WITH LON C. FAIRCHILD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CODY R. McKINNEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cody R. McKinney. Cody is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cody has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Cody has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Cody has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Cody R. McKinney for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. SHETAL I. SHAH

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Shetal I. Shah, MD, FAAP, who has worked tirelessly as an advocate for children over the past 10 years. Dr. Shah is a noted pediatrician, neonatologist, and scientist advocate who works to provide members of the Long Island Congressional Delegation information about the practical impact of national policy decisions on the children across Long Island. He is a recognized and award-winning child health advocate, serving as both Legislative Chairman and Treasurer of the Long Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, as well as serving on the New York State American Academy of Pediatrics' Policy and Advocacy Committee, which advises the New York State Legislature on matters of child health and development. At the national level, Dr. Shah also serves as an appointed member of the national advocacy committee of the Society for Pediatric Research, a leading organization of pediatric scientists, researchers, and policy analysts in the Nation.

Dr. Shah's parents, Dr. Indravadan C. Shah, MD, FACS, and Dr. Saroj Shah, MD, FACOG, emigrated from India to Long Island over 40 years ago and they have worked tirelessly to provide healthcare to underserved populations. They instilled in him the personal and professional qualities we all desire in our physicians. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from Princeton University, Dr. Shah attended Cornell University Medical College, graduating with Honors in Research prior to completing a three-year pediatric residency at Duke University Children's Hospital. He then completed a three-year intensive fellowship in neonatal-perinatal medicine at New York University. As a neonatologist, he has dedicated his life to the care of our most vulnerable and fragile citizens—critically-ill newborns.

Dr. Shah—a Fulbright Scholar—is past winner of the National Physician Advocate Award from the Institute of Medicine as a Profession at Columbia University. He also received a National Physician Leadership award from the American Medical Association and has been recognized by my colleagues in the 111th and 112th Congress for his contributions to the health of children in New York.

Over the past decade, Dr. Shah has provided my office with counsel on a host of issues related to child health, including stem cell and pediatric research funding, government appropriations for children, immunization policy, tobacco prevention, gun violence protection and child health insurance programs. Most importantly, Dr. Shah provided analysis of the local and statewide impact of the Affordable Care Act, providing a thoughtful review of the significant health improvements in the legislation and detailing areas where it can be further improved.

Mr. Speaker, as I prepare to leave Congress and transition to the next phase of public service, I wish to thank Dr. Shah for his unwavering support for our region's children. His expert child healthcare policy work has significantly informed our conversations on child health issues. He is an involved, thoughtful and forceful citizen who epitomizes the concept that a politically-engaged public promotes national progress. On behalf of New York's Fourth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Shah on his accomplishments in the field of pediatric and child health.

RECOGNIZING LIGHTHOUSE WORKS, INC.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Lighthouse Works, Inc. for being selected to receive the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) Business Alliance Award for Outstanding Ability-One Program Vendor. As a support agency of the Department of Defense, DLA provides military, federal agencies and joint allied forces with a variety of logistics, acquisition and technical services. The Business Alliance Award recognizes businesses that have made exceptional efforts in partnering with DLA to provide supplies and services to America's defense forces.

Lighthouse Works, Inc. provides material components for the Army's Combat Life Saver Kit and other medical kits. The professionals at Lighthouse Works ensure medical material component shipments are of the highest quality, that they meet all required specifications and that shipments are delivered in a timely manner. The company is well-known for its flexibility and willingness to support the military's dynamic needs.

It is an honor to recognize Lighthouse Works, Inc. for their support of our nation's military and for their contributions to the Central Florida community.

HONORING ANDREW R. HOOG

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew R. Hoog. Andrew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Andrew has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Andrew R. Hoog for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BE THANKFUL: IN HONOR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS THANKSGIVING

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give thanks to the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families on this upcoming Thanksgiving Day. Let us remember all of those who are now separated by death, distance, and in hospital beds across our Nation. Say a prayer of thanks for them all. I submit this poetic tribute to them, written by Albert Carey Caswell.

BE THANKFUL

Be
Be thankful
Be thankful on this Thanksgiving Day,
when with your families you sit down to pray
Please, please say a prayer for all those who gave

All so with your families you may break this bread
And what their selfless sacrifice has so said
Who for all our freedom paid
All throughout the generations the ones who gave
And be thankful
Be thankful for our freedom so very bright
Be thankful for all of these heroes who fought the fight
Who all so live and died in valor's light
All out across the deep blue seas
Who all gave so selflessly
And now lie all in deep dark quiet graves
Showing us all how to behave
Whose families still cry still this day
Who live all in the kind of pain only Heaven can allay
Until they are all reunited one fine day
So be thankful to all those who gave
All of their strong arms and legs
Who must now live without them each day
And gave their eyesight away
Who'll not see another beautiful sunrise today
And be thankful for all those who carry the scars of war
Who with PTS no longer sleep peacefully anymore
And as you look upon your children's faces
And see all of their warm smiles in place this
Remember, remember, remember to say in your grace this
A prayer for all those children with tears upon their faces
Because their mommies or daddies aren't coming home no more
As each new holiday this heartache they must endure
And all those families separated by distance and war
Who on this Thanksgiving Day each other so long for
And all they ask
Is for your thanks to stand by them all steadfast
Be thankful this Thanksgiving Day,
for all of their most precious gifts the Armed Forces and families gave
And on this Thanksgiving sitting around the table
You, this Thanksgiving you for all our freedoms so bright
thankful for our freedom so bright,
be thankful for all of those heroes who fight the fight

CONGRATULATING DIANA RUDEEN

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Diana Rudeen who was elected President of the Department of Illinois' Ladies Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars on June 14, 2014.

Diana joined the Ladies Auxiliary VFW in 1992 to honor her father, James Contizano, who served in the United States Army during the Korean War. Over the course of more than twenty years of service to the Ladies Auxiliary VFW, Diana has served as the Junior Vice President and President of the Clifford E. John Post in Loves Park, Illinois.

As a veteran, I especially appreciate Diana's special commitment to helping veterans coping with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury, addiction, and homelessness. As her special project she has chosen the Rosecrance Treatment Center in Rockford, Illinois, which provides treatment for substance abuse and mental health disorders, including PTSD, and gives veterans of the U.S. armed forces priority admission status. I am incredibly proud to represent men and women, like Diana, who selflessly serve our nation's veterans and their families.

Today, I am honored to join with the members of the Clifford E. Johnson VFW Ladies Auxiliary and the VFW Post to honor Diana's many accomplishments and her election as President. Over 21,000 women are members of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW in Illinois and it is a testament to Diana's character and commitment to be chosen as their leader. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our sincere thanks for all of the hard work Diana and all the women of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW have done for our veterans and our community and to congratulate Diana Rudeen on her well-deserved leadership position.

HONORING JORDAN J. O'BRIEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan J. O'Brien. Jordan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jordan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jordan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jordan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Jordan J. O'Brien for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ALICE LEE

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, there are some people you encounter in life who are just truly remarkable individuals. The first time I met Alice Lee from Monroe County, Alabama, I could tell she was one of them.

As a newly minted lawyer, I had to travel to Monroeville, Alabama, to work on a legal matter with a local lawyer by the name of Alice Lee. Ms. Lee was not just any lawyer though. As one of the few women who practiced law in Alabama before World War II, she was quite a dynamic figure.

She was an expert of the law and incredibly gracious to me. When she spoke on matters of the law, people listened. She continued to actively practice law until after her 100th Birthday, making her the oldest practicing attorney in Alabama history.

Outside of the courtroom, Alice Lee was very active in the United Methodist Church. In fact, she was the first female to lead the Alabama-West Florida Conference delegation to the church's general conference. She appropriately has an award named in her honor that is presented to other women who have shown a commitment to God and leadership.

As the years went by, on occasion I would stop by Monroeville to say hello to Ms. Lee and catch up. She was just the kind of person that you enjoyed being around.

Sadly, on November 17, Alice Lee died at the age of 103. No one will ever be able to fill her shoes as a true trailblazer and student of the law. Retired minister Thomas Lane Butts of Monroeville put it best when he said, "Whenever there was a question in the community that no one could answer, the saying was, 'Go ask Miss Alice. Her death is like the closing of a great library.'"

Mr. Speaker, I know I join with countless others throughout Monroeville and the state of Alabama in sharing our condolences with the family of Alice Lee. She will be deeply missed.

HONORING MRS. BONITA M. HERRING, INTERNATIONAL GRAND BASILEUS OF SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC.

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and honor, Mrs. Bonita M. Herring on the occasion of her re-election as the 24th International Grand Basileus of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. is a leading international, non-profit community service organization founded by seven African American educators November 12, 1922, on the campus of Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The mission of Sigma Gamma Rho is to enhance the quality of life within the community through public service, leadership development, and the education of youth. With more than 500 chapters in the United States, Bermuda, Virgin Islands, Germany, and Korea, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. has grown tremendously in Sisterhood, Scholarship, and Service.

Mrs. Herring embodies the highest ideals of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. She has served her community locally, regionally, and nationally with vigor and grace for over 40 years. Mrs. Herring's leadership and interpersonal skills are unparalleled. She has served on a myriad of boards, such as the Southeast Chamber of Commerce of Illinois and the National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners, and as Director of Recruitment for the College of Education at Chicago State University.

As the newly re-elected International Grand Basileus, Mrs. Herring represents the highest ideals of Sigma Gamma Rho which is encapsulated in the words of their motto: "Greater Service, Greater Progress." Mrs. Herring also served as the 22nd International First Grand Anti-Basileus from 2008–2012 and as Executive Director of the sorority for 23 years. She is the only Soror of Sigma Gamma Rho to hold the distinction of serving as both Executive Director and International Grand Basileus.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Herring is the recipient of a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Illinois-Chicago and a Masters of Arts degree in Communications and Training from Governors State University. Mrs. Herring is married to Mr. Chester Herring, a Certified Public Accountant. They have one daughter, Ms. Chevonne Herring who is also a Certified Public Accountant and member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Mrs. Herring lives by the mantra, uttered by Harriet Tubman, ''Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.'' Mrs. Herring's passion and impact on society are immense. She has cultivated a rich legacy as a woman that is fair, dedicated, business oriented, and honors the importance of the power of kindness and sisterly support.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the achievements of International Grand Basileus Bonita M. Herring. Her commitment to Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and indeed this nation is commendable. I am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THOMAS R. GIVENS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas R. Givens. Thomas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Thomas has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Thomas R. Givens for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JAMES P. PAPAGEORGE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. James P. Papageorge on the occasion of his retirement from the Navy after more than 30 years of service as a Submarine Officer and civilian employee. Mr. Papageorge is a resident of Ashburn, Virginia, and has been a Department of the Navy civilian employee since 1985. His prior active-duty Navy experience includes service as a nuclear-trained machinist's mate and as a submarine strategic weapons officer.

Since 2007, Mr. Papageorge has served as the Deputy Program Manager for In-Service Aircraft Carriers (PMS 312) at the Program Executive Office for Aircraft Carriers in the Naval Sea Systems Command. As Deputy Program Manager, he was the lead civilian manager for our nation's 10 active nuclear powered aircraft carriers and the deactivation of the nation's first nuclear powered aircraft carrier, USS *Enterprise*. He was the lead civilian supervising more than 65 personnel in Washington and 130 more at the Carrier Planning Activity in Newport News, Virginia, managing more than $12 billion in aircraft carrier related contracts.

Mr. Papageorge received electrical engineering degrees from Norwalk State Technical College in 1978 and from the University of Missouri in 1981. In 1993, he received a Master of Engineering Administration Degree from Virginia Tech, and in 1999 he received a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Mr. Papageorge is an acquisition professional, certified to Level III in the Program Management and Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering career fields.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Papageorge for his tremendous service to his country and in wishing him all the best upon his retirement.

HONORING ALEX W. LEWIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex W. Lewis. Alex is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alex has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Alex W. Lewis for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING WILLIAM G. BATCHELDER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of the Honorable William G. Batchelder, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, on the occasion of his retirement from the Ohio House of Representatives.

Speaker Batchelder has served his community and state as an elected representative in excess of forty years, and has helped lead Ohio through tumultuous times into recovery and growth. In 1967 after graduating from The Ohio State University College of Law, he began serving the needs of his community as an attorney while also teaching law to future generations of litigators. He established a record of success in public service, earning the voters' confidence for more than thirty years as a member of the General Assembly and six years on the Ohio 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Ever sensitive to the call of public service, Speaker Batchelder returned to the state capital in 2007 and ultimately took on the role of leading the people's house of the great state of Ohio.

I am extremely proud to play a small role in recognizing the life and accomplishments of such a uniquely dedicated public servant. I was honored to serve with Speaker Batchelder for six years in the Ohio House. He gives generously to his community through his time and diligent work. He has taken incredible leadership roles in advocating for seniors, farmers, public servants, conservation, and veterans. He continues to serve with organizations that meet the needs of folks ranging from children with dyslexia to adults with Alzheimer's. Throughout, Speaker Batchelder has utilized coalition building and bipartisanship to meet the needs of Ohioans in common sense ways. He has earned the public's trust, and deserves our recognition here today.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I thank Speaker Batchelder for service to our state. I offer my most sincere congratulations on his accomplishments and wish him well as he embarks on his next great ventures.

2014 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION WEEK

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, community foundations epitomize the philanthropic culture of the United States. Established in 1989, Community Foundation Week takes place from November 12–18th annually and honors the tremendous contributions of community foundations across our country. They hold a unique place in American society and provide hope and opportunity to millions of Americans. One hundred years ago, the world's first community foundation was established in Cleveland, Ohio. Since then more than 700 community foundations have been created in America inspiring millions of Americans to give back to this great country with their time, talent and treasure. Today, I would like to recognize the work of Indiana's community foundations that operate under the definitions supported by the National Standards for Community Foundations. Indiana is blessed to have a community foundation in every county, including 10 in my district: Unity Foundation of LaPorte County; Starke County Community Foundation; Community Foundation of St. Joseph County; Elkhart County Community Foundation; Kosciusko County Community Foundation; Marshall County Community Foundation; Pulaski County Community Foundation; Fulton County

Community Foundation; Miami County Community Foundation; and Community Foundation of Wabash County.

These foundations are a model for how philanthropy can inspire communities to come together in support of a common cause. In Marshall County, the Community Foundation, United Way, and economic development leaders are working together to address challenges and opportunities for economic growth such as the need for a more highly skilled workforce. Community conversations spearheaded by these organizations brought together local units of government, educators, private sector partners and nonprofit organizations and laid the groundwork for becoming a model region for Project Lead The Way. It was through this type of partnership that a $4.4 million matching grant pilot program was launched in 2014 that provides all K–12 schools, both public and private, in a five-county area with the opportunity to implement Project Lead The Way's rigorous, world-class STEM programs in science, technology, engineering, and math. In addition to providing every student with access to PLTW, the project will help develop a robust talent pipeline for businesses and industries.

This is just one example of the extraordinary work of place-based philanthropy in local communities throughout the country. The spirit of generosity embodied by over 700 U.S.-based community foundations is a core American value. This week, I am honored to recognize these community foundations for their outstanding efforts.

HONORING NOLAN P. McMICHAEL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nolan P. McMichael. Nolan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nolan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nolan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nolan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Nolan P. McMichael for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN BILL FRENZEL

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our former colleague, Bill Frenzel of Minnesota, who passed away on November 17 at the age of 86.

Bill served in the House for ten terms from 1971 to 1991. During his time on the Hill and upon leaving Congress, he was a strong advocate for trade and economic growth.

So many of our colleagues did not have the privilege of serving with Bill. I respectfully submit this Washington Post article from November 19, 2014, on his passing.

BILL FRENZEL, MINNESOTA REPUBLICAN AND FISCAL AUTHORITY, IN U.S. HOUSE, DIES AT 86

Bill Frenzel, a Minnesota Republican who became a prominent congressional authority on federal budget and international trade issues during 20 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, died Nov. 17 at his home in McLean, Va. He was 86.

The cause was cancer, said a daughter, Pam Lindon.

Mr. Frenzel was an executive at his family's warehousing operation and served in the Minnesota House of Representatives before winning an open congressional seat in 1970. He represented his district in the Twin Cities suburbs until 1990, when he declined to seek reelection.

By then he had become dean of the Minnesota delegation, ranking Republican on the House Budget committee and an influential member of the tax-writing Ways and Means committee. On both sides of the aisle, he was admired for his deeply researched positions on complicated fiscal matters.

''Loud and brainy, partisan and thoughtful, he puts his stamp on every debate in which he participates,'' read his profile in the Almanac of American Politics.

Among Mr. Frenzel's principal legislative interests were promoting free trade and balanced budgets. He helped negotiate the major 1990 deficit-reduction deal, a significant achievement at a time when Mr. Frenzel had become increasingly frustrated by what he described as the Republican Party's ''seemingly permanent minority.'' Democrats ''think they were born to be kings,'' Congressional Quarterly quoted him as saying, ''and that there's a servant class, and that's the Republicans.''

In an effort to invigorate his party, Mr. Frenzel nominated Newt Gingrich for party whip, a position that the Georgia Republican won in 1989. Gingrich's fiery style contrasted with Mr. Frenzel's more moderate one, but Mr. Frenzel said he had concluded that the party ''needed to take some risks.''

In 1994—four years after Mr. Frenzel's retirement—Gingrich led the GOP to recapturing control of the House. Mr. Frenzel remained involved in public affairs, including in the Democratic administration of Bill Clinton. Clinton tapped Mr. Frenzel as an adviser on the North American Free Trade Agreement, a centerpiece of the president's first-term agenda, and tasked him with helping rally GOP support.

''I took a position up in the Rayburn Building and I think I met with every member of the Republican caucus,'' Mr. Frenzel told the Minneapolis Star Tribune. ''The idea was to get the vote nailed down before you bring the bill to the floor. Some of the members were difficult and slippery.'' He continued, ''For instance, some of the members said, 'We don't think the Mexicans know anything.' We flew them to Mexico City and had them meet with President [Carlos] Salinas and his cabinet, who, of course, were all University of Chicago PhDs and who bowled them over. That was very effective.'' NAFTA was passed in 1993 and enacted the next year.

Mr. Frenzel later served under George W. Bush, a Republican, and Barack Obama, a Democrat, on advisory commissions on Social Security and trade policy. He was a guest scholar with the Brookings Institution think tank for more than two decades and was a co-chairman of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Government, both based in Washington.

Years after he left office, he remained sought after for his insider's perspective on politics.

''Republicans used to be interested in not running continual rivers of red ink,'' he told the New York Times in 2012. ''If that meant raising taxes a little bit, we always raised taxes a little bit. But nowadays taxes are like leprosy and they can't be used for anything, and so Republicans have denied themselves any bargaining power.''

120TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LENOIR CITY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to congratulate a celebrated institution in my District on the occasion of its 120th anniversary.

First Baptist Church of Lenoir City was founded in 1894 with just 16 members in one-room log cabin. Today, it has grown to more than 3,000 worshippers and a 34-acre campus.

I have represented Lenoir City in Congress for 26 years, and I have visited this church many times. It is a special and welcoming place with a history older than the city in which it is housed.

Lenoir City is one of the most beautiful places on this Earth, tucked in the mountains and surrounded by lakes and rivers. It is easy to see why this area has become one of the most popular places to move in the entire Country.

The congregation of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City has helped build the community since its inception. I know many people who worship there, and they are some of the kindest and most generous people I know.

First Baptist Church of Lenoir City operates under a philosophy of community involvement. Its congregation does not just worship from afar; it gets involved at every level of the community and serves as an example of Christian values to all.

The church is involved in more than 100 separate ministries with focuses ranging from young children to senior adults.

The church also owns and operates the Lenoir City Christian Academy, serving students from kindergarten, to fourth grade, and runs after-school and day care programs. The church also operates the Lenoir City Arts Center, designed to teach students music and the performing arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to imagine an institution having a bigger impact on a community than First Baptist Church of Lenoir City. I call on my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in congratulating this church and its congregation on 120 years of Christian service.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE HALTING OF A McDONALD'S AT UTULEI BEACH

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about my opposition to the construction of a McDonald's at Utulei Beach.

[Press Release, Apr. 26, 2006]

FALEOMAVAEGA MAKES FINAL APPEAL TO McDONALD'S CORPORATION

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he has made a final appeal to Mr. Jim Skinner, Vice-Chairman and CEO of the McDonalds Corporation, in a letter dated April 26, 2006. The letter was copied to Jonathan B. Jarvis, Regional Director of the National Park Service, Governor Togiola, Lieutenant Governor Ipulasi, President Lolo Moliga and Senators, Speaker Matagi R. McMoore and Representatives, Lydia Faleafine of the DOI in American Samoa, Peter Bush, Managing Director/CEO, McDonalds Australia, Charles Tautolo, CEO of McDonalds American Samoa, and Lelei Peau, Chairman, PNRS Board, ASG. The full text of the Congressmans letter is included below.

Dear Mr. Skinner:

As a follow-up to my letter of May 25, 2005, I am once again requesting your immediate intervention regarding a decision made by McDonalds to build a new facility at the Utulei Beach Park in American Samoa. Utulei Beach is the only public beach in America Samoa and building at this site goes against the core values of McDonalds which promotes an agenda of community involvement, environmental protection, and a promise to earn the trust of your customers and everyone else affected by your business.

Most importantly, based upon relevant information including documents, maps, and other material, there is a signed agreement (attached) between the American Samoa Government (ASG) and the US National Park Service (NPS) that places Utulei Beach Park within the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF) as park land dedicated to public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity. Also included with the agreement is a map (attached) clearly showing that the entirety of the Utulei Beach Park is included in the agreement which places the proposed McDonalds within a protected park area and violates ASGs agreement with the NPS. Because ASG has accepted over $4 million from the federal government since signing this agreement, I can assure you that the NPS is prepared to take whatever legal action is necessary against ASG and the McDonalds Corporation if this matter is not expeditiously resolved. Please note that both NPS and ASG are under the jurisdiction of the US Department of the Interior and any action taken will directly involve the US Secretary of the Interior and this will not be good for ASG or for McDonalds.

As you know, last year I copied you on a letter I wrote to Mr. Charles Tautolo, CEO of McDonalds American Samoa, in which I requested a copy of the feasibility study of the proposed plan to construct a McDonalds at Utulei Beach Park. To date, I have not received a copy of the feasibility study and I am very concerned about how the McDonalds Corporation can support construction of a new facility at any location when no environmental study has been conducted.

I also question how the McDonalds Corporation can support a lease agreement which is itself under review by the court. In brief, the Governor initially signed what he thought was a 9-year lease agreement with an option of renewal for an additional 20 years plus. However, the legal counsel for the local Senate noted that the proposed lease was actually for ten years and, as such, local law requires the lease to be approved by the local legislature. Consequently, the counsel for the Senate filed suit in court challenging the validity of the proposed lease. While the case was pending in court, the Governors counsel re-drafted the lease agreement to make sure the terms of the lease was for less than ten years so that it did not require legislative approval. ASGs attorneys petitioned the court to dismiss the Senates lawsuit but the court denied the request so this matter is also pending.

While it was my hope that the McDonalds Corporation would have interceded and resolved this situation more than a year ago for no other reason than it was the right thing to do, I would strongly urge you to take action now before this situation brings unwanted embarrassment to the McDonalds Corporation. I would also suggest that you direct your Managing Director for McDonalds Australia to be more responsive to the concerns of the people of American Samoa. I am extremely disappointed that he did not even offer a courtesy response to my letter of almost a year ago and I consider his lack of interest in this issue to be unprofessional and unbecoming of a corporate official of the McDonalds Corporation.

Considering that this issue now involves the federal government and based on documentation provided by NPS which I am convinced is correct, I am trying my best to prevent a confrontation between the McDonalds Corporation, ASG, and the US Department of the Interior. For this reason, I am making a final appeal to you and I am hopeful that at your earliest convenience you will work to favorably resolve this matter and support efforts to put an end to construction of a new McDonalds at Utulei Beach Park.

The Congressman concluded his letter by saying, As I have previously stated, the people of American Samoa will support the construction of a new McDonalds in American Samoa at any other location. We also applaud the many valuable contributions McDonalds has made in American Samoa and wish you continued success.

[Press Release, July 24, 2006]

FALEOMAVAEGA THANKS US NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FOR RESPONDING TO HIS CONCERNS ABOUT ITS RECENT MEETING WITH GOVERNOR TOGIOLA REGARDING McDONALDS LEASE

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he wishes to thank the US National Park Service (NPS) for responding to his concerns about its recent meeting with Governor Togiola in Oakland, California on Friday June 23, 2006 regarding the McDonalds lease and Utulei Beach Park. The NPS provided clarification about its meeting in a letter dated July 6, 2006 which was addressed to Governor Togiola and copied to Congressman Faleomavaega, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett, and Deputy Assistant Secretary Papalii David Cohen, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) at the DOI.

I thank the NPS for responding to my concerns which I raised in a letter to US Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne on June 29, 2006, about a week after the Governor met with OIA and the NPS behind closed doors to discuss the proposed construction of a McDonalds at Utulei Beach Park, Faleomavaega said. While I appreciate that the meeting was held as a result of Acting Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarletts letter to Governor Togiola dated June 7, 2006 regarding ASGs failure to comply with the legal requirements of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act, I stated that the public wants to know what federal and local officials are doing to resolve this problem.

I also stated that I expect the DOI to strictly adhere to the standards of conversion, or replacements of lands, as outlined by federal law. While I was also hopeful that Governor Togiola would protect American Samoas only beach for future generations, federal law leaves him with two alternatives. One, he can propose construction of a McDonalds at a site other than Utulei Beach or, two, he must give up valuable ASG land of similar value and recreational use in order to commercially develop Utulei Beach if he can find ASG land that meets the strict criteria set forth for conversion, Faleomavaega said.

Federal law requires the NPS to consider the Governors proposal to offer up replacement lands but I have made it clear that I am opposed to any proposal or framework of resolution that lowers the standards of conversion. I have also urged the DOI to let conversion negotiations proceed between NPS and ASG without undue influence.

In response to the concerns I raised in my letter, NPS has responded appropriately and provided clarification which shows that NPS is committed to adhering strictly to the law. In fact, The NPS makes it clear that the framework of resolution which resulted from the Governors meeting of June 23rd is only an outline and a brief summary of their conversation. NPS states, we feel other details of our conversation are important to keep in mind as we move forward.

Some of these details include the following statements made by NPS in its letter of July 6, 2006 to Governor Togiola:

We are obliged both philosophically and legally to preserve the publics outdoor recreation estate. The National Park Services ability to authorize conversions of LWCF property is strictly circumscribed by the LWCF Act, and in particular the regulations found in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 59. The details of these requirements were referenced in our conversation in terms of the proposed replacement property needing to meet LWCF standards. We spoke specifically at the time of the necessity of having sufficiently considered alternatives to converting parkland, the need for appraisals for all properties involved to insure that the replacements are of at least equal fair market value, the necessity of any replacement property meeting the criterion of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location, and that the proposal be in conformity with the Territorys Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The NPS further outlined nine criteria that govern conversions and informed Governor Togiola that it will need documentation showing that these criteria have been met. The NPS also said that—

Being that Utulei Beach Park is the only beach affording public access to good swimming and recreational boating on Tutuila Island, the threshold for replacement property to meet the reasonably equivalent usefulness and location criterion is quite high. The Government of American Samoa must make the case that this criterion is met by any replacement property in another location.

In offering replacement lands, the NPS stated that Governor Togiola said other locations had been considered for the McDonalds lease but that locating it at Utulei Beach is critical to the overall redevelopment plans for the Utulei and Fagatogo area.

Based on this representation, the NPS said it would consider the Governors proposal as required by federal law, Faleomavaega said.

However, in the same letter, the NPS also stated that in its discussion with the Governor, the Governor said that he did not intend for there to be any further commercial development of Utulei Park other than the proposed McDonalds.

On the one hand, the Governor says he needs to construct a McDonalds at Utulei Beach because this is critical to the overall redevelopment plans for the Utulei and Fagatogo area and, on the other hand, he says that the McDonalds corporation will be the only corporation allowed to build at Utulei Beach. How fair is this to Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut, and the rest of our local business owners? Faleomavaega asked.

Do our business owners have a say in this? What about our Fono? Has the Governor submitted an economic development plan to our Legislature for consideration? If not, why not? Also, what is the role of the Fono in determining what lands the Governor may offer up as replacement lands for Utulei Beach?

Whatever direction this takes, I believe the NPS has an obligation to keep the public informed and I will do my part to make sure this is so. For now, I am pleased that the NPS has agreed to provide an initial review of proposed replacement properties that would indicate if there are any obvious facts that would render them ineligible before funds are expended to obtain surveys, appraisals, recreational development plans, and environmental compliance. Most importantly, I am pleased that the NPS has underscored the importance of the Governors commitment to prohibiting any ground disturbing activity related to the McDonalds lease until NPS has completed the review and approval process for replacement properties.

Again, I thank the NPS for providing clarification on its recent meeting with the Governor and I am encouraged that the NPS is taking this matter very seriously. I am also encouraged that the NPS has documented its meeting with the Governor in its July 6th letter so that all facts pertaining to this historic issue can be made part of the public record. Utulei Beach is the peoples beach and, as such, our people have every right to know how ASG officials make decisions that will impact, for generations to come, the use of the most scenic and only beach park in American Samoa.

Our people also have every right to know what local lands will be given away to the federal government to accommodate the needs of one business owner. For this reason, a full copy of the NPS letter dated July 6, 2006 is posted on my website, Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, May 19, 2006]

HOUSE PASSES INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL WITH OVER $33 MILLION FOR AMERICAN SAMOA; URGES ACCOUNTABILITY OF FEDERAL FUNDS AND DISCOURAGES COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF UTULEI BEACH

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that late last night the House Committee on Interior Appropriations passed by a vote of 293 to 128 H.R. 5386, the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations bill which includes over $33 million for the operations of the American Samoa Government and Capital Improvement Projects (CIPS). The bill also includes language which urges greater accountability of ASG funds and discourages the commercial development of Utulei Beach Park.

As I said in my release of May 16th, ASG continues to be the only government that receives a direct appropriation from Congress for the operations of its government despite being designated as high risk, the Congressman said. As a result of this support, I am hopeful that our local government will provide better accountability and I commend ASG for the progress it is making.

At this time, I thank the House Committee on Interior Appropriations for including my request to set aside $500,000 of the $22,880,000 ASG will receive for government operations. As stated in the Committee report, The Committee expects the government of American Samoa will use no less than $500,000 of this funding for physical education activities at school. I am pleased by this outcome since our public schools lack adequate facilities, equipment and personnel to provide quality health and education programs which are critical to the physical, mental, and social development of our students. As a result of this funding, I am hopeful that our local DOE will have the support it needs to purchase equipment and establish sports programs for the benefit of our children.

I am also hopeful that our local leaders will work quickly to resolve the McDonalds issue that has now drawn Congressional attention. Again, I like McDonalds and I applaud the many valuable contributions McDonalds has made in American Samoa. I also support construction of a new McDonalds anywhere in American Samoa but Utulei Beach.

The fact is Utulei Beach is a federally protected park area and, by contractual agreement, cannot be used for any commercial purpose. Therefore, the current proposal to construct a McDonalds within a federally protected park area is a potential violation of ASGs agreement with the US National Park Service (NPS) and, as such, is an issue that has escalated into a federal problem that must be expeditiously resolved.

In other words, the current debate about McDonalds is a debate about location. If McDonalds builds on land solely-controlled by ASG, then its a local issue. But if McDonalds seeks to build on land that has been protected as a federal park area, then its a federal issue and this is why Congress has taken an interest.

Put another way, ASG, by choice, entered into an agreement with the NPS to protect Utulei Beach and now Congress has spoken out in the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations bill to encourage the American Samoa government to not allow commercial development of waterfront areas of Utulei Beach Park because this site has such high recreational and natural values, and it has enjoyed funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program which indicates that this park land should be dedicated to public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity.

While it is unfortunate that construction of a new McDonalds in our Territory has received Congressional attention and while it is worrisome that the US Congress has taken notice that ASG received federal funds to preserve Utulei Beach but is not being accountable for those funds, I believe it is in the best interest of our Territory to resolve this matter quickly so that other federal funding we receive will not be jeopardized.

As I said in a previous release, American Samoa, on a per capita basis, receives more federal education funding per pupil than any other State or Territory. Our health care funding has also doubled and recently we were able to significantly increase our Medicaid funding. With the amount of support and funding we are receiving, I am convinced if there is better accountability of federal funds we will see significant improvements in this Territory.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their support and, as this bill now moves to the Senate for consideration, I will continue to work to make sure American Samoa receives its fair share of federal dollars, Congressman Faleomavaega concluded.

HONORING WILLIAM L. GIVENS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William L. Givens. William is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, William has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending William L. Givens for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING DJOUNEDOU TITIKPINA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. Djounedou Titikpina for his many years of selfless and compassionate public service.

Djounedou Titikpina originally hails from the nation of Togo, but brought his passion for public service and community building with him to the United States. This passion is clearest in Mr. Titikpina's founding of the African People Alliance, Incorporated. This organization, which serves as an umbrella organization for other groups working to develop the African community here in The Bronx, has the unique dual role of providing social services while also working to fortify the work of existing groups throughout the community. The African People Alliance routinely hosts cultural exhibitions, youth and adult soccer programs, and legal assistance to individuals, while providing groups with infrastructural support and development they need to grow. Additionally, the African People Alliance plays a lead role in the annual coordination of the Bronx African United Day Parade and Festival.

Today, he serves as Founder and CEO of Djounedou T.'s African Fashion & Embroidery Design, Corporation, is a member of the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition's Immigrant Rights Campaign Board of Directors, and provides services as a family court interpreter at Geneva Worldwide, Incorporated. With the ability to speak more than nine languages, Mr. Titikpina's talent to communicate and understand the needs of the community, and respond to them in meaningful ways comes as no surprise.

Mr. Titikpina is an individual who is clearly committed to ensuring that our community's work in tandem to grow in healthy, respectable ways. He has fostered partnerships among groups and individuals that are all working towards a common goal, and this type of leadership is what keeps our community moving in

the right direction each day. I am grateful to know that someone like Djounedou Titikpina is working in with and for our residents each day, and am proud to call him a fellow public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Djounedou Titikpina for his consistently remarkable dedication to public service.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH AND NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, this November, I am proud to celebrate National Adoption Month and also National Adoption Day, an important time to recognize those wonderful parents who have adopted children in need of a permanent, loving home. It's also a time to remind ourselves of the thousands of children across the country who still remain in foster care, waiting for a family to call their own.

Earlier this year, I was honored to recognize Midland County Probate Judge Dorene Allen as the 2014 Angel in Adoption award recipient from my district. In her 14 years as a judge, she has finalized nearly 700 adoptions, and through this and her prior work she has dedicated her career to serving Michigan's most vulnerable children. There are many incredible advocates like Judge Allen around the country, and I am grateful for their efforts and for the opportunity we have to recognize them today.

Adoption is not something I'm speaking about just today, but something I have focused on throughout my career in private practice as well as my years in Congress. As an attorney before coming to Congress, I worked with parents and children in the foster care system. In Congress, I have been privileged to meet many adoption advocates as well as youth who have benefitted from adoption. Those sorts of experiences provided much of the background for legislation I have helped craft that has contributed to the landmark changes in adoption policy Congress has approved in recent years.

In 1997, my colleagues and I on the Ways and Means Committee crafted the Adoption and Safe Families Act. That legislation streamlined the adoption process to help more children in foster care quickly move into permanent adoptive homes. It also, for the first time, offered incentives to states to safely increase the number of children adopted from foster care.

It worked. In the decade following that legislation, the number of U.S. children adopted from foster care increased by 71 percent. In the years since, adoptions have continued to remain higher even as the foster care caseload started to decline. Overall, almost 300,000 children have been adopted as a result of the increase in adoptions starting in 1997. One study estimated the federal government saved $1 billion over eight years by ensuring children were adopted instead of remaining in foster care.

In 2001, I worked with my colleagues to pass the historic 2001 tax relief package that expanded the adoption tax credit to $10,000, easing the financial burden of adopting a child. In 2012, we made the adoption tax credit permanent.

In 2003, President George W. Bush signed into law my legislation, the Adoption Promotion Act, to create new financial incentives for states that increase adoptions of older children from foster care.

In 2008 as part of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, my proposal to provide equitable access to foster care and adoption services for Indian children in tribal areas became law. This allowed tribal governments to receive funding to administer adoption and foster care programs directly.

And just this year—after many months of hearings, public comment, and bipartisan work between the House and Senate—the President signed into law the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. This law is designed to reduce child sex trafficking as well as increase adoptions, including among the hardest-to-place children.

Together, these efforts have resulted in more children living in loving, adoptive families. I am grateful for the support I have received from my colleagues in these efforts during my time in Congress, and I am grateful that today we can recognize and honor the most important people in this process—the parents who adopt children, the children who have been adopted, and those children still searching for a loving family.

Children in foster care deserve a place to call home, not for a few months or years, but for good. We have already seen great progress in increasing adoptions in recent years, and I hope that we will continue to see progress in the years ahead.

HONORING COLONEL ROY PLUMMER

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor one of Columbus, Georgia's finest leaders: Colonel Roy Plummer. Colonel Roy Plummer is retiring as a Director of Army Instruction for the Muscogee County School District JROTC where he is responsible for eight high school JROTC programs and four other county JROTC programs. From 1998 to the present he has dedicated his efforts toward creating a formidable district-level JROTC program which has grown from 400 cadets early in his tenure to a current operating enrollment of 1200 cadets. His partnership with the high school principals in moving JROTC forward in terms of relevancy and as an enhancer to each high school's vision has been extremely successful. Under Colonel Plummer's mentorship, the Muscogee County School District JROTC has earned GHSA State Rifle Championships, State-level awards in drill team and raider competitions, and honorable recognition in the annual JROTC Academic Bowl.

Colonel Plummer is the Senior Pastor, Founder and CEO of Faith Tabernacle Community Church in Columbus since its inception in October 1994. He had finished his Active Duty Army career as the Chief of Chaplains of Fort Benning, Georgia prior to his retirement. He also currently serves as the Chaplain for Rotary International District 6900, Columbus, Georgia. He has served on numerous Boards as both a chairman and as a member: St. Francis Hospital Foundation, Columbus Hospice, United Way, Boy Scouts of America and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce are but a few.

Colonel Plummer served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling Graduate Studies at Columbus State University. He has earned a baccalaureate in Biblical Literature, Masters of Arts in Human Relations & Group Process and Guidance & Counseling, a Masters of Divinity in Pastoral Care, and a Doctorate in Divinity. This solid educational background and his benevolence inspired Colonel Plummer to create the Plummer Home for homeless and disenfranchised military veterans.

A native of May Penn, Clarendon Parrish, Jamaica, Colonel Roy Plummer is a leader, pastor and friend to many; and the father to four daughters and seven grandchildren. He will share with you that "The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?" To Roy Plummer and the endless contributions he has made to JROTC, the Muscogee County School District, and the Columbus community, we say "Thanks a Million!"

HONORING GEORGE ALLEN ORTIZ

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Albuquerque resident George Allen Ortiz for his honorable military service in the United States Marine Corps.

George Allen Ortiz, affectionately known as "Al", was born in the northern New Mexico town of Raton. At the ripe age of 17, Al began his service in the Vietnam War. He would honorably serve his country from February 28, 1964 to February 16, 1970 in the First Marine Division at battles that ensued in the South Vietnam city of Da Nang.

I had the pleasure of personally meeting with Al on Veteran's Day to thank him for his dedicated service to the United States of America. In that wonderful moment I could sense Al's burning pride and fervent patriotism. It reminded me of the countless individuals, throughout history, who fought tirelessly to preserve the guiding principles and enduring freedoms of our country. Al's commitment to the preservation of these pursuits and our country's continued success is unwavering.

Al was recently diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, a result of the risks that American soldiers face when they step onto the battlefield. He has the wonderful support of Cathy, his wife of 45 years, daughter Tamra and six grandchildren who love him dearly. Like a true soldier, he is always thinking about the young Americans who are currently making sacrifices to defend the United States. At age 65, Al still talks about his desire to travel overseas to help our brave men and women as they courageously engage in combat.

It is heroes like Al who make our country great. He is a man of great integrity, revered

by his family, friends and community. I would like to take this moment to thank Al for his service, his sacrifice, and his steadfast devotion to the great state of New Mexico and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING JACK D. BALLARD AND THE U.S. CAPITOL POLICE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, all of us who work on Capitol Hill owe a tremendous debt to the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police. One of my constituents, Jack D. Ballard of Greenbrier County, wrote to me to share some of his own memories and about the friendships he forged during his tenure on the force of Capitol Hill's finest. His late father, Leonard H. Ballard Jr., who retired as an inspector after 38 years on the force instructed Jack that, ''on Capitol Hill, you can be struck by lightning when there isn't a cloud in the sky.'' That's sound advice from a seasoned voice for everyone on the Hill.

Jack worked with many fellow West Virginians during his tenure on Capitol Hill, including Emery ''Bud'' Aliff, Donald Shumate, Jimmie Young, Lenvil Young, Charles Farmer, William Harrah, William Hall, and Lt. Colonel Jervis. Jack found a common trait among these West Virginians, they all worked together to get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, we all ought to celebrate that common thread of the ''can do'' spirit that weaves throughout the hills of West Virginia and throughout our Nation. It is a trait that has and can continue to serve our Nation well.

RECOGNIZING BROWN'S CIGAR STORE

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brown's Cigar Store on its 125th anniversary. Located in the historic Gaffer District of Corning, New York, Brown's Cigar Store has proudly served the community since 1889.

Brown's Cigar Store is locally owned and operated by the Smith family. As experienced tobacconists, Sue, Terry, and Bejay Smith use their knowledge and expertise to carry on the strong, time honored tradition of tobacconist culture.

At the turn of the twentieth century, local patrons would visit Brown's to get a haircut, purchase a steamship ticket, and converse about the latest news. Although the products and services have changed over the years, the sense of camaraderie remains as strong today as when the store first opened its doors to the Corning community. Today, the store offers its guests the opportunity to step back in time, to an era when friends and neighbors would gather to discuss family, sports, politics, and national news. Patrons of Brown's experience a warm and friendly atmosphere, where the finest tobacco products and friendliest smiles are always in stock.

I once again congratulate Brown's Cigar Store on 125 years of success. As a small family-owned business in my home town, I am proud to recognize this impressive milestone.

HONORING STEPHANIE ARTHUR

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Ms. Stephanie A. Arthur, MPA for her dedication to advocacy and working to improve access for members of the African community in New York.

Stephanie Arthur is the Founder of the African Leadership Project, which is a civic training organization that provides a leadership pipeline for various professions. The overarching goal of the African Leadership Project is to foster and develop the talent of individuals within African communities, and match these individuals to key leadership opportunities throughout the community.

Ms. Arthur is a very accomplished individual. She is an alumna of the Women's Campaign School at Yale University, The White House Project, Eleanor's Legacy, Coro Leadership Center of New York, and the Center for American Women and Politics. Having gained tremendous experience and knowledge of the political realm over the years, Ms. Arthur has worked on several high-profile elections ranging across all levels of government, and is respected as a grassroots activist across the nation. As a first generation Ghanaian-American and important voice in the African Diaspora, Ms. Arthur has continuously taken her many acquired skills and used them to amplify the voice of the African community at large.

Today, Stephanie Arthur serves as the political strategist and Founder of S. Arthur Group, LLC, which is a boutique public affairs and government relations consultancy. Ms. Arthur continues to be a fierce advocate for immigrant rights, for the advancement of criminal justice policy, for gender equality, and for many other social justice issues that are important to all of our community's residents.

Ms. Arthur's dedication to working with civic organizations, individuals, and figures in public office speaks to her natural ability to build coalition of support for issues that matter to all of us, and it is this dedication and ability to lead that makes her such a valuable asset in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Stephanie Arthur for her consistently remarkable dedication to public service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JULIAN CROCKER

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the outstanding public service of Dr. Julian Crocker, longtime educator, superintendent and public servant. Julian plans to retire this January after fifty years as a scholastic leader, a fixture of the San Luis Obispo County public school system.

Born and raised in Tennessee, Julian matriculated at Vanderbilt University and Joined the United States Army shortly after graduating. On the completion of his term of service, Captain Crocker settled in sunny San Mateo, California in 1964, where he began to teach high school. Julian also earned a doctorate in Educational Administration from Harvard University in 1972, and upon returning to San Mateo, was appointed principal.

A renaissance man to the core, Julian recognized early in his career that education represented only the last, most public component of childhood development. All his professional life, he strove to unite broad coalitions of businesses, nonprofits and local government offices to improve housing and medical care for young and poor children.

Julian spent twenty one years as superintendent of different school districts in California—in San Mateo, Palo Alto and eventually Paso Robles. In 1999, he was elected County Superintendent of Schools for San Luis Obispo, in which capacity he has worked ever since. Under his tenure, San Luis Obispo expanded its charter school system, enlarged its English proficiency program, and founded the Grizzly Academy—an innovative boarding school for at-risk youth—in partnership with the California National Guard. These are but a few of his many accomplishments on behalf of his community.

Julian acquired a wealth of experience and knowledge from his years of service, a foundation of wisdom which I have often relied upon throughout the years, either by seeking his counsel directly or in meeting him and other County Superintendents to discuss educational needs on the Central Coast. I could always count on straight talk and sound advice—advice I took back with me to the halls of Congress.

In fact, in his office, Julian kept a framed quotation above his desk—one of my favorite Presidential quotes as it happens, from one of my favorite presidents: Theodore Roosevelt. It reads: ''It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly . . .'' Julian's arena has been the classroom, where he has lived that phrase, educating our students, expanding our curriculum, fighting to ensure students have the resources they need.

In this next chapter of his life, I know Julian is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Donna, his children, and his six grandchildren. While the next County Superintendent of Schools for San Luis Obispo has large shoes to fill and Julian's presence will be missed, I know he will always remain involved on the issues important to him. I thank Julian for his friendship and counsel, and his leadership to improve education in California, and wish him and Donna all the best.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF FALEOMAVAEGA'S OPPOSITION TO CONSTRUCTION OF McDONALD'S AT UTULEI BEACH

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about my opposition to the construction of a McDonald's at Utulei Beach.

[Press Release, May 25, 2005]

FALEOMAVAEGA CALLS UPON MCDONALDS CORPORATE OFFICERS TO INTERVENE AND HALT CONSTRUCTION AT UTULEI BEACH

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he has written to Mr. Charles Tautolo, President and CEO of McDonalds American Samoa Franchise, and has expressed his opposition to construction of a McDonalds at Utulei Beach. A copy of the Congressmans letter dated May 25, 2005 and copied to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the President of the Senate and Senators, the Speaker and Representatives, the Vice Chairman and CEO of the McDonalds Corporation, and the Managing Director/CEO of McDonalds Australia, is included below:

Dear Mr. Tautolo:

I am writing to express my opposition to your decision to build a McDonalds restaurant at the Utulei Beach Park in American Samoa. I am also requesting a copy of your feasibility study pertaining to this proposed location.

It is my understanding that as a responsible corporation it has been the practice of McDonalds to conduct a feasibility study and/or an environmental impact assessment of a proposed site before construction of a new facility may proceed. I am hopeful that this is also the case in American Samoa and, for this reason, I would appreciate a copy of your study.

I also believe McDonalds feasibility study for the Utulei Beach Park should be shared with the people of American Samoa because they deserve to know what impact your proposed restaurant will have on the welfare of our community. While I applaud the many valuable contributions McDonalds has made in American Samoa, I do not believe your current plans are sensitive to the social and environmental concerns of our Territory.

Since the day McDonalds announced plans to build on the Utulei Beach, which is the only public beach in American Samoa, my office has been inundated with calls from constituents voicing their objections to your proposal. I have read of further complaints in our local papers and the Senate has passed a resolution recommending that the Governor not finalize the McDonalds lease.

I have also received a petition signed by water sport organizations incorporated in the U.S. Territory of American Samoa which includes Executive Committee Members of the American Samoa National Olympic Committee. Organizations opposed to the construction of a McDonalds at the Utulei Beach include the American Samoa Kayak Canoe Association Inc., the American Samoa Swimming Association Inc., the American Samoa Canoe Racing Association Inc., the Aiga Tautai O Samoa Inc., the American Samoa Yacht Racing Association Inc., the American Samoa Surfing Association Inc., the Pago Pago Game Fishing Association Inc. and Common Cause.

Aquatic sports such as sailing, canoeing, and yachting are flourishing at Utulei Beach. International sailing and especially outrigger events which celebrate our proud heritage have been hosted at Utulei Beach and, in time, Utulei Beach may become a major tourist attraction. It is also my understanding that Utulei Beach offers the only stretch of shoreline where outrigger canoes and fautausi, or longboats, can enter deep water via the natural channel through the reef.

More importantly, Utulei Beach has been enjoyed by the people of American Samoa for generations and, in keeping with traditional Samoan culture, families travel for miles to swim or picnic at this public location so as to respect the more restrictive customs set forth by each village council. For many reasons, including the historical and social significance it holds for our families and the economic implications it has for our future, Utulei Beach must be preserved. This is why federal funds have been appropriated to finance the Utulei Beach Project which was included as a priority project for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

These are facts which I believe must be shared with the McDonalds Corporation and given the importance of this issue I am copying this letter to Mr. Jim Skinner, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, as well as Mr. Peter Bush, Managing Director/CEO, McDonalds Australia. I am also informing both that there are other sites available for construction of another McDonalds in American Samoa.

Also, with the popularity McDonalds enjoys in American Samoa, I am confident that the people of American Samoa will appreciate, support and welcome another McDonalds in any location other than Utulei Beach. In turn, McDonalds must be sensitive to the wishes of our people. The McDonalds Corporation has built its reputation on being a responsible corporate partner and invests millions of dollars to promote family values.

Therefore, I am hopeful that this issue will be immediately resolved at the corporate level. However, if I must go to the House Floor on a daily basis to express my outrage about McDonalds unwillingness to respect the publics concerns regarding your proposed lease agreement with the local government, I will have no choice but to do so.

Sincerely,

ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA
Member of Congress.

cc: Gov. Togiola Tulafono; Lt. Gov. Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia; President of the Senate and Senator; Speaker of the House and Representatives; Mr. Jim Skinner, Vice Chairman & CEO, McDonalds Corporation; Mr. Peter Bush, Managing Director/CEO, McDonalds Australia

I am hopeful that this matter will be resolved locally but, if not, I have called upon the McDonalds Corporation to immediately intervene and put an end to construction at Utulei Beach. Constructing a McDonalds at the only public beach in American Samoa goes against the core values of the McDonalds Corporation which promotes an agenda of community involvement, environmental protection, and a promise to earn the trust of its customers and everyone else affected by its business. It is time for McDonalds to live up to its promise and I trust that all involved will do right by the people of American Samoa, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, June 29, 2005]

FALEOMAVAEGA AND MCDONALDS MEET TO DISCUSS CONSTRUCTION AT UTULEI BEACH

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that Mr. Bo Bryant, Director of Federal Government Relations for the McDonalds Corporation, contacted his office on June 17, 2005 and requested a meeting to discuss the controversy surrounding the potential construction of a McDonalds at Utulei beach. The meeting was held yesterday in the Congressmans Washington office and Ms. Nicole E. Storey, a Government Relations Specialist for McDonalds, also attended the meeting. The meeting was in response to Congressman Faleomavaegas letter to Mr. Charles Tautolo dated May 25, 2005 and copied to the Vice Chairman and CEO of the McDonalds Corporation.

My meeting with Mr. Bryant was very worthwhile, the Congressman said, and I am pleased that the McDonalds corporation is taking this issue seriously. McDonalds has built its reputation on being a good corporate citizen and upholding the values of the communities which it serves and, today, the McDonalds corporation has demonstrated that the people of American Samoa matter.

My job is to make sure that your concerns on behalf of the people are heard and addressed, Mr. Bryant told the Congressman, and we are only at the beginning of this process. Mr. Bryant gave the Congressman his personal assurances that he would report back to his leadership about the concerns the Congressman raised in the meeting and that he would also keep Congressman Faleomavaega updated as this matter progresses.

From the outset, I made it clear that the people of American Samoa will support the establishment of another McDonalds at any location other than our only public beach. However, as I explained to Mr. Bryant, there is no point of compromise when it comes to Utulei beach and I remain hopeful that this situation can be diffused.

While I appreciate the contributions Mr. Tautolo has made to the local community, I expressed my concerns about the feasibility study that should have been conducted before any kind of contractual agreement was entered into between McDonalds and our local government. In fact, I informed Mr. Bryant that I had requested a copy of the feasibility study but, to date, I have not received a copy or a response to my request, Faleomavaega said.

Mr. Bryant said that he was not aware of whether or not a feasibility study had been conducted and he thought that at least four or five more permits still needed to be acquired and, without those, construction could not begin. He said it was also his understanding that a public hearing would be scheduled in the near future and he asked if I would like to participate. I told him that if my schedule permits I will definitely participate.

I also informed Mr. Bryant that our local Senate passed a resolution opposing construction at Utulei beach and that Mr. Roy Hall, the general counsel for the Senate, is questioning the legality of the lease agreement. By law, any lease agreement that extends beyond 10 years must be approved by our Legislature. In this instance, it is my understanding that a lease agreement was signed between McDonalds and ASG for 9 years, 11 months and 29 or so days with an option to renew for 30 years.

Mr. Bryant said he was not aware of these developments and expressed concern about the questions surrounding the lease agreement. As Mr. Bryant agreed, use of the McDonalds name is not just a local issue. McDonalds is a global corporation worth approximately $36 billion and the corporation is very protective of its name.

If we were talking about a local fast-food operation not affiliated with a national or international chain, then this would be a local issue. But we are not talking about a village store. We are talking about McDonalds and, therefore, the McDonalds corporation is interested in what is happening in American Samoa, the Congressman said.

At this time, I am very pleased that the McDonalds corporation is committed to reviewing the legal and social aspects of constructing a McDonalds at Utulei beach. I am also pleased that Mr. Bryant has agreed to keep my office informed about any new developments in this case. In turn, I am reviewing the possibility of introducing federal legislation to include Utulei beach as part of the National Park of American Samoa so as to prevent any company including but not limited to KFC, Burger King, Pizza Hut, or local businesses from building at this site.

I believe we must not only resolve the immediate crisis facing us but we should also protect ourselves in the future from any other corporation seeking to build at Utulei beach. Utulei beach offers the only stretch of shoreline where outrigger canoes and fautasi, or longboats, can enter deep water via the natural channel through the reef and, out of respect and reverence for our Samoan traditions and customs, I believe we must work together to preserve Utulei beach.

On a separate matter, I also mentioned to Mr. Bryant that I am concerned that American Samoa is being treated like a foreign country by the McDonalds corporation. It does not make sense to me why we have to get permission from Australia in order to establish a McDonalds in American Samoa. American Samoa is a territory of the United States and our local owners ought to be able to do business with McDonalds in America, not Australia.

I also expressed my concerns about the previous lease agreement done for McDonalds at the current site in Tafuna. It is my understanding that the previous lease agreement between ASG and McDonalds stipulates that all lawsuits must be filed in Australia and be subjected to Australian law. This is not fair to ASG or to anyone in American Samoa and I suggested that the attorneys in Australia representing McDonalds should be more ethical in the contracts they put forward in this territory.

While I have not heard from McDonalds Australia regarding construction at Utulei beach, I appreciate Mr. Bryants efforts in meeting with me and I thanked him for the great service McDonalds is currently providing in American Samoa. The people of American Samoa welcome and support McDonalds and we continue to remain hopeful that this situation can be favorably resolved, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, Apr. 22, 2006]

FALEOMAVAEGA RESPONDS TO GOVERNORS RECENT COMMENTS ABOUT MCDONALDS

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he is responding to the Governors comments published by Samoa News on April 17, 2006 regarding the McDonalds controversy. Togiola responded directly to Faleomavaegas public support of the National Parks position on the Utulei Beach Park lease saying, the congressman is not the federal judge for American Samoa yet, so he should wait until he knows all the facts.

He has not even asked us about this matter. He is basing his opinion on one side only. He should really learn to ask people who live here first before he goes off and releases these kinds of statements, said Togiola.

I am saddened by the Governors comments, Faleomavaega said. As part of a free and democratic society, each of us is entitled to a difference of opinion but it is beneath the office of an elected official to make false claims and stoop to name-calling. I am not nor do I ever desire to be a federal judge and my position regarding McDonalds has been clear from the beginning. I stand with the people of American Samoa in opposition to this deal.

Unlike the Governor, I have heard what our people have to say and my office has been inundated with calls opposing the construction of a McDonalds at the only public beach in American Samoa. Furthermore, the Governor has known of my opposition since May 25, 2005 almost a year ago at which time I copied him on my letter to Mr. Charles Tautolo of McDonalds in American Samoa. I also copied our Fono as well as the CEO of the McDonalds Corporation headquartered in Illinois.

Nearly a year ago, on June 28, 2005, I also met with the Director of Federal Government Relations for the McDonalds Corporation and expressed my grave concerns about McDonalds failure to conduct a feasibility study, Faleomavaega said. Based on a press release I issued, our local media published the details of this meeting in which I informed the Director that the people of American Samoa would support the construction of a McDonalds anywhere else in American Samoa but not at Utulei Beach Park.

Utulei Beach is our only public beach and preserving it now and for future generations is what is best for American Samoa. This is why our people want a public hearing. So let the hearing begin. And when it begins, let us question its purpose since the Governor has already signed the lease and made his decision before listening to the people.

As we carefully consider this matter, let us also be very clear about ASGs involvement with the National Park Service (NPS). According to the NPS, ASG entered into a contractual agreement with NPS in 1995 placing Utulei Beach Park within the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF) as park land dedicated to public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity which means forever. ASG has also accepted over $4 million since signing the agreement.

As I stated previously, if our local government makes a promise to the federal government and accepts grant money and then decides the terms of the agreement are inconvenient and no longer apply, it sends the message that American Samoa does not respect the federal grant process and therefore should not be trusted with any federal money. This is the wrong message to send to Congress and the wrong message to send to the US Department of the Interior.

For this reason, I am trying to prevent a confrontation or a legal battle between the US Department of the Interior and ASG. While the Governor has suggested that I do not have the facts, the truth is I have copies of every letter exchanged between the NPS and Governor Togiola which began on May 16, 2005 and continue to March 28, 2006. I also have copies of survey maps and the Governor has also been provided with these maps on more than one occasion. In other words, the Governor knows that the lease that was signed places the proposed McDonalds within a protected park area and violates ASGs agreement with the NPS. This said, I remain hopeful that we can find a favorable solution to a local issue that should have never escalated to a federal problem, Faleomavaega concluded.

HONORING JACK ROTZIEN ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my grandfather, Jack Rotzien, on his 90th birthday.

Born and raised in Holmesville, Indiana, my grandfather has spent the past 90 years of his life exemplifying what it means to be a Hoosier. At 20 years old he joined the U.S. Army and fought in World War II. During the war, he was stationed at Wendling Air Force base in England where he served as the gunnery teacher for the troops. After graduation from Indiana University, my grandfather worked in the retail industry with both L. S. Ayres and Maison Blanche in Indiana. He worked hard for decades to provide for his family. Now that he is retired, he spends time at his VFW post and has found passion in speaking with students about his time in the military.

While he has made many professional contributions to our state and our country, he has also had a significant impact on me and my family. I will never forget the summer vacations my brother, mother and I used to take with my grandfather. One year, we all visited Lake Okeechobee in Florida because he knew how much we loved to go fishing. We spent the week sitting by the lake and must have caught nearly a hundred fish (or at least that's how I remember it). This is just one memory I cherish. I also remember the time my brother was almost eaten by an alligator—but, that's another story.

This year my grandfather's birthday will fall on Thanksgiving Day, which gives me an even greater opportunity to give thanks for the role he has played in my life. My grandfather is a man of compassion, strength, and faith and I am privileged to have had his love and guidance over the last 45 years. I hope that he knows how much he has meant to me and I look forward to the many memories we will continue to make with one another. Today, I wish him a happy 90th birthday as he celebrates this milestone in his life.

TRIBUTE TO THE OWLS' WHIST CLUB, INC.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Owls Whist Club, Inc., a historic organization founded 100 years ago in Charleston, SC. The club was founded on February 14, 1914 as something that was—in the words of their founding charter "strictly social and for the entertainment of our friends." It was founded by a group of African American men and is one of the oldest social clubs of its kind in the United States.

On November 26, 2014, they will be hosting their Annual Thanksgiving Eve event to continue their 100th anniversary celebration, and I plan to be in attendance.

The earliest available records of the organization are the official minutes of their meetings and their constitution that was written in 1924. The original members numbered sixteen, and when Arthur Clement, Jr. wrote "A Brief History—Owls' Whist Club" in 1950, he stated that Frank W. Dawson, the first host, was a barber.

Each year the members hold a black tie affair. Many of these events were held at Dart Hall, which back then was the "Negro Branch" of the Charleston County Library. The members decided in 1939 that they would buy land and build their own place to hold events, and in 1945 they did just that. They purchased two

lots in Maryville, SC directly across the Ashley river from the Citadel, South Carolina's Military College.

During this time in Charleston's history, banks did not lend money to African Americans to construct buildings, consequently the membership created a building fund. Each member was assessed a proportionate share of the cost of constructing the building now known as the Owls' Roost.

The historical impact of this organization was proven throughout the 20th century as this group of African American men overcame the racial nature of South Carolina. During its founding and throughout its development, the Owls' Whist Club members experienced numerous indignities and adversities, including numerous lynchings by vigilantes and several legislative actions by the SC House of Representatives that relegated African American citizens to a second-class existence.

This club has given African American men of Charleston a place to socialize and strategize for 100 years. Its membership has always included a variety of occupations and when they meet on November 26 to celebrate this milestone they will do so with members and guests from every background and sets of experiences that is possible to gather under one roof, and holding fast to history and tradition, among their membership will be one barber.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating the Owls' Whist Club on the celebration of their 100th Anniversary. I commend its members for continuing a much-needed tradition. Their perseverance and tenacity are appreciated by a grateful community.

HONORING DANIEL J. RIDER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel J. Rider. Daniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Daniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Daniel has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Daniel J. Rider for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING FORMER POW DARRELL STARK OF STAFFORD SPRINGS, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Darrell Stark, 92, of Stafford Springs, Connecticut. Mr. Stark, a veteran of the Army's 31st Infantry Regiment and former prisoner of war of the Empire of Japan in World War II, recently returned from a historic trip to Japan he and six other former POWs, accompanied by their family members, were guests of the Japanese government last month on a trip of reconciliation and remembrance.

Mr. Stark was 17 when he joined the Army in 1941, and was immediately sent to the Philippines where he was assigned to a heavy weapons company as a weapons carrier and runner. He participated in the defense of the Bataan peninsula, where despite disease, lack of supplies and obsolete weapons, he and his fellow defenders were able to fight the Japanese to a four-month standstill. Despite their efforts, however, Bataan was surrendered on April 9, 1942. Mr. Stark was taken prisoner and over the course of the next three years was held in various prisons and camps in the Philippines, forced into labor and suffering extremely harsh and difficult conditions. After being liberated in September 1945, Mr. Stark returned home for treatment, eventually settling in Connecticut where he worked for the Department of Corrections and spoke often to students about his role in in the defense of the Philippines.

Between October 11 to 20, Mr. Stark and six of his fellow POWs were guests of the Government of Japan as part of the fifth American POW Friendship delegation to visit Japan. This delegation included members of the Army, Army Air Corps, Navy, and Marines who fought in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Their trip was part of an ongoing reconciliation process that began in 2010 when the Japanese government delivered to the first American POW delegation an official Cabinet-approved apology for the damage and suffering these men endured.

As part of the delegation, Mr. Stark was able to travel to his former POW camp in Yokkaichi near Kyoto. The managers of Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha (ISK), the company that controlled the camp, not only received him warmly, but honored him. ISK is now a multi-national chemical company with operations in the United States and one of only a handful of companies that have apologized to POWs forced into labor.

This once in a lifetime trip for Mr. Stark was made possible through the hard work of many people, including the U.S. State Department and the Government of Japan. While coming to terms with the past is undoubtedly difficult for our American survivors and the Japanese people, it is my hope that our two nations will continue to work together to sustain and improve efforts such as this to provide reconciliation with our shared history, provide closure to our POWs and their families, and build stronger relations for the future.

NATIONAL INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Crohn's and Colitis patient community in observance of National Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Awareness Week. As the Co-Chair of the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, I have enjoyed working with my colleague ANDER CRENSHAW to raise awareness of and improve access to treatments for IBD.

Our caucus has worked to champion funding for IBD research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This has led to accomplishments like the identification of the first gene linked to Crohn's Disease (NOD/CARD15), which will lead to better treatments and a cure for IBD, and the discovery of Remicade, the only biologic drug for treatment of both Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

We have also been strong advocates for the IBD Epidemiology program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This program yields invaluable information about the prevalence of IBD in the US and expands our knowledge about the demographic characteristics of this vulnerable population. The data derived from this study will not only provide an analysis of the etiology of the disease, but could also explain why the course of illness varies among individuals and what environmental or treatment factors improve patient outcomes.

While there is currently no known cure for IBD, we can already see the importance of Congress's continued support of IBD research. National IBD Awareness Week offers the opportunity to build upon our efforts for the Crohn's and Colitis patient community.

I have been honored by the opportunity to lead the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, and I urge my colleagues to speak out in support of IBD research efforts and to raise awareness for IBD.

HONORING SHEIKH MOUSSA DRAMMEH

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Sheikh Moussa Drammeh for his many years of selfless and compassionate service to the African community, and all of our community's residents.

Though Sheikh Drammeh has a varied professional portfolio ranging from entrepreneurial development to ecommerce, his dedication to improving the access and opportunities available for members of the African community can be seen in all of his endeavors. Most notably, Sheikh Drammeh founded HalalFinder.com, which is the first online halal auction market of its kind. This platform was established in order to ensure that providers and consumers alike would have an interactive service market space that would allow

them access to goods that were previously virtually unavailable.

Beyond his dedication to improving access for residents of the African community, it is clear that Sheikh Moussa Drammeh has a passion for fostering peace and understanding throughout our communities. Sheikh Drammeh currently serves as the Principal and Founder for the Islamic Leadership School in the Bronx, which remains as the first, and only, Islamic school in The Bronx. This school is also one of only four schools in New York City that established the ''Interfaith Living Museum,'' where Jewish students and Muslim students participate in a yearly cultural exchange curriculum in efforts to promote a global, long term peaceful co-existence. Sheikh Drammeh has also helped establish the Community Peace Patrol Officers, which are a group of community volunteers who have dedicated themselves to patrolling high crime areas in efforts to make them safer and more livable for all residents. This program not only encourages local residents to take an active role in maintaining the safety of local neighborhoods, but also works to foster better relationships between community members and local law enforcement.

Today, Sheikh Drammeh serves as Executive Producer of the African Union Profile and Public Emergency Management Adherence television programs on Bronxnet Television network, and is the founder of Adopt-A-Friend, which is a non-profit organization, dedicated to promoting peace and dialogue among all individuals for a healthy co-existence.

Each of the aforementioned projects and programs speaks to the complete nature of Sheikh Moussa Drammeh's dedication to improving the quality of life for residents throughout The Bronx, as well as his undying commitment to fostering camaraderie and understanding among residents. I am proud to say we have someone like Sheikh Moussa Drammeh living in our community, and am very grateful for all the work he has done, and continues to do to improve our community.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Sheikh Moussa Drammeh for his consistently remarkable dedication to peace and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VA CLINIC IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about the establishment of the VA clinic in American Samoa.

[Press Release, Nov. 11, 2000]

FIRST STEP IN ESTABLISHING A VA MEDICAL CLINIC IN AMERICAN SAMOA IS UNDERWAY

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that a technical team will be in American Samoa from November 13th–17th to set up and test telecom connections for the veterans enrollment plan scheduled for early December.

This is an important moment for our veterans, Congressman Faleomavaega said. And it is an important moment for American Samoa. Establishing an accurate method for enrolling our veterans is the first step in establishing a VA medical clinic in American Samoa. The purpose of the technical teams visit is to ensure that all systems are go when the VA team arrives to enroll our veterans in early December. Congressman Faleomavaega also explained that the teams visit is part of a collective effort between his office, ASG, and the VA offices in Honolulu and American Samoa.

I want to thank Governor Tauese for his commitment to our veterans. I also want to thank the Governors Special Assistants on Veterans Affairs, High Chief Tuiteleleapaga Fue Ioane, President of the Veterans Advisory Council, and High Talking Chief Paogofie Fiaigoa, Veterans Affairs Officer, Congressman Faleomavaega said. We are working together to ensure that our veterans receive top-notch health care and benefits. We are working together to ensure that every veteran in American Samoa counts and that no one is left behind. We will not be satisfied with the process until every veteran in Samoa is accounted for and enrolled in the system.

I have also been working with Senator Akaka, a senior member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, and Congressman Lane Evans, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Congressman Faleomavaega said. Both gentlemen are fully supportive of our efforts to establish a VA medical clinic with a full-time physician in the Territory. The technical teams planned visit for the week of November 13th is the first step in our collective effort to establish the process that may lead to the construction of our own facility.

Congressman Faleomavaega also noted that Federal law requires an accurate accounting and enrollment of veterans before any consideration can be made to establish a VA medical clinic. It is incumbent upon every veteran living on island to take part in the enrollment process. If we want a clinic with a full-time physician, every veteran must participate, Congressman Faleomavaega said. I strongly urge all veterans on island to participate and enroll when the time comes.

For now, the technical team, headed by Dr. Norman Okamura, will visit Fagatua, Tafuna, Leone and Samoana High Schools to confirm facility arrangements for enrollment activity. According to Congressman Faleomavaega, the team will also confirm the VAs clinical patient record system server configuration and network requirements.

The technical team plans to meet with LBJ and Health Department officials to consider the registration process and to discuss the IHS data system. During this time the team will also be working closely with Johnny Mapu, PTSD Coordinator for the office of Veterans Affairs. Provided all systems are go, the VA enrollment team will arrive in American Samoa during the week of December 4th to begin the enrollment process.

[Press Release, Feb. 14, 2004]

CARES COMMISSION AGREES WITH FALEOMAVAEGA; VA CLINIC SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission released its report yesterday and agreed that a Veterans community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC) should be established in American Samoa.

The CARES Commission was created by the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide an independent assessment of what the VAs needs may be during the next 20 years. One of the main priorities of the Commission is to make sure that underserved veterans will receive the care they deserve.

On October 1, 2003, I testified before the CARES Commission via live satellite feed from the U.S. House of Representatives to urge the establishment of a VA clinic in American Samoa and to request that our clinic be given the highest priority rating possible, Congressman Faleomavaega said. In my statement, I informed the Commission that I had worked closely with General John Ma, Commanding General of the 9th Regional Support Command, to secure a building at no cost to the VA.

The building that we agreed should be used for a VA clinic is the butler building which is next to our PX. The butler building is 3,600 sq. ft., equipped with telehealth lines, and there are separate entrances and parking lots that can be further segregated if necessary. The U.S. Army Reserve has agreed to reconfigure the building to VA needs and transfer its operations when our new $20 million U.S. Army Reserve Center is completed by the end of this year.

Mr. David Burge, Director of the Honolulu VA Medical and Regional Office Center (VAMROC) and Dr. Weibe, Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 21 have estimated that construction costs to renovate the building will be approximately $1 million. The VA and DoD will assume all costs associated with the renovation and, once converted, the clinic will be used to serve Army Reservists as well as our veterans, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

As I stated in my testimony before the Commission, more than 5,000 veterans live in American Samoa and over 1,000 are enrolled in VA health care. Enrolled veterans are forced to travel more than 2,300 miles from American Samoa to the nearest VA facility in Honolulu, Hawaii to receive the medical care and attention they need.

As a Vietnam veteran, I am painfully aware of the sacrifices that American Samoas veterans have made in defense of this nation and I do not believe we are asking for the moon when we ask for a VA clinic to be established in American Samoa. Like every other American who has borne the battle, our veterans deserve access to quality VA care. We deserve to have one doctor, one nurse, one clinic to serve our veterans and I am pleased that the CARES Commission agrees with me and has made a favorable recommendation for the establishment of a CBOC in American Samoa.

Although there was some question about whether or not we had enough veterans to qualify for the establishment of a CBOC, the CARES Commission set aside VA claims that we may have as few as 800 veterans and simply stated that it agrees that a CBOC should be established in American Samoa in collaboration with the Department of Defense. This news comes after years of hard work, ups and downs, and twists and turns, the Congressman said. For almost two years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has placed a hold on construction of new facilities and every State and Territory is now competing for construction dollars. Last year, about 242 VA facilities were listed in the CARES National Draft plan and American Samoas CBOC was among those listed. Initially, we had a priority rating of 3 because we have less than 7,000 veterans. Because of our remote location and lack of VA care, I asked the Commission to raise our rating from priority 3 to priority 1 before publishing its final recommendations.

I also asked for American Samoas CBOC to be included in the Commissions final report to the Secretary. Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, the Honorable Chris Smith, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Honorable Lane Evans,

Ranking Member, supported my efforts and joined with me in signing letters to Mr. Everett Alvarez, Chairman of the CARES Commission, requesting the same.

On February 13, 2004, the Commission released its report and I am pleased that our CBOC is included in its final recommendations. I am also pleased that the Commission made a nationwide decision to dismiss the VA priority ratings of 1, 2, and 3 and thereby cleared the way for the establishment of CBOCs in rural areas like American Samoa that have less than 7,000 veterans. Given the Commission's report, I am now hopeful that the Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, will use the recommendations made by the CARES Commission to create better access to health care for American Samoas veterans.

At this time, I want to thank the CARES Commission for undertaking this mission and for seeking the views of veterans and stakeholders across the country. I also want to thank Senators Inouye and Akaka, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Evans, and General John Ma for their support throughout this process.

As I have said many times before, our sons and daughters have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to present operations in Iraq. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad and I am pleased that the CARES Commission has recognized our service and agreed that is time to do right by American Samoas veterans.

Once again, I thank the Commission for the opportunity I had to testify and submit supporting documentation for consideration, including a Senate Concurrent Resolution from the American Samoa Legislature dated March 28, 2001 I also thank American Samoas veterans and our active duty service members for their support. I applaud them for their military service and I continue to wish them and their families the very best, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, June 22, 2004]

U.S. SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROVES FALEOMAVAEGA'S REQUEST TO ESTABLISH VA CLINIC IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the Honorable Anthony J. Principi, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, has approved Faleomavaega's request to establish a VA clinic in American Samoa.

''The Secretary announced his decision on May 7, 2004 and I will be meeting on June 24, 2004 with Dr. Wiebe, Director of VISN 21, which is the Veterans Integrated Service Network responsible for California, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam and American Samoa,'' Congressman Faleomavaega said.

''On April 26, 2004, I briefed Major General Joseph G. Webb, Jr., Commander of the Pacific Regional Medical Command and the Lead Agent for TRICARE Pacific on my efforts to establish a clinic in American Samoa. Dr. Wiebe was also present for these discussions which took place in American Samoa during the April recess, or district work period.''

''I am pleased that I was able to take General Webb and Dr. Wiebe on a tour of the butler building which the 9th Regional Support Command has agreed to turn over for our use, Faleomavaega continued. I am also pleased that General Webb and Dr. Wiebe were able to see first-hand the needs of our local veterans.''

''Most of all, I am thankful that Secretary Principi has agreed that a VA community based outpatient clinic (CBOC) should be established in American Samoa. Only 156 new CBOCs will be established and one of those will be for our veterans,'' Congressman Faleomavaega said.

''Recognizing that resources are not available to open all of these clinics immediately, the VA will establish the new CBOCs by using criteria within the existing approval process. This includes sound business plans and the capacity to manage specialty referrals and inpatient needs of a new population.''

''Given our immediate need and the arrangements we have in place with the U.S. Army Reserve, I am hopeful that VISN 21 and Dr. Wiebe will be able to act quickly on the establishment of our clinic, the Congressman said. At this time, I want to thank the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission which included American Samoa in its recommendations to the Secretary.''

''The CARES Commission was created by the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide an independent assessment of what the VAs needs may be during the next 20 years. One of the main priorities of the Commission is to make sure that underserved veterans will receive the care they deserve.''

''On October 1, 2003, I testified before the CARES Commission via live satellite feed from the U.S. House of Representatives to urge the establishment of a VA clinic in American Samoa and to request that our clinic be given the highest priority rating possible, Congressman Faleomavaega said. In my statement, I informed the Commission that I had worked closely with General John Ma, Commanding General of the 9th Regional Support Command, to secure a building at no cost to the VA.''

''The building that we agreed should be used for a VA clinic is the butler building which currently houses our PX. The butler building is 3,600 sq. ft., equipped with telehealth lines, and there are separate entrances and parking lots that can be further separated if necessary. The U.S. Army Reserve has agreed to reconfigure the building to VA needs and transfer its operations when our new $20 million U.S. Army Reserve Center is completed by October of this year.''

''Mr. David Burge, Director of the Honolulu VA Medical and Regional Office Center (VAMROC), and Dr. Wiebe have estimated that construction costs to renovate the building will be approximately $1 million. The VA and DoD will assume all costs associated with the renovation and, once converted, the clinic will be used to serve Army Reservists as well as our veterans,'' Congressman Faleomavaega said.

''As I stated in my testimony before the Commission, more than 5,000 veterans live in American Samoa but only about 800 are enrolled in VA health care. Enrolled veterans are forced to travel more than 2,300 miles from American Samoa to the nearest VA facility in Honolulu, Hawaii to receive the medical care and attention they need.''

''As a Vietnam veteran, I am painfully aware of the sacrifices that American Samoas veterans have made in defense of this nation, and I do not believe we are asking for the moon when we ask for a VA clinic to be established in American Samoa. Like every other American who has borne the battle, our veterans deserve access to quality VA care. We deserve to have at least one doctor, one nurse, and a clinic to serve our veterans and I am pleased that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the CARES Commission agrees with me and has made a favorable recommendation for the establishment of a CBOC in American Samoa.''

''Although there was some question about whether or not we had enough veterans to qualify for the establishment of a CBOC, the CARES Commission set aside VA claims that we may have as few as 800 veterans and simply stated that it agrees that a CBOC should be established in American Samoa in collaboration with the Department of Defense. This news comes after years of hard work, ups and downs, and twists and turns, the Congressman said. For almost two years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has placed a hold on construction of new facilities and every State and Territory is now competing for construction dollars.''

''Last year, about 242 VA facilities were listed in the CARES National Draft plan and American Samoas CBOC was among those listed. Initially, we had a priority rating of 3 because we have less than 7,000 veterans. Because of our remote location and lack of VA care, I asked the Commission to raise our rating from priority 3 to priority 1 before publishing its final recommendations.''

''I also asked for American Samoas CBOC to be included in the Commissions final report to the Secretary. Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, the Honorable Chris Smith, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Honorable Lane Evans, Ranking Member, supported my efforts and joined with me in signing letters to Mr. Everett Alvarez, Chairman of the CARES Commission, requesting the same.''

''On February 13, 2004, the Commission released its report and, as I announced in a press release dated February 14, 2004, our CBOC was included in its final recommendations. The Commission made a nationwide decision to dismiss the VA priority ratings of 1, 2, and 3 and thereby cleared the way for the establishment of CBOCs in rural areas like American Samoa that have less than 7,000 veterans.''

''In turn, Secretary Principi included our clinic on his list of 156 and I am hopeful that with his support VISN 21 will now move to improve health care for American Samoas veterans, the Congressman said. As I have said time and time again, our men and women have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to present operations in Iraq. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad and I am pleased that Secretary Principi has made it clear that it is time to do right by American Samoas veterans.''

''I thank Secretary Principi for his support. I also thank the CARES Commission, Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, Chairman Chris Smith and Ranking Member Lane Evans of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Dave Burge, General Webb, and General John Ma for their support and commitment throughout this process.''

''Again, I thank the Commission for the opportunity I had to testify and submit supporting documentation for consideration, including a Senate Concurrent Resolution from the American Samoa Legislature dated March 28, 2001. I also thank American Samoas veterans and our active duty service members for their support. I applaud them for their military service and I continue to wish them and their families the very best,'' the Congressman concluded.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to

have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, ''Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country,'' and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

> Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated and that is why today I rise to pay tribute to four extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Ruby Grace, Chelsea Banks, Adam Kong, Lauren Buchanan, Rachel Foster, Keome Rowe, Jesus Vasquez, Maria Mojica, and Ruth Welland, and finally to Victoria Brayer, to whom today I also wish a very happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge American Education Week. This annual celebration was established by the National Education Association and the American Legion in 1921, and it serves as a time to remember the paramount importance of education.

This year's theme, Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility, is a renewed call for all citizens—from parents and teachers, to school staff and education support professionals, to elected officials and community leaders—to work together to improve our schools.

Public education is the bedrock of our democracy, and we must provide robust support of public schools to ensure our young people can fulfill their potential.

But these days, education programs are on the chopping block. State and federal officials seem to have lost sight of the value of investing in our schools. With that in mind, I cannot imagine a better time to acknowledge the importance of public education and the vital and underappreciated contributions that educators make every day.

Somewhere along the line, we have all been inspired by great teachers who have helped us develop the perspective and good judgment to be active participants in our communities. But the support these teachers need to do their jobs effectively—including a competitive salary and funding for supplies and textbooks—is too often the target of over-eager budget hawks.

We've learned this in our home state of North Carolina, where the Republican majority in the General Assembly has slashed the education budget, even as enrollment has increased. Teacher pay ranks 46th in the nation, having fallen from 20th in the last five years. Overall state funding for our schools has dropped by 8.6 percent since 2008, and believe me when I tell you that our teachers and students are feeling the squeeze.

That trend is hardly unique to North Carolina—a recent report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities shows that 30 states have cut education budgets. Insufficient funding for teachers and public schools has quickly become a national problem.

The picture is even bleaker at the federal level. This year, my Republican colleagues once again plan to oversee major reductions in discretionary spending, including education funding. That will mean new threats to all federal education initiatives, from primary and secondary school support to Pell Grants and other college affordability programs.

As state and federal officials debate budgets, we would be wise to remember that none of our education policies will succeed until committed teachers and administrators, critical school support staff and education support staff, and engaged students all have the support that they need to thrive.

Government should be in the business of recruiting great educators who are willing to dedicate their careers to public education. We must provide them with adequate training, opportunities for professional development, competitive salaries, sufficient classroom resources, and support form effective administrators and staff.

We also have to work to ensure that every American student who works hard can afford to go to college. It is wholly irresponsible to make further cuts to Pell Grants and burden students with additional debt. Instead, we should be doing everything possible to incentivize college for bright students who have a passion for learning.

This American Education Week, students and teachers around the country are calling out for our support. I encourage my colleagues in Congress and friends in the General Assembly to answer the call and restore education funding to sustainable levels. It's the best investment we can make in a future we can be proud of.

ACKNOWLEDGING NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and recognition of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. Alzheimer's is a disease that now afflicts more than five million people in our nation and one of them is my father, Ignacio. It is a heart-breaking disease that affects every member of the family, community, and country.

As someone whose father suffers from this debilitating illness, I am acutely aware of the pain and hardship that Alzheimer's inflicts not just on my family but on society as well. In 2014, the direct costs of caring for those with Alzheimer's will total $214 billion, including $150 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid. Unfortunately, this situation is only going to get worse. The number of Americans living with Alzheimer's is projected to grow to sixteen million and the costs of caring for these people will grow to $1.2 trillion by 2050.

This November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, a time to be mindful of the struggles that families face in caring for loved ones with this disease. It is also a time to raise awareness, support, and outreach for those confronted with Alzheimer's disease and for their families. These efforts will help increase community awareness and understanding to better equip us as a nation to face this disease.

This Thanksgiving break I will visit my father, whose hands never lost their memory, and I will give thanks that those hands helped shape my life. This is why I am committed to finding a cure and calling for increased funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institute of Health. It is my hope that a commitment to research and improving treatments will one day rid us Alzheimer's disease entirely.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF VILLAGE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, the legislative history of village road improvements in American Samoa.

[Press Release, Mar. 25, 2004]

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AGREES TO INCREASE HIGHWAY FUNDING FOR TERRITORIES AND INCLUDE $14 MILLION FOR VILLAGE ROAD AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced that the House Committee on Transportation agreed yesterday to increase federal highway funding for the Territories and include $14 million for village road and other improvements in American Samoa.

Although this bill still must pass the House and Senate, I am pleased that my

good friends Chairman Don Young and Ranking Member Jim Oberstar of the House Transportation Committee have agreed to increase transportation funding for the Territories, Congressman Faleomavaega said. Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Congresswoman Donna Christensen (VI) and I have worked on this issue for the past year and Congressman Nick Rahall, Ranking Member of the House Resources Committee, has supported our efforts.

As a result of our work, the Territorial Highway Program (which includes American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and CNMI) will be increased from $33 million to $40 million for FY04, FY05 and FY06. For FY07, FY08 and FY09, funding will increase to $50 million. Despite the Transportation Act (now known as TEA–LU) being $100 billion less than what was originally proposed, the Territorial set aside will increase by 23.6%.

Moreover, American Samoa will receive $14 million for high priority projects including village road improvements, drainage mitigation, shoreline protection and upgrades and repairs of the Tau ferry terminal facility. On January 23, 2004, I called Governor Togiola to let him know that the Committee had informed me of its intentions and asked that we keep this information confidential until the Committee held its mark-up. The Committee originally intended to hold its mark-up in February but postponed it until March 24, 2004.

On February 4, 2004, I also wrote to Governor Togiola in response to his January 15, 2004 letter to me. In my letter, I explained that from 1992 to 2003 American Samoa received over $77 million in federal highway funds including $12 million I obtained to improve village roads in American Samoa.

Roads that are not part of the federal highway system are ineligible for funding. This rule applies to every state and territory and includes our village roads. Be that as it may, I fought hard to convince my colleagues that an exception should be made for American Samoa and in 1998 they agreed to support my request for $12 million for village road improvements.

The 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century is now expiring and Congress is reauthorizing funds for the next six years. Again, the House Transportation Committee has agreed to my request for additional funds for American Samoa. On March 5, 2003, the House Committee on Transportation notified members of Congress that it would accept written and oral testimony regarding requests for funding. On March 5, 2003, I wrote Governor Sunia and requested his input. Although I did not hear back from Governor Sunia, I testified and appeared before the Committee.

Initially, I requested money for a ferry boat and terminal construction as well as funding for our village roads. However, since September 2003, Governor Togiola and I have worked together to obtain funding for the purchase of a vessel for Manua and on January 22, 2004, the House Committee on Transportation informed me that it would be able to grant $14 million of my requests for highway projects in American Samoa. This funding is in addition to our annual federal highway funds.

In consultation with the Governor, we have set aside $9.4 million for village road improvements in the Eastern, Western, Central and Manua districts of American Samoa. In further consultation with Senator Tuaolo Fruean and High Paramount Chief Mauga and members of the Pago Pago council of chiefs, we have also set aside $1 million for drainage mitigation for Pago Pago village roads.

In consultation with Senator Tago Suilefaiga, Representative Fagasoaia Lealaitafea and Representative Mary Taufetee and members of the Nu'uuli council of chiefs, we have set aside $1 million for shoreline protection and drainage mitigation for Nu'uuli village roads. In consultation with Senator Faamausili Pola and members of the Tau village council of chiefs, we have set aside $1.6 million to upgrade and repair the Tau harbor facility.

Finally, in consultation with Senator Faiivae Galeai, Senator Lualemaga Faoa and members of the Leone and Malaeloa councils of chiefs, we have set aside $1 million for drainage mitigation for Malaeloa-Leone village roads. Governor Togiola and I thank our local leaders for their support of this historic and important initiative and we are hopeful that the House and Senate will pass this legislation before the 108th Congress adjourns, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, Apr. 2, 2004]

HOUSE PASSES HISTORIC TRANSPORTATION BILL AND INCLUDES FALEOMAVAEGA'S REQUEST OF ADDITIONAL $14 MILLION FOR VILLAGE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a vote of 357 to 65 the House passed H.R. 3550, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA–LU) which increases federal highway funding for the Territories and includes an additional $14 million for village road and other improvements in American Samoa. The Senate has already passed its version of TEA–LU and the bill will now go to conference in May after which time it is expected that the President will sign it into law.

Once signed into law, the Territorial Highway Program (which includes American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and CNMI) will be increased from $33 million to $40 million for FY04, FY05 and FY06. For FY07, FY08 and FY09, funding will increase to $50 million. Despite the Transportation Act (now known as TEA–LU) being $100 billion less than what was originally proposed, the Territorial set aside will increase by 23.6%.

In addition to our share of funds from the Territorial Highway Program, American Samoa will receive an extra $14 million for high priority projects including village road improvements, drainage mitigation, shoreline protection, and upgrades and repairs of the Tau ferry terminal facility. At this time, I want to thank my good friends, Chairman Don Young and Ranking Member Jim Oberstar, of the House Transportation Committee for agreeing to my requests to increase American Samoas annual funding and to include an extra $14 million for our village road improvements and other high priority projects, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

Regarding our funding, I believe it is important to explain how Congress authorizes transportation funds. Simply put, a federal gas tax is collected nationally to fund the transportation bill. Residents of American Samoa and other territories are not required to contribute to this fund or pay federal gas taxes. Although we pay no federal gas taxes, Congress provides for our transportation needs by way of a direct-set aside for the Territories and this is known as the Territorial Highway Program.

Since 1992, American Samoa has received more than $77 million in federal highway transportation funds including $12 million I obtained in 1998 to improve village roads in American Samoa. Roads that are not part of the federal highway system are ineligible for funding. This rule applies to every state and territory and includes our village roads. Be that as it may, I fought hard to convince my colleagues that an exception should be made for American Samoa and in 1998 I was able to get $12 million for Village Road Development on the islands of Tutuila and Manua.

This was the first time that Congress ever agreed to let federal highway funds be used for constructing roads that are not part of the federal highway system and I am pleased that Congress acted favorably on my request. The 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century is now expiring and Congress is reauthorizing funds for the next six years. As of today, the House has now agreed to support my request to provide American Samoa with an additional $14 million over the next six years for village roads and other transportation improvements.

In consultation with Governor Togiola, we have set aside $9.4 million for village road improvements in the Eastern, Western, Central and Manua districts of American Samoa. In further consultation with Senator Tuaolo Fruean and High Paramount Chief Mauga and members of the Pago Pago council of chiefs, we have also set aside $1 million for drainage mitigation for Pago Pago village roads.

In consultation with Senator Tago Suilefaiga, Representative Fagasoaia Lealaitafea and Representative Mary Taufetee and members of the Nuuli council of chiefs, we have set aside $1 million for shoreline protection and drainage mitigation for Nuuli village roads. In consultation with Senator Faamausili Pola and members of the Tau village council of chiefs, we have set aside $1.6 million to upgrade and repair the Tau harbor facility.

Finally, in consultation with Senator Faiivae Galeai, Senator Lualemaga Faoa and members of the Leone and Malaeloa councils of chiefs, we have set aside $1 million for drainage mitigation for Malaeloa-Leone village roads. Again, Governor Togiola and I thank our local leaders for their support of this historic and important initiative.

I also thank Chairman Don Young (Republican from Alaska) and Ranking Member Jim Oberstar (Democrat from Minnesota) of the House Committee on Transportation as well as the Honorable Nick Rahall, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Resources, for their support of increased funding for the Territories. I also commend Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo (Guam) and Congresswoman Donna Christensen (VI) who have also worked tirelessly to increase funds for the Territorial Highway Program.

Out of 422 members of the House who voted today, 357 overwhelmingly voted to support this historic legislation. In other words, its not about whose in the majority. It takes both Democrats and Republicans to get the job done. It also takes seniority and this is why I am thankful that the people of American Samoa have trusted me time and time again to get the job done for them. With your continued support and prayers, I am hopeful that our increases and add-ons will be supported when the House and Senate meet in May to conference this bill, the Congressman concluded.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS EQUAL ACCESS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the bipartisan Veterans Equal Access Act along with my colleagues DANA ROHRABACHER, DINA TITUS, JUSTIN AMASH, PAUL BROUN, WALTER JONES, THOMAS MASSIE, SAM FARR, JARED POLIS, BETO O'ROURKE, STEVE STOCKMAN and STEVE COHEN, which

will allow Veterans Health Administration physicians to recommend medical marijuana to their patients in states where it is legal.

Twenty-three states and the District of Columbia have passed laws that provide for legal access to medical marijuana. As a result, well over one million patients across the country, including many veterans, now use medical marijuana at the recommendation of their physician to treat conditions ranging from seizures, glaucoma, anxiety, chronic pain, and nausea.

There are also nine states and the District of Columbia that now allow physicians to recommend medical marijuana for the symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), due to a growing body of anecdotal evidence suggesting that marijuana offers relief when nothing else has.

While outdated federal barriers often prevent the research necessary to develop marijuana into an FDA approved drug, states have heard from their citizens, including veterans suffering from PTS, that marijuana is helping them now, and have adjusted their laws.

Despite this growing state availability of medical marijuana, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) prohibits VA medical providers from completing forms brought by their patients seeking recommendations or opinions regarding participation in a state marijuana program.

The Veterans Equal Access Act would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to authorize physicians and other health care workers employed by the VA to provide recommendations and opinions regarding the participation of a veteran in a state medical marijuana program. This includes authorizing them to fill out any forms involved in the process of recommending medical marijuana.

Veterans should not be forced outside of the VA system to seek a treatment that is legal in their state. VA physicians should not be denied the ability to offer a recommendation they think may meet the needs of their patient. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this effort.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING CONGRESSWOMEN FREDERICA S. WILSON AND ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN ON THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS HALL OF FAME

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a Resolution Congratulating Congresswomen FREDERICA S. WILSON and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN on their induction into the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Hall of Fame.

I am also pleased to be joined by Representatives FRANKEL, DIAZ-BALART, CLAWSON, DEUTCH, GARCIA, WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, MURPHY and ROONEY of the South Florida delegation in celebrating Congresswomen FREDERICA S. WILSON and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN on receiving this honor. Both Representative WILSON and ROS-LEHTINEN are products of the Miami-Dade County Public School System and are a testament to the quality of MDCPS. I invite you to join me in congratulating Congresswomen FREDERICA S. WILSON and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN on their myriad accomplishments and their induction into the MDCPS Hall of Fame.

HONORING DR. BOLA OMOTOSHO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Dr. Bola Omotosho for his many years of compassionate public service and tireless work to improve the health of our community residents.

Dr. Omotosho left Nigeria to relocate to The Bronx in 1995, after an extended career in medicine that culminated in studying anesthesiology through the Nigerian Navy. Bringing his passion for medicine along with him, Dr. Omotosho went on to study the nature of infectious diseases upon his arrival, and currently works with Montefiore Medical Center in The Bronx, which is one of the largest healthcare providers in the United States. Additionally, Dr. Omotosho remains very closely involved with several other medical missions, both local and international in their scope. Dr. Omotosho recently facilitated the donation of 3 dialysis machines to the Haut-Nkam of New York, who will provide these machines for usage by the Haut-Nkam community in Cameroon. Locally, Dr. Omotosho continues to be our community's champion for kidney donation amongst Africans here in New York City.

Dr. Bola Omotosho is not only a distinguished medical leader, he is also an individual who stands as the model of an active, civically engaged community member. Dr. Omotosho serves as Chairperson of Community Board 5, President of the Harrison Avenue Homeowners Association, and President of the Mount Hope Housing Corporation Board of Directors. He is also the Vice Chair of the Bronx Multi Faith Advisory Group, and an active member of the United Africa Coalition as well as the Black United Leadership group of The Bronx. Each of these groups works tirelessly to improve the quality of the life here in The Bronx, and Dr. Omotosho's commitment to each of them speaks to his longstanding commitment to our community.

Dr. Bola Omotosho is an alumnus of New York Police Citizen Academy and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Citizen Academy, from which he received the 2009 Humanitarian Award. Today, Dr. Omotosho continues to work with several residential boards that work with law enforcement agencies to improve community relations and amplify safety efforts throughout our neighborhoods.

Individuals like Dr. Bola Omotosho remind us all that we all have a duty to be faithful community servants, and should work each day to improve the quality of life for all of neighbors alike. Dr. Omotosho has a true passion for community, which is clear in all of his work, and I am sincerely grateful to call someone like him a neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Bola Omotosho for his consistently remarkable dedication to public service and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

HONORING THE WORK OF ADOBE SERVICES DURING NATIONAL HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the week of November 15–23 as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and to honor the distinguished work and advocacy of Adobe Services, a non-profit working in the 15th Congressional District and throughout the Bay Area to end homelessness.

The week before Thanksgiving has been designated as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week to bring about community awareness and to help those in need. Throughout the year, but especially during the holiday season, we must always remember how hunger and homelessness remain serious problems in our communities across the United States. I am proud to have Adobe Services as a strong community partner in the Bay Area working to end homelessness and advocating on behalf of the hungry.

Throughout National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Adobe Services has planned several events to engage community members in the Bay Area and raise awareness regarding homelessness and hunger. For example, today, Adobe Services is hosting the "Feed Your Soul" performance night at Mission Coffee in Fremont. At this performance night, guests will have the chance to understand more about the impact homelessness has on families and the wider community through artistic renditions. Additionally, tomorrow, Adobe Services will host a candlelight vigil at St. James' Episcopal Church to remember Alameda County residents who died last year while homeless. To combat hunger in the East Bay, Adobe Services also is organizing a food drive to provide festive holiday meals to those in need.

Adobe Services not only works to fight homelessness and hunger during this national awareness week, but also serves more than 4,000 Bay Area residents throughout the year. Its mission is to end homelessness by assisting low-income, un-housed people and secure stable and supportive housing. I am grateful for the assistance Adobe Services provides, and I applaud its continued dedication to the homeless community.

COMMENDING PROJECT GIVEBACK'S VOLUNTEERS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the more than 500 volunteers who will gather at the District of Columbia's Columbia Heights Educational Campus Saturday, November 22, 2014, to begin packing and distributing Thanksgiving parcels for Project

GiveBack's 20th Annual Food Distribution. Their efforts provide over 1,500 families in the National Capital Area with wholesome Thanksgiving dinners.

Ransom Miller III founded Project GiveBack in 1995. In its first year, six local families and one shelter received food baskets. Over the next two decades, this small effort grew to serve 3,500 families in locations across the country, including Washington, D.C.; Dallas, Texas; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Tulsa, Oklahoma; St. Louis, Missouri; and Denver, Colorado.

Project GiveBack's scope has also grown to include: Children's Toy Drive, to provide toys for children in low-income families; Children's Easter Celebration, to provide a safe and fun atmosphere for children in Southeast D.C. to celebrate the spiritual meaning of Easter; Computer Sponsor Progam, to assist local schools and community organizations in the acquisition of more than 100 laptops and personal computers; and Youth EXPOSURE Program, to connect students of various backgrounds and to expose them to a wide range of experiences that will spark career aspirations, ingenuity, and creativity.

Project GiveBack is achieving its mission to be a vehicle for firms and professionals to give back to the communities where they work and live in by coordinating programs that benefit less fortunate individuals and families, with a focus on children. It is the intent of the organization to uplift communities around the United States mentally, spiritually, and economically.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in commending Project GiveBack's volunteers and sponsors and may they soon join the more than 650,000 residents in our nation's capital in thanksgiving for full representation for D.C. in Congress.

WELCOMING ENSLIE COLE DECK

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, as I rise today, it is my pleasure to announce the birth of Enslie Cole Deck on November 19, 2014 at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia.

Enslie is the daughter of Wiley Deck, my Chief of Staff, and Elizabeth Deck. The former Elizabeth Buckles and Wiley Deck met as staff members in our Washington office. Both of them moved to our Florida District Office in St. Augustine in 2003. They married and had their first child, Emilia Hayward Deck. The Decks returned to Washington, DC in 2011 and now have expanded their family with the arrival of Enslie.

To the Deck and Buckles families, we extend our warmest congratulations and wish them years for continued health and happiness.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF FALEOMAVAEGA'S PROVISION FOR NON-SAMOAN VETERANS MARRIED TO SAMOANS TO QUALIFY FOR VA HOME LOANS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about a provision for non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans to qualify for VA home loans.

[Press Release, Nov. 10, 2005]

HOUSE PASSES VA HOUSING ASSISTANCE BILL AND INCLUDES FALEOMAVAEGA'S PROVISION FOR AMERICAN SAMOAS VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a voice vote the House passed H.R. 3665, the Veterans Housing and Employment Improvement Act of 2005 and included Faleomavaega's provision for American Samoas veterans.

I especially want to thank Chairman Steve Buyer and Ranking Member Lane Evans of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and also Chairman John Boozman and Ranking Member Stephanie Herseth of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity for their leadership in making it possible for Native Americans to participate in the veterans housing loan program, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

I am especially thankful that American Samoas veterans have also been able to participate in this very successful program and I thank my colleagues for working with me to address the concerns of American Samoans without adversely affecting the rights of other tribes. Many Samoans have served in the military and they are allowed to obtain home loans under current law. Other Samoans are married to non-Samoan veterans Non-native military spouses married to native Samoans have not been able to qualify for the VA home loan program. In part, this is because the Native American Home Loan program excludes the spouses of non-native Americans from qualifying for a VA home loan.

This has been problematic in American Samoa because most land in American Samoa is communal and the VA has only made it possible for Samoans of Tutuila, Manus, Aunuu, or Swain Islands to qualify for home loans offered by traditional lending institutions because only they can make claim to native land. As a result, non-native spouses of veterans or persons serving in the US Armed Forces who are married to a Samoan have not been able to qualify for a VA home loan. However, the VA has been helpful in assisting the Veterans Affair Committee and my office in drafting language to rectify this problem and I am pleased that this language has now been included in HR 3665.

As we have agreed, it is our understanding that this language now makes it possible for a non-Samoan military member or veteran to qualify for a VA loan if the non-Samoan military member has a meaningful interest in the housing a Samoan spouse has been granted permission to build on communal land. It is also our understanding that meaningful interest means that the veteran has the right to reside in the home under tribal laws.

This is good news for our veterans and their spouses. For this reason, I again thank my colleagues for including my provision in this important legislation. I also thank the VA for its assistance and my good friend Ranking Member Lane Evans of the VA Committee for his tireless efforts and support, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, May 22, 2006]

HOUSE AND SENATE PASS VETERANS BILL AND INCLUDES FALEOMAVAEGA'S PROVISION FOR NON-SAMOAN VETERANS MARRIED TO SAMOANS TO QUALIFY FOR VA HOME LOANS

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a vote of 372 to 0 the House passed S. 1235, the Veterans Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 and included his provision for non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans to qualify for VA Home Loans. As we approach Memorial Day to remember and honor our military men and women who have died while serving our nation during a time of war, it is especially fitting that the House and Senate have passed the Veterans Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 in tribute to those who are still with us, Faleomavaega said.

America is what she is today because of the sacrifices made by our military men and women and their families. This is why I am pleased that the US Congress is recognizing their service by passing S. 1235. After years of hard work, I am also pleased to announce that once the President signs this legislation into law, non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans will finally be able to qualify for VA home loans.

For too long, Native American veterans, including Samoans, were not able to participate in the VA Home Loan program because our land is communally rather than privately held. For the same reason, traditional lending institutions also would not make home loans to Native Americans because in case of default the bank would not be able to repossess the land or the home due to factors associated with communal ownership.

However, in 1992, with the support of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, were able to establish a pilot program making it possible for Native Americans, including Samoans, to qualify for VA home loans. Even though this was groundbreaking and very helpful to many of our veterans, the program was still problematic because it excluded the spouses of non-native Americans from qualifying for a VA home loan and for us this meant that non-Samoan military spouses married to native Samoans were also unable to qualify.

But thanks to the successful passage of todays legislation, our non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans will now able to qualify for VA home loans and I couldnt be happier that their dreams of home ownership can now come true. At this time, I especially want to thank Chairman Steve Buyer and Ranking Member Lane Evans of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and also Chairman John Boozman and Ranking Member Stephanie Herseth of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity and Mary Ellen McCarthy, Democratic Staff Director for Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, for their support and tireless efforts in making this possible. I also thank Senator Larry Craig and Senator Daniel Akaka, Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, for their leadership.

Finally, I want to thank the VA for assisting the Veterans Affair Committee and my office in drafting language that has been included in section 104 of S. 1235 which now makes home ownership a reality for non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans. As a result of this language, it is our understanding that a non-Samoan military member or veteran may now qualify for a VA loan if the non-Samoan military member has a meaningful interest in the housing a Samoan

spouse has been granted permission to build on communal land. It is also our understanding that meaningful interest means that the veteran has the right to reside in the home under tribal laws.

Again, I believe S. 1235 is a fitting tribute to our veterans and I am especially pleased that this legislation provides American Samoas veterans with the housing opportunities and other benefits they deserve. For this reason, I again thank my colleagues for including my provision in this important legislation and for supporting the Veterans Housing Opportunity and Benefits Act of 2006, the Congressman concluded.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MS. JENNETTE STARKS-FAULKNER, 2014 FENCING WORLD CHAMPION

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Ms. Jennette Starks-Faulkner. As you know Mr. Speaker, great athletes are not born they are forged through the combined efforts of our entire community and the dedication and determination of individuals. Ms. Starks-Faulkner's discipline and her commitment to living a healthy and active lifestyle is evident in the success she has found participating in competitions hosted by the United States Fencing Association.

Ms. Starks-Faulkner's precise footwork, lightning thrusts, and deft ripostes have made her one of the most accomplished fencers in the entire world. This past October in Debrecen, Hungary she became the first U.S. woman ever to win the International Fencing Federation's Veteran Fencing World Championship gold medal in foil competition. Among her long list of achievements, which I ask be added into the RECORD, Ms. Starks-Faulkner won a gold medal at the 2014 USA Fencing National Championships in the Veteran Foil competition, a silver in the Veteran Saber competition and she has represented the United States as a member of the last seven Veteran World Championship teams.

Anyone who watches Ms. Starks-Faulkner compete will attest that her physical ability is only surpassed by her willingness to give everything she has to win. In a sport where there are very few African American participants, Ms. Starks-Faulkner has distinguished herself as the first among champions. While small in stature, her presence casts a great shadow on her competition. Ms. Starks-Faulkner's accomplishments are a testament to the power of the human spirit and the limitless potential each and every person possesses. Lastly, her dedication to fencing is an important reminder not only to her students, but to all Americans, that when you believe in your dreams, nothing can stop you.

As an ardent admirer of those who would push beyond their limitations, I salute Ms. Starks-Faulkner and her long list of accomplishments.

THE BLACK LUNG BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2014 today to help disabled coal miners get benefits that they are entitled to but often unable to access.

Coal workers' pneumoconiosis, commonly referred to as "black lung," is a debilitating and deadly disease caused by the long-term inhalation of coal dust in underground and surface coal mines. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, black lung has caused or contributed to more than 76,000 deaths since 1968, with thousands of miners still sick and dying from the disease.

The Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, which included the Black Lung Benefits Act, contained a program designed to provide compensation and medical care to miners who are totally disabled due to black lung. To secure benefits, disabled coal miners must engage in lengthy and complex litigation against local operators that has been proven to unfairly burden claimants and prevent them from receiving the benefits to which they are entitled.

In 2009, the Government Accountability Office found that "coal miners face a number of challenges pursuing federal black lung claims, including finding legal representation and developing sound medical evidence to support their claims." More recent award-winning investigations by the Center for Public Integrity and ABC News uncovered numerous cases in which coal operators and their attorneys defeated claims by hiring doctors who systematically failed to diagnose black lung disease, or by withholding medical evidence from miners, surviving spouses, and judges that would have proven the miners' eligibility for benefits. These and other unethical practices were examined as part of a July 22, 2014, hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety. In addition, bureaucratic delays impede timely decisions about miners' benefits, with miners waiting an average of 42 months to receive a decision on their claim from an administrative law judge in the Department of Labor.

In the past year, the Department of Labor has taken several steps to address these issues; however, administrative actions alone will not be able to solve the systematic problems facing victims of black lung disease. That is why Congress has an obligation to reform this program so that it better serves and honors those who have helped supply the energy that our country relies on to light our homes and power our factories.

I want to thank Congressman GEORGE MILLER, the senior Democrat on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for his leadership on this issue, and for Representatives JOE COURTNEY, NICK RAHALL and ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT for joining me in sponsoring this important legislation.

BLACK LUNG BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining Representatives CARTWRIGHT, SCOTT, COURTNEY, and RAHALL in introducing the Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2014.

The Black Lung Benefits Act was enacted in 1969 to provide health care and modest benefits to coal miners who develop black lung disease, also known as coal workers' pneumoconiosis, which is a crippling respiratory disease that has left generations of miners tethered to oxygen tanks. Today, the black lung benefits program is failing far too many miners and their survivors because there is an unfair disparity in medical and legal resources between miners and coal operators when it comes to establishing eligibility for benefits.

This legislation seeks to level the playing field by ensuring that miners have equal access to medical evidence, better access to legal resources, a remedy for those whose claims were denied due to recent discoveries of discredited medical evidence. In addition, it includes a requirement that the Department of Labor improve the timeliness of benefit decisions and an adjustment of benefit payments so that miners and their survivors receive the cost of living increases that Congress intended.

Black lung disease has killed more than 76,000 miners since 1968. Rates of black lung disease dropped steadily after the Federal Coal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1969 set enforceable limits on exposure to coal mine dust. However, rates are now on the rise again, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, or NIOSH. The number of people with the most severe form of black lung disease has spiked ten-fold over the past 15 years. In a heartbreaking example of the disease's prevalence, autopsies of the 24 miners who died in the Upper Big Branch mine explosion in 2010 revealed that 17 of these miners had black lung. And the Department of Labor expects 7,300 black lung benefit cases to be filed in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, an increase of 35 percent since fiscal year 2012.

The Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2014 seeks to level the playing field for miners and strengthen our black lung benefits program in nine key ways.

First, it addresses the lack of legal assistance available to miners. The determination of a claimant's eligibility for black lung benefits often requires complex, adversarial litigation, but resource disparities between coal companies and claimants make it difficult for many miners and survivors with meritorious claims to prevail. The Government Accountability Office found that many claimants under the Black Lung Benefits Act are not equipped with the medical and legal resources necessary to develop sufficient evidence that can meet the requirements for benefits. Miners often lack complete and reliable medical evidence, which increases the risk that the individuals who review claims for benefits will be presented with insufficient medical evidence. Similarly, without better options for legal representation, significant numbers of such claimants proceed

through a complex and potentially long administrative process without the resources that Department of Labor officials and black lung disease experts note are important for developing evidence and supporting their claims. Only a quarter of claimants are represented by an attorney when filing a claim. A major obstacle to securing legal counsel is that it can take up to ten years for a claim to be resolved, and under the current system, a claimant's counsel receives no payment and must make numerous outlays during that time. Reforms must be made to remedy this resource imbalance between claimants and operators so that claimants with meritorious claims will receive the benefits they deserve.

To solve this problem, the legislation expands the Secretary's current statutory obligation to offer a complete pulmonary evaluation to a coal miner in order to substantiate a claim for benefits. It now requires that the Secretary supplement the medical evidence in cases where a party who opposes the claim provides evidence that could be considered contrary to the initial report of the pulmonary examination when the case is being considered by either a district director or an administrative law judge.

In addition, this section provides miners with greater access to legal representation by creating a system to pay a portion of their attorneys' fees earlier in the litigation process. Attorneys who prevail at each stage of the litigation would be paid $1,500 per stage, not to exceed $4,500 in total. These partial payments will be paid from the black lung trust fund, which is administered by the Secretary of Labor, but the advance payments must reimbursed to the trust fund by the operator if the claimant ultimately prevails through all stages of the litigation.

Second, the legislation addresses circumstances in which medical information is withheld from miners. Full disclosure of relevant medical information between miners and coal companies (or their insurers) is essential for fair adjudication of claims under the Black Lung Benefits Act, regardless of whether the parties intend to submit such information into evidence. Records of adjudications reveal that some mine operators' legal representatives have withheld relevant evidence from claimants, administrative law judges, and, in some cases, even their own medical experts. In several cases, the disclosure of such evidence would have substantiated a miner's claim for benefits. Withholding medical information can endanger miners by depriving them of important information about their own health and the potential need to seek medical treatment or cease employment where there is risk from continued exposure to coal dust.

To solve this problem, the legislation requires that claimants and operators must share all information about medical tests and examinations, as well as interpretations of pathology and x-rays that are developed as part of the claims process, regardless of whether such information is going to entered into the record or not. The bill balances sanctions by applying penalties for false statements to operators in addition to sanctions already applied to claimants. It also authorizes administrative law judges to levy sanctions for noncooperation in the discovery process. Full transparency and disclosure is needed for fair adjudication.

Third, the legislation provides the benefit of the doubt to miners in cases where the evidence is evenly balanced. Given the remedial nature of the Black Lung Benefits Act, when an adjudicator determines that evidence is evenly balanced, it is appropriate for any resulting doubt to be resolved in favor of the claimant. The Supreme Court vacated this longstanding legal principle—known as the true doubt rule—in 1994. This provision had been applied to both the Black Lung Benefits Act and the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, and it was vacated because it was not expressly mandated in the underlying statutes. This principle should be reinstated in the Black Lung Benefits Act because it provides fairness.

This problem is resolved in the legislation by providing that claimants will receive the benefit of the doubt when the evidence is in equipoise.

Fourth, the legislation addresses recent cases where biased medical evidence was systematically used to defeat meritorious claims. Physicians who read lung x-rays as part of pulmonary assessments under the Black Lung Benefits Act are required to demonstrate competency in classifying chest radiographs by becoming certified as ''B Readers'' by NIOSH. However, an investigation by the Center for Public Integrity, or CPI, and ABC News uncovered that there are NIOSH-certified B Readers who were under retainer by coal operators or their law firms and who systematically misclassified chest radiographs so that they could be used in opposing claims. The CPI report found that since 2000, Dr. Paul Wheeler of Johns Hopkins Medical Center had never once interpreted an x-ray as positive for complicated pneumoconiosis in more than 3,400 x-ray readings. Dr. Wheeler consistently concluded that there was not severe black lung present, even as other doctors saw the disease in hundreds of cases and other evidence, including biopsies, repeatedly proved him wrong. In response to these reports, Johns Hopkins immediately began an internal investigation and suspended the black lung x-ray reading program. A year later, the investigation is reportedly ongoing and the program remains suspended.

In response, the Department of Labor has issued guidance to its claims examiners ''not to credit negative chest x-ray readings for pneumoconiosis'' by Dr. Paul Wheeler unless the conclusions of such physician ''have been rehabilitated.'' DOL has provided written notice to miners whose claims were denied within the one-year window for reconsideration—and where Dr. Wheeler's evidence was used during the claims proceeding—that informs the miners of their right to seek reconsideration. Going forward, claimants need to have an unbiased place to turn to get their lung x-rays read.

To address this problem and help ensure access to credible medical evidence that can assist in establishing a claim or rebutting questionable medical interpretations, the bill establishes a pilot program at NIOSH that will provide impartial x-ray readings. These readings will be offered specifically to assess whether a miner has advanced stages of black lung disease—known as complicated pneumoconiosis or progressive massive fibrosis—which results in benefits being awarded on a presumptive basis. NIOSH is required to establish panels made up of three physicians who are certified as B Readers; the panels would prepare reports that can be used in claims proceedings as a service to claimants or operators on a fee-for-service basis.

Fifth, the legislation covers the need for remedies for those whose claims were unfairly denied due to tainted evidence. More than a year has passed since many miners' survivors were denied benefits in cases where Dr. Wheeler, the discredited Johns Hopkins' physician, provided the chest radiograph interpretations. Logically, survivors should be permitted to file a new claim for benefits if they were denied based on bogus medical interpretations. However, under current law a survivor is barred from filing a new claim more than one year after a decision to deny benefits is final, unless they can show a change in medical conditions. Obviously, for a deceased miner, demonstrating a change in medical condition is impossible.

The legislation remedies this injustice by allowing survivors to refile their claim outside of the one-year window. In addition, in cases where DOL has directed its claims examiners ''not to credit negative chest x-ray readings for pneumoconiosis'' provided by any physician whose interpretations have been discredited, the legislation also directs claims examiners and administrative law judges to exclude consideration of those discredited medical interpretations.

Sixth, the legislation addresses cost of living increases that have not been provided to miners and their families as intended. Contrary to the intent of Congress, benefits payments under the Black Lung Benefits Act have not been automatically increasing with the rising cost of living Benefit payments are tied to the monthly pay rate for federal employees in grade GS–2, step 1. In several of the prior fiscal years, there was a pay freeze for federal employees, which had the effect of eliminating cost-of-living adjustments for miners, surviving spouses, and dependents under the Black Lung Benefits Program during such years.

To resolve this issue, the legislation restores the cost-of-living adjustments for black lung beneficiaries that were blocked or reduced as a result of federal employee pay freezes in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Seventh, the legislation addresses the need for training to help improve claims administration. A competent assessment of medical information and testimony, which often involves multiple physicians disputing a diagnosis, is necessary to determine whether to award benefits under the Black Lung Benefits Act. To ensure that a determination regarding a claim for benefits under the act is fair and accurate, regular training is needed by claims examiners and administrative law judges regarding: developments in pulmonary medicine relating to black lung disease; medical evidence necessary to sustain claims for such benefits; and the proper weight to be given to conflicting evidence.

To address this need and improve claims administration, the legislation requires those administering this program to have annual training on the latest medical developments.

Eighth, there is a need to eliminate excessive delays in the adjudication of claims. There are currently egregious delays in adjudicating claims before an administrative law judge at the Department of Labor due to budget and staffing cuts. Between 2004 and 2014 there was a large reduction in the number of administrative law judges, coupled with a large increase in the number of cases filed under

the Black Lung Benefits Act. Compounding this problem were furloughs resulting from sequestration and the 16-day shutdown of the federal government during calendar year 2013. Due to the imbalance between resources and caseloads, it currently takes 429 days to assign a case to an administrative law judge, and claims remain unresolved for an average of 42 months prior to a decision, according to Department of Labor data. These delays directly and severely impact the lives of workers throughout the United States, placing an undue financial and emotional burden on the affected individuals and their families.

To resolve this issue, the legislation directs the Department of Labor to develop a plan to eliminate the backlog and eliminate delays.

Ninth, continued studies of the Mine Safety and Health Administration's recently adopted rules are needed to prevent future cases of black lung disease. Black lung disease has been the underlying or contributing cause of death of more than 76,000 miners since 1968. After decades of decline, the incidence of coal miners with black lung disease is on the rise. According to NIOSH, miners are developing advanced cases of the disease at younger ages. In response, the Mine Safety and Health Administration in the Department of Labor has taken important steps to combat the disease, including the promulgation of a rule in 2014 that reduces the allowed concentration of coal dust and eliminates weaknesses in the current dust sampling system.

To ensure that these reforms are sufficient to stem the scourge of black lung disease, this legislation requires continuing retrospective studies.

In total, the Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2014 will restore a measure of justice to thousands of coal miners who have long toiled to provide the energy that powers our nation's homes, farms, and factories.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF AMERICAN SAMOA'S COMMEMORATIVE QUARTER

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about American Samoa's Commemorative Quarter.

[Press Release, Mar. 25, 2004]

HOUSE PASSES BILL TO PROVIDE AMERICAN SAMOA WITH A COMMEMORATIVE QUARTER

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a vote of 411 to 14 the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2993, a bill to provide for a circulating quarter dollar coin program to commemorate American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

In general, this legislation would amend the popular 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act to include 6 new designs emblematic of the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Designs on the reverse side of each quarter dollar issued during 2009 will be selected by the Secretary of Treasury in consultation with the chief executive officers of these areas, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

All five delegates are and were original co-sponsors of this bi-partisan measure. This measure was first introduced in the 106th Congress and passed overwhelmingly in the House by a vote of 377–6. Unfortunately, the 106th Congress ended before the Senate was able to consider our bill. During the 107th Congress, identical legislation (H.R. 4005) passed the House and was received in the Senate in October of 2002. Once again, the Senate was unable to consider this matter before the 107th Congress adjourned.

Now, we have introduced H.R. 2993 and we are hopeful that the House and Senate will pass this legislation before the 108th Congress adjourns. At this time, I want to thank Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton for her leadership and I also want to thank the other Delegates who have also worked tirelessly to ensure that this legislation is considered, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

It is only fitting for Congress to acknowledge the Territories relationship with the United States. Speaking on behalf of American Samoa, we have a long and proud history of supporting the United States. The traditional leaders of the islands of Tutuila and Aunuu ceded our islands to the United States in 1900. Four years later, the King of Manua and his chiefs ceded the Manua Islands.

In the early part of the century, the port village of Pago Pago was used as a coaling station for U.S. naval ships. During WWII, it was used as a support base for U.S. soldiers. To this day, American Samoa serves as a refueling point for U.S. naval ships and military aircraft.

American Samoa also has a per capita enlistment rate in the U.S. military which is as high as any State or U.S. Territory. Our sons and daughters have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to present operations in Iraq. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad and I believe this relationship should be acknowledged with the issuance of a commemorative coin.

H.R. 2993 affords us an opportunity to recognize the special contributions that American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Marianas and the District of Columbia have made to the history of our Nation. I thank my colleagues for voting in favor of this legislation and I urge the Senate to also support our cause, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, Oct. 4, 2005]

QUARTER DOLLAR BILL COMMEMORATING AMERICAN SAMOA AND OTHER TERRITORIES REINTRODUCED

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the Territorial Delegates have joined with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to reintroduce a bill that will grant circulating quarter dollars to commemorate American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Essentially, this legislation will amend the popular 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act to include six new designs representative of the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands. The coins will be issued in 2009 and their respective designs will be issued by the Secretary of Treasury in consultation with the chief executive officers of these areas, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

All five of the delegates are and were original co-sponsors to this bi-partisan measure. The measure was originally introduced in the 106th, 107th and 108th Congresses and easily passed through the House on each occasion. But, in each instance, the Senate was unable to take up the matter before Congress adjourned.

Pleased by the support we have seen for this legislation by the House, we have introduced H.R. 3885 and are hopeful that the House and Senate will pass this legislation before the 109th Congress adjourns, Faleomavaega said. H.R. 3885 is an appropriate way for Congress to acknowledge the historic relationship between the Territories and the United States. American Samoa has a long record of supporting the United States, specifically in relation to military service. American Samoa has an enlistment rate which is as high per capita to that of any other State of U.S. Territory. Our sons and daughters have served proudly in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to the current operations in Iraq. Our territory has also served the U.S. military as a fueling station for naval ships and military aircraft and in WWII it served as a support base for U.S. soldiers.

At this time, I would like to thank my colleagues for their commitment to this effort. I especially want to thank Congresswoman Norton for her leadership. Together, we remain hopeful that Congress will take this opportunity to recognize the contributions that the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Marianas have made to our Nation and, together, we urge Congress to support our cause, Congressman Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, Jul. 27, 2009]

FALEOMAVAEGA ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF AMERICAN SAMOA QUARTER

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that American Samoa's commemorative quarter has been released today by the U.S. Mint to the Federal Reserve banks.

''This quarter has been 9 years in the making and came about as a result of federal legislation the Congressional Delegates sponsored and cosponsored since 2000,'' Faleomavaega said.

''Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia championed the cause, and Congressman Jose Serrano of New York included our last bill in the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act.''

''After cosponsoring H.R. 5010, H.R. 4005, H.R. 2993, H.R. 3883 and H.R. 392 from the 106th Congress to the 110th, Congress finally passed our legislation into law, and my colleagues and I who represent the Territories and the District of Columbia are pleased by the outcome.''

''As part of the legislation, we wanted to make sure our local Governors could also participate in this historic process so we made sure our legislation was modeled after the 50 State Quarters Program which included a provision to allow our local governments to design our quarters. I especially commend Governor Togiola and his administration for the work they did in designing American Samoa's quarter.''

''While the U.S. Mint and my office had scheduled an unveiling ceremony in Washington this morning to coincide with today's release of American Samoa's quarter, Governor Togiola has requested to be part of this Congressional ceremony and, as a courtesy to him, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Secretary of Samoan Affairs, and the First Lady who are traveling with the Governor, I have agreed to postpone the Congressional ceremony until Wednesday of this week since Governor Togiola had to cancel the local ceremony he had arranged with the U.S. Mint due to his decision to come to Washington DC this week. The Governor's event with the U.S. Mint was scheduled to be held in American

Samoa on July 29 but, according to the U.S. Mint, the Governor has now rescheduled American Samoa's local ceremony for sometime in September.''

''Since the coin was officially released today and because we want the people of American Samoa to be able to celebrate and share in this important moment, the U.S. Mint and my office will issue another statement with photos after we unveil the quarter in Washington this Wednesday,'' Faleomavaega concluded.

HONORING JUDGE MONICA DRINANE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to celebrate the Honorable Monica Drinane, and her many years of selfless and compassionate public service.

Judge Drinane has been an exemplary contributor to the Bronx community, and has served as a mentor, leader to countless professionals, and fierce advocate for children and families across the New York City. Her career in legal services and community service has been a testament to the importance of selfless devotion.

While Monica Drinane's accomplishments over the course of her legal career speak to the distinguished nature of her work, what is clearest about her time as a public servant is her relentless commitment to the people of New York.

The Honorable Monica Drinane's last ten years working in Bronx Family Court, where she has been supervising judge since 2007, the six years she spent with the Legal Aid Society as the Attorney-In-Charge of the Juvenile Rights Division, and the countless other juvenile rights positions she has held speak to her unwavering commitment to some of our community's most vulnerable individuals. Monica Drinane has consistently distinguished herself as advocate in our community who speaks for those who may not always be heard, and who works to ensure that as a society we work to protect our youth and families.

Today, Monica Drinane continues to serve on the board of the NYPD Reengineering Initiative, School to Prison Pipeline, and the Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children. As she prepares for retirement, I wish to express sincere gratitude to the Honorable Monica Drinane for all of her work in The Bronx and throughout New York City, and to thank her for leaving our community a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Honorable Monica Drinane for her remarkable dedication to public service and longstanding commitment to improving the quality of life for countless families in New York City.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 119, Adjournment Resolution.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6163–S6223

Measures Introduced: Twenty bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2947–2966, and S. Res. 585–591. **Pages S6204–05**

Measures Reported:

H.R. 1447, to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies.

S. 1744, to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2520, to improve the Freedom of Information Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6204**

Measures Passed:

Sudden Unexpected Death Data Enhancement and Awareness Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 669, to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Page S6219**

Reid (for Harkin) Amendment No. 3957, to amend the title. **Page S6219**

Reid (for Harkin) Amendment No. 3958, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6219**

Small Rural Hospitals: Senate passed H.R. 4067, to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2014. **Page S6219**

Service of Women in the Armed Forces of the United States: Senate passed H.R. 5441, to amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States. **Page S6219**

STELA Reauthorization Act: Senate passed H.R. 5728, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations. **Page S6219–20**

National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 580, expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S6220**

Drive Safer Sunday: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 583, designating November 30, 2014, as "Drive Safer Sunday", and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S6220**

Rural Access to Hospitals and Health Care Providers: Senate agreed to S. Res. 588, recognizing that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States. **Page S6221**

Honoring the Life of Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino: Senate agreed to S. Res. 589, honoring the life of Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts, from 1993 to 2014. **Page S6221**

National Native American Heritage Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 590, recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States. **Page S6221**

Convening Date for 114th Congress: Senate passed H.J. Res. 129, appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress. **Page S6222**

Adjournment Resolution: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 119, providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate. **Page S6222**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Thursday, November 20, 2014 through Monday, December 1, 2014, the Majority Leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions. **Page S6222**

Authorizing Leadership To Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Page S6222**

Mamet Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Noah Bryson Mamet, of California, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic. **Page S6186**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, November 20, 2014, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, December 1, 2014. **Page S6186**

Bell Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Colleen Bradley Bell, of California, to be Ambassador to Hungary. **Page S6187**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Noah Bryson Mamet, of California, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic. **Page S6187**

Coloretti Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development. **Page S6187**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Colleen Bradley Bell, of California, to be Ambassador to Hungary. **Page S6187**

Adler Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Robert S. Adler, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. **Page S6187**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development. **Page S6187**

Burrows Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. **Page S6187**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Robert S. Adler, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. **Page S6187**

Lopez Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. **Page S6188**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. **Page S6188**

Mamet and **Bell** Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, December 1, 2014, Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Noah Bryson Mamet, of California, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, and Colleen Bradley Bell, of California, to be Ambassador to Hungary; that if cloture is invoked on either of these nominations, that at 10:30 a.m., on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, all post-cloture time be expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations, in the order upon which cloture was invoked; and that there be two minutes for debate prior to each vote and all roll call votes after the first vote in each sequence be ten minutes in length. **Page S6188**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By a unanimous vote of 95 yeas (Vote No. EX. 288), Pamela Pepper, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. **Pages S6176–78, S6223**

By a unanimous vote of 96 yeas (Vote No. EX. 289), Brenda K. Sannes, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York. **Pages S6176–78, S6223**

Madeline Cox Arleo, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey. **Pages S6176–78, S6223**

Wendy Beetlestone, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. **Pages S6176–78, S6223**

By 49 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 290), Victor Allen Bolden, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut. **Pages S6176–78, S6223**

James D. Pettit, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova. **Pages S6178–80, S6223**

Pamela Leora Spratlen, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan. **Pages S6178–80, S6223**

Tamara Wenda Ashford, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years. **Pages S6178–80, S6222**

L. Paige Marvel, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years. **Pages S6178–80, S6222**

Cary Douglas Pugh, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years. **Pages S6178–80, S6223**

Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury. **Pages S6178–80, S6223**

Lisa Afua Serwah Mensah, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development. **Pages S6178–80, S6223**

George Albert Krol, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan. **Pages S6178–80, S6222**

Luis G. Moreno, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Jamaica. **Pages S6178–80, S6222**

Donald Lu, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Albania. **Pages S6178–80, S6222**

Brent Robert Hartley, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia. **Pages S6178–80, S6223**

Robert M. Speer, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army. **Pages S6178–80, S6223**

3 Air Force nominations in the rank of general. **Pages S6188, S6223**

Routine lists in the Coast Guard, and Foreign Service. **Pages S6188, S6223**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Ann Donnelly, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Roseann A. Ketchmark, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

Travis Randall McDonough, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. **Page S6222**

Messages from the House: **Page S6195**

Measures Referred: **Page S6195**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S6195**

Executive Communications: **Pages S6195–97**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S6197–S6204**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S6204**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6205–07**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S6207–12**

Additional Statements: **Pages S6193–95**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6212–18**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6218–19**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6219**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—290) **Pages S6177–78**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 119, at 7:22 p.m., until 2 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6222.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

TAKATA AIRBAG RECALLS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Takata airbag recalls and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) recall process, after receiving testimony from David J. Friedman, Deputy Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation; Hiroshi Shimizu, Takata Corporation, Tokyo, Japan; Rick Schostek, Honda North America, Inc., Marysville, Ohio; Scott G. Kunselman, Chrysler Group LLC, Auburn Hills, Michigan; and Stephanie Erdman, Destin, Florida.

WALL STREET BANK INVOLVEMENT WITH PHYSICAL COMMODITIES

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

held a hearing to examine Wall Street bank involvement with physical commodities, focusing on the extent to which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses, after receiving testimony from Chris Wibbelman, Metro International Trade Services, Allen Park, Michigan; Jacques Gabillon, Goldman Sachs, London, England; Jorge Vazquez, HARBOR Aluminum Intelligence LLC, Austin, Texas; Nick Madden, Novelis Inc., Atlanta, Georgia; and Gregory Agran, Goldman Sachs, Simon Greenshields, Morgan Stanley, and John Anderson, JPMorgan Chase and Co., all of New York, New York.

Hearings recessed subject to the call and will meet again on Friday, November 21, 2014.

NOMINATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Harkin, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

PRICING OF GENERIC DRUGS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging concluded a hearing to examine the pricing of generic drugs, after receiving testimony from Representative Cummings; Stephen W. Schondelmeyer, University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy PRIME Institute, Minneapolis; Rob Frankil, Sellersville Pharmacy, Inc., Sellersville, Pennsylvania, on behalf of the National Community Pharmacists Association; Scott Gottlieb, The American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC; Aaron S. Kesselheim, Harvard Medical School, and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts; and Carol Ann Riha, West Des Moines, Iowa.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2520, to improve the Freedom of Information Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R.1447, to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies; and

The nominations of Jorge Luis Alonso, and John Robert Blakey, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Allison Dale Burroughs, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Jeanne E. Davidson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, Haywood Stirling Gilliam, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Amos L. Mazzant, III, and Robert William Schroeder III, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Amit Priyavadan Mehta, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, and Robert Lee Pitman, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

NOMINATION

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Nicholas J. Rasmussen, of Virginia, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Feinstein, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 23 public bills, H.R. 5746–5768; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 119; and H. Res. 761–765, were introduced. **Pages H8169–70**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H8171**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 4329, to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–628). **Page H8169**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Collins (GA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H8135**

Promoting New Manufacturing Act: The House passed H.R. 4795, to promote new manufacturing in

the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, by a recorded vote of 238 ayes to 172 noes, Roll No. 531. **Pages H8137–46**

Rejected the Kuster motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment by a recorded vote of 189 ayes to 223 noes, Roll No. 530. **Pages H8144–45**

Agreed to:

Whitfield amendment (No. 2 printed in part C of H. Rept. 113–626) that clarifies that Section 3(b) of the bill does not prohibit States from imposing new or revised federal air quality standards under state or local law. **Pages H8142–43**

Rejected:

Waxman amendment (No. 1 printed in part C of H. Rept. 113–626) that stated that outdated air quality standards do not apply toward a preconstruction permit if the applicable federal, state, or local permitting agency determines that applying it would likely increase air pollution, slow permitting, or increase regulatory uncertainty (by a recorded vote of 183 ayes to 225 noes, Roll No. 529). **Pages H8141–42, H8143**

H. Res. 756, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1422), (H.R. 4012), and (H.R. 4795), was agreed to on November 18.

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the tragedy at Marysville-Pilchuck High School in Marysville, Washington on October 24, 2014. **Page H8146**

Adjournment Resolution: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 119, providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses. **Pages H8148**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8143, H8145, H8145–46. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and at 1:05 p.m., the House stands adjourned until 12 noon on Monday, November 24, 2014, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in H. Con. Res. 119, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on the following legislative measures: H.R. 2901, the "Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013"; H.R. 5206, to allow Foreign Service and other executive agency employees to designate beneficiaries of their death benefits; H.R. 5241, the "Crimea Annexation Non-recognition Act"; H.R. 5656, the "Feed the Future Global Food Security Act of 2014"; H.R. 5685, the "Rewards for Justice Congressional Notification Act of 2014"; H.R. 5710, the "Ebola Emergency Response Act"; H. Res. 714, reaffirming the peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea as provided for by universally recognized principles of international law, and reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region; and H. Res. 758, strongly condemning the actions of the Russian Federation, under President Vladimir Putin, which has carried out a policy of aggression against neighboring countries aimed at political and economic domination. The following legislation was ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 2901, H.R. 5206, H.R. 5656, H.R. 5710, H. Res. 714, and H. Res. 758. The following legislation was ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 5241 and H.R. 5685.

EXAMINING WHAT A NUCLEAR IRAN DEAL MEANS FOR GLOBAL SECURITY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing entitled "Examining What a Nuclear Iran Deal Means for Global Security". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IS THE MIDWAY ATOLL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE BEING PROPERLY MANAGED?

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs held a hearing entitled "Is the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge Being Properly Managed?". Testimony was heard from Kevin Foerster, Regional Chief for the National Wildlife Refuge System in the Pacific Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and public witnesses.

FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY COMPENSATION FUND: INQUIRY INTO THE ADEQUACY OF PROCESS IN VERIFYING ELIGIBILITY

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing entitled "Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund: Inquiry into the Adequacy of Process in Verifying Eligibility". Testimony was heard from Brad Flohr, Senior Advisor for Compensation Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Brigadier General David K. "Mac" MacEwen, 59th Adjutant General of the U.S. Army,

Department of the Army; and Kevin Pratt, Assistant Director for Military Records, National Personnel Records Center, National Archives and Records Administration.

CYBERSECURITY THREATS: THE WAY FORWARD

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Cybersecurity Threats: The Way Forward''. Testimony was heard from Admiral Michael S. Rogers, Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, and Director, National Security Agency.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D1005)*

S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990. Signed on November 19, 2014. (Public Law 113–186)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine improving financial institution supervision, focusing on addressing regulatory capture, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to continue hearings to examine Wall Street bank involvement with physical commodities, focusing on the extent to which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, December 1

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 5:30 p.m.), Senate will resume consideration of the nominations of Noah Bryson Mamet, of California, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, and Colleen Bradley Bell, of California, to be Ambassador to Hungary, and vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 p.m., Monday, November 24

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue.

HOUSE

Blumenauer, Earl, Ore., E1657
Byrne, Bradley, Ala.,E1644
Camp, Dave, Mich., E1649
Cartwright, Matt, Pa., E1660
Clyburn, James E., S.C., E1652
Connolly, Gerald E., Va., E1645
Courtney, Joe, Conn., E1653
Duncan, John J., Tenn., E1646
Faleomavaega, Eni F.H., American Samoa, E1647, E1651, E1654, E1656, E1659, E1662
Graves, Sam, Mo., E1643, E1643, E1644, E1645, E1645, E1646, E1648, E1653
Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E1658
Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E1655
Kinzinger, Adam, Ill., E1644
Lujan Grisham, Michelle, N.M., E1649
McCarthy, Carolyn, N.Y., E1643
McCarthy, Kevin, Calif., E1650
Meeks, Gregory W., N.Y., E1660
Messer, Luke, Ind., E1652
Mica, John L., Fla., E1659
Miller, George, Calif., E1660
Moran, James P., Va., E1653
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, D.C., E1658
Price, David E., N.C., E1656
Rahall, Nick J., II, W.Va., E1650
Reed, Tom, N.Y., E1650
Rush, Bobby L., Ill., E1644
Sánchez, Linda T., Calif., E1656
Serrano, José E., N.Y., E1648, E1650, E1653, E1658, E1663
Sessions, Pete, Tex., E1643
Swalwell, Eric, Calif., E1658
Tiberi, Patrick J., Ohio, E1645
Walorski, Jackie, Ind., E1645
Webster, Daniel, Fla., E1643
Westmoreland, Lynn A., Ga., E1649
Wolf, Frank R., Va., E1646

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