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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 21, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DIANE BLACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

REAUTHORIZE THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Madam Speaker, ticktock, ticktock. The countdown has begun.

Beginning tomorrow, there are exactly—count them—30 legislative days left before the Export-Import Bank is gone—vanished, disappeared—and each day that we fail to address this vital institution for American jobs, we let the obstructionists win. We let this bipartisan, eight decade champion of American exports go away. The irony of it all is, as my dear friend from Texas, Congressman GREEN, once observed, if we didn't have an Export-Import Bank, we would all be scurrying around, trying to figure out how to invent it in order to compete with every other developed country in the world that has an export credit authority.

Ticktock. Ticktock.

American companies are, unfortunately, already hurting. It is happening now. We don't have to wait for May or June or July 1, which is the day the bank will disappear if we do not reauthorize it. I am speaking in the present tense. Export contracts are being lost now—today—as we speak. Production lines are slowing. Labor needs are being reevaluated. Let me be clear: American corporations and companies are already losing deals to our global competitors because of this pointless fight. It is hurting companies now.

American companies are being penalized because, yet again, unfortunately, Congress procrastinates; yet we have a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. We have two bills with substantial, broad, deep, bipartisan support—250 Members out of 435, to put a fine point on it. There are 60 for Congressman FINCHER of Tennessee's bill and 190 for Congresswoman WATERS', Congresswoman MOORE's, and my bill.

Again, every other developed nation on the face of the planet has an export credit authority, and most of them are larger as a percent of their gross domestic products than ours is. To allow it to expire is to engage in nothing short of—and this is not hyperbole—unilateral economic disarmament.

Ticktock. Ticktock.

Small businesses are the ones that will be hurt first. Now, I know a lot of the focus of debate about the Export-Import Bank is Boeing. Yes, Boeing will be hurt. That is for sure. Although, I enjoy reminding people that the Boeing Company assembles airplanes, and what they depend upon is the supply chain of 12,000 businesses and vendors—thousands of whom are, in fact, small businesses.

Nearly 90 percent of all of the Export-Import Bank's transactions are to provide loans or loan guarantees to small businesses. They are the backbone of our economy. Everybody knows it. Nearly one in three jobs created in the last decade was created by small businesses, and they will be hurt first, small businesses like STAC, Inc., in Sumner, Washington. It is a veteran-owned business that provides industrial tapes and adhesives and a host of other fasteners. They predict, as their owner told me personally, that they could hire 40 percent more staff as a consequence of their exports.

The truth of the matter is that there is a STAC in every congressional district in America—in every town, in every city, in every community, in every neighborhood—and they need and use the export credit agency of this Nation, the Export-Import Bank, just like the businesses of every other developed nation in the world.

The rest of the world is growing a middle class. We all know it. If we want to keep and expand ours, then we are going to have to engage in global trade with one of the tools known as the Export-Import Bank. We have to sell in to their growing middle class.

Counting tomorrow, 30 legislative days to go—ticktock, ticktock.

GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE ACT

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last week, mailman Doug Hughes flew a gyrocopter onto the Capitol lawn to make a point about the influence of money in politics. While I don't condone violating restricted airspace and

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putting innocent people at risk by flying a gyrocopter onto the Capitol lawn, Mr. Hughes does have a point about the pervasive influence of money in politics. I have seen it get worse and worse during my 20 years in Congress.

The Citizens United decision by the United States Supreme Court in 2010 created super-PACs and multi-millionaires who buy candidates. As of April 8, 2015, there were 1,360 super-PACs in existence that controlled nearly $700 million in the 2014 election cycle, according to OpenSecrets.org. The American people have lost confidence in the House and in the Senate partially because super-PACs influence candidates and politicians.

Too many times I have seen bills come to the floor of the House that seem influenced by money. Just last week, the House voted on H.R. 650, the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2015, which does nothing but line the pockets of Warren Buffett by enabling his near-monopoly of the mobile home industry to strap poor people with higher interest rates while his companies are being protected from government regulations against predatory lending.

It is my disgust at this influence of money in politics that has led me to be a cosponsor of H.R. 20, the Government by the People Act, introduced by my colleague Congressman JOHN SARBANES. H.R. 20 would curb the influence of super-PACs so that small donors can have a voice again.

We in Congress owe the American people a vote on this bill so we can inspire confidence in our democratic process. House leadership should bring this bill to the floor, but I know it won't happen. There isn't the stomach for reform bills in this Congress, even for bipartisan reform bills. Maybe it does take a statement like Mr. Hughes' to bring this issue into the national debate and to make Congress address our out-of-control fund-raising.

I ask my colleagues in both parties in the House of Representatives to look seriously at the John Sarbanes bill, because the Government by the People Act will help to restore the confidence of the American people. We cannot stop what is already public law, and we cannot change Citizens United unless we go back through the legal process, but we can have an alternative. That is what the John Sarbanes bill does, so I hope Republicans and Democrats will look seriously at becoming cosponsors.

I ask God to bless America.

EMPOWERING AND EDUCATING WOMEN AS TO THEIR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was just thinking that one of the reasons I like spring so much and so well is that we get an opportunity to interact a bit more with young people, with our children, and I have seen many around here this morning all over the place, and I simply want to welcome them.

Also, yesterday, I got an opportunity to visit two schools. The first was the Proviso Area School for Exceptional Children in Maywood, Illinois, where we just had a wonderful time. Then, in the afternoon, I did a book fair at the Lovett Elementary School with its principal, Dr. Haney. The young people at Lovett were saying they just love being at Lovett, so it was a refreshing day.

Like many of my colleagues, I also use a lot of interns and fellows who come and learn and work and who are engaged and involved. The statement that I am going to read today was developed by one of my interns, Jakie Martinez. Jakie has been working on health issues, and she came up with this statement. So I come here today to speak of a health concern that many women are likely to develop in their lifetimes.

Known as one of the most common gynecological disorders, uterine fibroids affect nearly 70 percent of Caucasian women and more than 80 percent of African American women by the age of 50. For many of these women the associated symptoms of this diagnosis will significantly impact their quality of life, work, personal relationships, and daily activities. The prevalence of uterine fibroids is one that increases with age. Although we see a commonality in the disorder and its symptoms, the greater public has not yet received the proper continued education into the causes and treatment options available for women who suffer from these fibroids.

In response, we see that hysterectomies are the most commonly performed major gynecologic surgery in the United States, with over 400,000 hysterectomies performed annually; yet there are also several minimally invasive surgical options for the treatment of uterine fibroids that feature less blood loss, shorter hospital stays, smaller incisions for minimal scarring, and less need for pain medication than with traditional open surgery. It is important to remember that the best surgical option for each woman, whether it is open or minimally invasive, is reserved for a case-by-case evaluation.

In recognizing the health and educational needs of women in the United States, it is important that the greater public be educated in greater detail on the alternatives to more or less invasive surgical treatments so that women can have access to a full spectrum of treatment options. After all, it is my hope that women will become more educated and empowered in regards to their reproductive health and in the understanding of safe options available for the treatment of symptomatic fibroids.

I thank Jakie Martinez for writing this statement. It is very important.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, GALLATIN, TENNESSEE

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

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, it isn't often that Members can take to the House floor to share good news, but, this morning, I have an opportunity to do just that.

Today, I rise to honor the 150th anniversary of the First Baptist Church on East Winchester Street in my hometown of Gallatin.

Founded in 1865 by a former slave named Robert Belote, the First Baptist Church is a congregation steeped in history and poised to continue changing hearts and changing lives for many years to come. Its mission is to be a ''church of welcome,'' and over the years, they have certainly lived up to that goal.

In the beginning, their congregation was known as Union Church because they welcomed ex-slaves from all denominations—Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian. No matter your background or your upbringing, there was a place for all of God's children within their pews.

□ 1215

The church has been destroyed multiple times over the years, first by heavy winds and then by fire, but they always rebuilt and reemerged stronger than before.

They weathered the Reconstruction era following the Civil War, the economic uncertainty of the Great Depression, and the rise and the fall of the Jim Crow South. They are truly a statement to Christ's promise in the Gospel of Matthew when He proclaimed, ''Upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.''

Today the church's attendance climbed to approximately 1,000 people. I have had the opportunity to join my friends and neighbors at First Baptist Church for worship on many occasions. I have sat under the powerful teaching of their pastor and my dear friend, Reverend Derrick Jackson, and I can tell you that, 150 years later, God is still doing mighty work in the life of this special community of believers.

I am thankful for how First Baptist Church has personally ministered to me and so many others in our community, and I wish them many years of continued growth and prosperity.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. President, please help us stop this madness. The same way President Reagan demanded Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall, you have an opportunity to stop serial malpractice on the part of Congress refusing to meet its obligation to

fully fund our transportation responsibility.

Twenty-three short-term extensions of the transportation program in recent years is as embarrassing as it is destructive. No country became great building its infrastructure 9 months at a time.

You can bring this charade to a halt. With all the major agenda items on the table this spring for Congress, there is no way that we are going to be able to do anything but extend the May 31st transportation deadline, when the funding authorization expires. That is the most recent time when Congress kicked the can down the road, what it approved last fall all the way to this spring. I said at the time, When spring comes, we will be right back in the same situation. And we are.

This does not mean that we need to write off the entire year and beyond. It certainly does not mean that we need to throw this issue into the middle of the next Presidential campaign, which unfortunately has already started. You should give us a reasonable deadline: July 1st, August 1st, or even September 1st. Under no circumstances should you let this bleed into the next Federal fiscal year, starting October 1st.

We lost an opportunity at the end of the last Congress to force responsible action in the lame duck session after the 2014 election. We were close, but it eluded us. Please don't let that happen again. Make clear you will not sign any transportation extension beyond the end of the Federal fiscal year.

Mr. President, you don't have to dictate a solution. You have already indicated what you want in a robust 6-year bill; you have given an outline of how you would have Congress fund this significant reauthorization. Your Secretary of Transportation, Anthony Foxx, has been traveling the country, advancing a vision for transportation for decades to come; and he is clear about the need for bold action to properly fund it.

You and your administration have also made it clear that you are willing to sign any reasonable bipartisan legislation that meets the standards that we need. It needs to be sustainable; it needs to be dedicated; it needs to be big enough to get the job done. Let Congress put up or shut up. Force it to act by not extending the deadline past October 1st.

Recently, the historic solution driven by Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI took a problem that long seemed intractable here on Capitol Hill since 1998 on Medicare payments and the funding under the so-called ''doc fix,'' but yet enacted a permanent solution on a bipartisan basis, overwhelmingly approved in this House and in the Senate. It required leadership and for some people to relax somewhat their partisan talking points—if not their core principles—but we all got the job done under your leadership.

Let's do the same on transportation funding. Let's lay down an absolute deadline. Let's refuse to let it slide past October 1, 2015. Let's all work together, demanding Congress do its job. Several hundred Members of Congress signed a letter recently circulated by Congressman RIBBLE and Congressman LIPINSKI, my colleague from Illinois, saying that that is what should happen. Well, let's actually do it.

Together, Congress can be forced to act. We can rebuild and renew America, putting hundreds of thousands of people to work at family wage jobs, making our communities more livable, our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure. It is not going to get easier if we stall. It is not going to be a smaller problem if it is going to be done next year or the year beyond. Let's decide this summer we are going to get the job done. Mr. President, you can help us by demanding that it be done according to a strict timeline, no later than October 1st.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, over the last 4 years, House Republicans have worked hard to put this Nation on a better path forward. We have passed numerous pieces of legislation to encourage job growth and strengthen America's standing in the global economy. We have also passed bills that would decrease energy costs and increase transparency in how tax dollars are spent.

Despite the short time we have had, the obstacles we have faced, and the enormity of our task, House Republicans have managed a number of conservative victories. For example, legislation I authored was signed into law last summer to streamline the Federal workforce development system, including the elimination of 15 duplicative programs.

We have worked tirelessly to minimize the damage caused by ObamaCare. The first pieces of legislation to pass in the 114th Congress included the Hire More Heroes Act, which would make it easier to hire veterans by exempting those who already have health insurance from being subject to the employer mandate in the President's health care law, and the Save American Workers Act to change ObamaCare's 30-hour definition of full-time employment and restore the traditional 40-hour workweek, which has long been the standard for full-time work.

Additionally, the House Republican working group has laid out an alternative vision to ObamaCare. It includes allowing affected States to opt out of ObamaCare's costly rules and regulations and to opt into a patient-centered system focused on choice and lower cost.

House Republicans have been vigilant against any attempt that would impugn the Second Amendment rights of all Americans to own and bear firearms. Our Republican committee chairmen are using their gavels to exercise the constitutionally prescribed system of checks and balances to hold oversight hearings exposing the Obama administration for its unconstitutional overreach.

Much of the economic turmoil that has gripped this Nation is the result of the Federal Government spending beyond its means. In North Carolina I often hear from constituents who are worried that our ballooning national debt threatens economic stability and jeopardizes the American Dream for their families.

House Republicans have responded to those concerns by passing laws cutting Federal spending 2 years in a row for the first time since the Korean war. We banned earmarks and achieved the most significant spending reductions in modern history. We have protected tax cuts for individuals and families.

Unfortunately, President Obama's budget ignores our crushing debt burden. Despite proposing $2.1 trillion in new tax increases, the President's budget never balances because it spends too much.

In contrast to the President's budget proposal that ignores our crushing debt burden, House Republicans recently approved a budget that balances in less than 10 years without raising taxes while cutting $5.5 trillion in unnecessary spending. This budget not only places our country on a path to pay off the overwhelming mound of debt we face but will also spur economic growth and increase opportunity.

Balanced Budget for a Stronger America also provides a framework for completely repealing ObamaCare and calls on Congress to pass comprehensive tax reform that lowers rates for individuals, families, and employers.

Following approval of the budget, the House continued its record of tackling tough issues by passing bipartisan legislation to help stabilize Medicare and secure seniors' access to their doctors. By transitioning to a new provider payment system focused on quality, value, and accountability, we have laid the groundwork for future Medicare reforms.

It has been said that no one hears the plane that landed safely. What that very apt adage suggests is that we are often unaware of the good work being done every day, and it isn't until something goes wrong that people take notice.

House Republicans are working hard to continue our good work and advance solutions that will build a healthy economy, empowering all Americans to seek new opportunities and achieve a better life.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Lead us this day in Your ways, that our Nation might be guided along the roads of peace, justice, and goodwill.

Grant strength and wisdom to our Speaker, leaders, and Members of both the people's House and the Senate, to our President and his Cabinet, and to our Supreme Court.

Bless as well the moral and military leaders of our country, and may those who are the captains of business, industry, and unions learn to work together toward the mutual benefit of all, walking in the ways of righteousness and working for the highest good of our beloved land.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House 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 Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO J.F. KRUSE JEWELERS

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jim Kruse and Melissa Kelley of J.F. Kruse Jewelers in St. Cloud, Minnesota. They have been named the Minnesota Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Last year, the St. Cloud Area Chamber honored them as the Small Business of the Year.

Jim Kruse opened J.F. Kruse 15 years ago. From humble beginnings, using secondhand jewelry cases, to a newly built facility and a team of 17 people, the father-daughter duo built a dynamic business that has seen steady growth year after year.

Family-run businesses like J.F. Kruse are the backbone of central Minnesota, and I know I speak for everyone when I say congratulations and good luck in competing for the national title.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE NEW REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, the contrast between Democratic and Republican priorities in Congress could not be more clear after the first 100 days here.

Instead of passing legislation that would help American families buy a home or put away money to save for their kids' college or save even for a secure retirement, we have seen again and again tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. That is the priority that supersedes the needs of the American family.

Instead of focusing on growing paychecks and improving our infrastructure, a vital need, one that should be a bipartisan effort, we just continue to vote for more tax giveaways to the wealthiest special interests.

Mr. Speaker, it is long past time that this Congress work on the priorities of hard-working, middle class Americans, priorities that are simple: Own a home, help your kids prepare for their future, have something set aside for retirement, take care of our crumbling infrastructure, reinvest in our future.

I know we stand ready to work together on these big questions. It is time Congress set aside the needs of the few and focused on what we were sent here to do, and that is take care of the American family.

APPLAUDING THE PASSAGE OF H.R. 1105

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House of Representatives for passing H.R. 1105, the Death Tax Repeal Act, last week, and to call for its swift consideration and passage in the Senate.

This devastating tax, which requires families to pay as much as 40 percent of the value of an estate they inherit above a certain threshold, has damaged our economy, hurt small businesses, and forced many families out of a legacy they worked hard to build.

In my district of Georgia, many of those hit hardest by the death tax are our family farms; hard-working Americans who have paid taxes on their property all their lives, only to have it taxed again when they try to pass it on to the next generation. In some cases, children are often forced to sell the land, ending a family business, costing real jobs, and destroying a family legacy. Unfortunately, this is not a rare occurrence.

As a proud cosponsor of this bill, I applaud my colleagues in the House for passage of this legislation to repeal the death tax and urge quick consideration and approval in the Senate.

NATIONAL LEARN TO SWIM MONTH

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

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, April is the month when pools, beaches, streams, and lakes across the United States open up for the spring and summer months.

As a former collegiate swimmer, I feel compelled to ensure that everyone is safe in the water during the upcoming months.

I am proud to introduce bipartisan H. Res. 205 with another former college swimmer, Representative JIM BRIDENSTINE, on behalf of USA Masters Swimming Association and their president, Nadine Day, to declare April as National Learn to Swim Month.

Last year, 3,335 Americans unintentionally drowned. The number of American adults and children that are unable to swim can be reduced, and we are in a position to speak out and prevent this.

Swimming proficiency is a problem that we can solve together, and with the help of State governments we can highlight this so that we are able to make water activities safe for everyone.

Please join me, Mr. Speaker, in declaring April as National Learn to Swim Month.

FORT HOOD VICTIMS RECEIVE PURPLE HEARTS AND FULL BENEFITS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 5 years since the 2009 shooting in Fort Hood, Texas. The whole country was shocked by this senseless activity. Finally, earlier this month, the 47 soldiers and surviving family members of this tragic event did receive Purple Heart medals for their sacrifice, and they will be provided with every benefit that this commendation obliges.

Following the shooting back in 2009, I went to Fort Hood. I met with the families of loved ones of this attack's victims. I saw firsthand the devastation and the sacrifice. None of them—none of them—should have had to wait this long for the recognition. Although the delay can never be made right, I am relieved that these families and victims have finally received the recognition for their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, Senator CORNYN from my State of Texas, Representative CARTER, and Representative ROGER WILLIAMS put a lot of effort into this, but I also need to recognize the thousands of constituents—not just in Texas, but across the country—who phoned, emailed, and sent letters asking that this omission be made right.

I am happy to say and acknowledge that through their efforts, it finally has been.

IN RECOGNITION OF ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. In recognition of the Oncology Nursing Society's 40th anniversary, I want to congratulate ONS for their legacy of excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care.

ONS is a professional organization of over 37,000 registered nurses and other healthcare providers dedicated to providing care to patients in one of the most difficult stages of their lives.

Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society has worked tirelessly to lead the transformation of cancer care. ONS is the primary source of education for all nurses providing care to people with cancer, regardless of the setting.

In my State of Illinois alone, there are 10 chapters of ONS, with more than 1,600 members. In addition, the ONS Chicago chapter is the oldest chapter in the country.

Oncology nurses are there for patients through one of the most challenging times in their lives. They help patients and their loved ones by caring, teaching, listening, and simply being present.

As Congress continues to work to increase access to quality care, I praise the commitment of ONS in fostering excellence in oncology nursing and the care of cancer patients.

I would like to congratulate all the members of ONS on the occasion of its 40th anniversary and wish them many more years of dedicated service to the country.

IN MEMORY OF JUN CHINO, M.D.

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

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, the recent passing of Dr. Jun Chino has left many in his southern California community with heavy hearts, including my family and myself, who were blessed to have had a close personal relationship with him.

Dr. Chino was the eldest son in a farming family who were moved from an internment camp during World War II, losing their land in the process.

Despite their difficult financial circumstances in the post-war years, Jun managed to obtain a pre-med degree at Stanford and go on to graduate from the university's medical school. Following residency at Los Angeles County USC General Hospital, and having achieved board certification as an orthopedic surgeon, he practiced for 52 years in Orange County.

He served in leadership positions on countless medical organizations and was esteemed by his peers for his skills and for dedicating himself to staying on the cutting edge of developments in his field. Dr. Chino is survived by his wife, Kazuko, and his daughter, Lisa.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION TO THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, in less than 40 days, the highway trust fund runs out of money, which means 90 percent of the surface transportation projects in this country will stop.

To help Congress appreciate the magnitude of this looming crisis, I reached out to my constituents and asked them to give me their stories about our infrastructure. We received hundreds of responses. One of them was from Magnus in Hagerstown, Maryland, who talks about a major highway, Route I–81, that runs through Hagerstown, which he describes as ''Death Valley'' because he feels like he reads a story in the local newspaper about someone dying there almost every other week. He also commented about how it hurts economic growth for the region, and the region has not been able to attract the businesses it needs to grow its economy.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve a bipartisan solution to fund the highway trust fund, and we should be working on it now.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL R. MARTIN UMBARGER

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true patriot and public servant, Major General R. Martin Umbarger. After serving over four decades in the Indiana National Guard, including the past 10 as our adjutant general, I extend congratulations to him on the occasion of his retirement.

As commander of the fourth largest National Guard contingent in the United States, Major General Umbarger impacted the lives of countless Hoosiers and Americans. When communities in southern Indiana were torn apart by tornadoes, it was General Umbarger and the National Guard who came to their rescue. When the global war on terrorism began, it was General Umbarger and our 21,000 National Guardsmen who supported our most critical military operations.

General Umbarger is truly an extraordinary leader who has displayed a steadfast commitment to protecting Americans' freedoms at home and abroad. He also started the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy in Knightsville, which works to give so many kids a brighter future.

Major General Umbarger is a hero in every sense of the word. It is with pride that I recognize his tremendous legacy, and I wish him and his wife, Rowanna, the very best as they celebrate a well-deserved retirement.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 21, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 21, 2015 at 10:56 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 34.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1531

AFTER RECESS

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 535) to promote energy efficiency.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 535

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—BETTER BUILDINGS

Sec. 101. Short title.
Sec. 102. Energy efficiency in Federal and other buildings.
Sec. 103. Separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.
Sec. 104. Tenant Star program.

TITLE II—GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS

Sec. 201. Grid-enabled water heaters.

TITLE III—ENERGY INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Sec. 301. Energy information for commercial buildings.

TITLE I—BETTER BUILDINGS

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Better Buildings Act of 2015''.

SEC. 102. ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN FEDERAL AND OTHER BUILDINGS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) COST-EFFECTIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term ''cost-effective energy efficiency measure'' means any building product, material, equipment, or service, and the installing, implementing, or operating thereof, that provides energy savings in an amount that is not less than the cost of such installing, implementing, or operating.

(3) COST-EFFECTIVE WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term ''cost-effective water efficiency measure'' means any building product, material, equipment, or service, and the installing, implementing, or operating thereof, that provides water savings in an amount that is not less than the cost of such installing, implementing, or operating.

(b) MODEL PROVISIONS, POLICIES, AND BEST PRACTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and after providing the public with an opportunity for notice and comment, shall develop model commercial leasing provisions and best practices in accordance with this subsection.

(2) COMMERCIAL LEASING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The model commercial leasing provisions developed under this subsection shall, at a minimum, align the interests of building owners and tenants with regard to investments in cost-effective energy efficiency measures and cost-effective water efficiency measures to encourage building owners and tenants to collaborate to invest in such measures.

(B) USE OF MODEL PROVISIONS.—The Administrator may use the model commercial leasing provisions developed under this subsection in any standard leasing document that designates a Federal agency (or other client of the Administrator) as a landlord or tenant.

(C) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall periodically publish the model commercial leasing provisions developed under this subsection, along with explanatory materials, to encourage building owners and tenants in the private sector to use such provisions and materials.

(3) REALTY SERVICES.—The Administrator shall develop policies and practices to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures and cost-effective water efficiency measures for the realty services provided by the Administrator to Federal agencies (or other clients of the Administrator), including periodic training of appropriate Federal employees and contractors on how to identify and evaluate those measures.

(4) STATE AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall make available model commercial leasing provisions and best practices developed under this subsection to State, county, and municipal governments for use in managing owned and leased building space in accordance with the goal of encouraging investment in all cost-effective energy efficiency measures and cost-effective water efficiency measures.

SEC. 103. SEPARATE SPACES WITH HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17081 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 424. SEPARATE SPACES WITH HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term 'high-performance energy efficiency measure' means a technology, product, or practice that will result in substantial operational cost savings by reducing energy consumption and utility costs.

''(2) SEPARATE SPACES.—The term 'separate spaces' means areas within a commercial building that are leased or otherwise occupied by a tenant or other occupant for a period of time pursuant to the terms of a written agreement.

''(b) STUDY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, shall complete a study on the feasibility of—

''(A) significantly improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings through the design and construction, by owners and tenants, of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures; and

''(B) encouraging owners and tenants to implement high-performance energy efficiency measures in separate spaces.

''(2) SCOPE.—The study shall, at a minimum, include—

''(A) descriptions of—

''(i) high-performance energy efficiency measures that should be considered as part of the initial design and construction of separate spaces;

''(ii) processes that owners, tenants, architects, and engineers may replicate when designing and constructing separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures;

''(iii) policies and best practices to achieve reductions in energy intensities for lighting, plug loads, heating, cooling, cooking, laundry, and other systems to satisfy the needs of the commercial building tenant;

''(iv) return on investment and payback analyses of the incremental cost and projected energy savings of the proposed set of high-performance energy efficiency measures, including consideration of available incentives;

''(v) models and simulation methods that predict the quantity of energy used by separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures and that compare that predicted quantity to the quantity of energy used by separate spaces without high-performance energy efficiency measures but that otherwise comply with applicable building code requirements;

''(vi) measurement and verification platforms demonstrating actual energy use of high-performance energy efficiency measures installed in separate spaces, and whether such measures generate the savings intended in the initial design and construction of the separate spaces;

''(vii) best practices that encourage an integrated approach to designing and constructing separate spaces to perform at optimum energy efficiency in conjunction with the central systems of a commercial building; and

''(viii) any impact on employment resulting from the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures; and

''(B) case studies reporting economic and energy savings returns in the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

''(3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register requesting public comments regarding effective methods, measures, and practices for the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

''(4) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish the study on the website of the Department of Energy.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 423 the following new item:

''Sec. 424. Separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.''.

SEC. 104. TENANT STAR PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17081 et seq.) (as amended by section 103) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 425. TENANT STAR PROGRAM.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term 'high-performance energy efficiency measure' has the meaning given the term in section 424.

''(2) SEPARATE SPACES.—The term 'separate spaces' has the meaning given the term in section 424.

''(b) TENANT STAR.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in

consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall develop a voluntary program within the Energy Star program established by section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a), which may be known as 'Tenant Star', to promote energy efficiency in separate spaces leased by tenants or otherwise occupied within commercial buildings.

''(c) EXPANDING SURVEY DATA.—The Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, shall—

''(1) collect, through each Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey of the Energy Information Administration that is conducted after the date of enactment of this section, data on—

''(A) categories of building occupancy that are known to consume significant quantities of energy, such as occupancy by data centers, trading floors, and restaurants; and

''(B) other aspects of the property, building operation, or building occupancy determined by the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to be relevant in lowering energy consumption;

''(2) with respect to the first Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey conducted after the date of enactment of this section, to the extent full compliance with the requirements of paragraph (1) is not feasible, conduct activities to develop the capability to collect such data and begin to collect such data; and

''(3) make data collected under paragraphs (1) and (2) available to the public in aggregated form and provide such data, and any associated results, to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for use in accordance with subsection (d).

''(d) RECOGNITION OF OWNERS AND TENANTS.—

''(1) OCCUPANCY-BASED RECOGNITION.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which sufficient data is received pursuant to subsection (c), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, following an opportunity for public notice and comment—

''(A) in a manner similar to the Energy Star rating system for commercial buildings, develop policies and procedures to recognize tenants in commercial buildings that voluntarily achieve high levels of energy efficiency in separate spaces;

''(B) establish building occupancy categories eligible for Tenant Star recognition based on the data collected under subsection (c) and any other appropriate data sources; and

''(C) consider other forms of recognition for commercial building tenants or other occupants that lower energy consumption in separate spaces.

''(2) DESIGN- AND CONSTRUCTION-BASED RECOGNITION.—After the study required by section 424(b) is completed, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary and following an opportunity for public notice and comment, may develop a voluntary program to recognize commercial building owners and tenants that use high-performance energy efficiency measures in the design and construction of separate spaces.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 424 (as added by section 103(b)) the following new item:

''Sec. 425. Tenant Star program.''.

TITLE II—GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS

SEC. 201. GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS.

Part B of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended—

(1) in section 325(e) (42 U.S.C. 6295(e)), by adding at the end the following:

''(6) ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) ACTIVATION LOCK.—The term 'activation lock' means a control mechanism (either a physical device directly on the water heater or a control system integrated into the water heater) that is locked by default and contains a physical, software, or digital communication that must be activated with an activation key to enable the product to operate at its designed specifications and capabilities and without which activation the product will provide not greater than 50 percent of the rated first hour delivery of hot water certified by the manufacturer.

''(ii) GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATER.—The term 'grid-enabled water heater' means an electric resistance water heater that—

''(I) has a rated storage tank volume of more than 75 gallons;

''(II) is manufactured on or after April 16, 2015;

''(III) has—

''(aa) an energy factor of not less than 1.061 minus the product obtained by multiplying—

''(AA) the rated storage volume of the tank, expressed in gallons; and

''(BB) 0.00168; or

''(bb) an equivalent alternative standard prescribed by the Secretary and developed pursuant to paragraph (5)(E);

''(IV) is equipped at the point of manufacture with an activation lock; and

''(V) bears a permanent label applied by the manufacturer that—

''(aa) is made of material not adversely affected by water;

''(bb) is attached by means of non-water-soluble adhesive; and

''(cc) advises purchasers and end-users of the intended and appropriate use of the product with the following notice printed in 16.5 point Arial Narrow Bold font:

'' 'IMPORTANT INFORMATION: This water heater is intended only for use as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program. It will not provide adequate hot water unless enrolled in such a program and activated by your utility company or another program operator. Confirm the availability of a program in your local area before purchasing or installing this product.'.

''(B) REQUIREMENT.—The manufacturer or private labeler shall provide the activation key for a grid-enabled water heater only to a utility or other company that operates an electric thermal storage or demand response program that uses such a grid-enabled water heater.

''(C) REPORTS.—

''(i) MANUFACTURERS.—The Secretary shall require each manufacturer of grid-enabled water heaters to report to the Secretary annually the quantity of grid-enabled water heaters that the manufacturer ships each year.

''(ii) OPERATORS.—The Secretary shall require utilities and other demand response and thermal storage program operators to report annually the quantity of grid-enabled water heaters activated for their programs using forms of the Energy Information Agency or using such other mechanism that the Secretary determines appropriate after an opportunity for notice and comment.

''(iii) CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall treat shipment data reported by manufacturers as confidential business information.

''(D) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In 2017 and 2019, the Secretary shall publish an analysis of the data collected under subparagraph (C) to assess the extent to which shipped products are put into use in demand response and thermal storage programs.

''(ii) PREVENTION OF PRODUCT DIVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that sales of grid-enabled water heaters exceed by 15 percent or greater the quantity of such products activated for use in demand response and thermal storage programs annually, the Secretary shall, after opportunity for notice and comment, establish procedures to prevent product diversion for non-program purposes.

''(E) COMPLIANCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraphs (A) through (D) shall remain in effect until the Secretary determines under this section that—

''(I) grid-enabled water heaters do not require a separate efficiency requirement; or

''(II) sales of grid-enabled water heaters exceed by 15 percent or greater the quantity of such products activated for use in demand response and thermal storage programs annually and procedures to prevent product diversion for non-program purposes would not be adequate to prevent such product diversion.

''(ii) EFFECTIVE DATE.—If the Secretary exercises the authority described in clause (i) or amends the efficiency requirement for grid-enabled water heaters, that action will take effect on the date described in subsection (m)(4)(A)(ii).

''(iii) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out this section with respect to electric water heaters, the Secretary shall consider the impact on thermal storage and demand response programs, including any impact on energy savings, electric bills, peak load reduction, electric reliability, integration of renewable resources, and the environment.

''(iv) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary shall require that grid-enabled water heaters be equipped with communication capability to enable the grid-enabled water heaters to participate in ancillary services programs if the Secretary determines that the technology is available, practical, and cost-effective.'';

(2) in section 332(a) (42 U.S.C. 6302(a))—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in the first paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(C) by redesignating the second paragraph (6) as paragraph (7);

(D) in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (7) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) for any person—

''(A) to activate an activation lock for a grid-enabled water heater with knowledge that such water heater is not used as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program;

''(B) to distribute an activation key for a grid-enabled water heater with knowledge that such activation key will be used to activate a grid-enabled water heater that is not used as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program;

''(C) to otherwise enable a grid-enabled water heater to operate at its designed specification and capabilities with knowledge that such water heater is not used as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program; or

''(D) to knowingly remove or render illegible the label of a grid-enabled water heater described in section 325(e)(6)(A)(ii)(V).'';

(3) in section 333(a) (42 U.S.C. 6303(a))—

(A) by striking ''section 332(a)(5)'' and inserting ''paragraph (5), (6), (7), or (8) of section 332(a)''; and

(B) by striking ''paragraph (1), (2), or (5) of section 332(a)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1), (2), (5), (6), (7), or (8) of section 332(a)''; and

(4) in section 334 (42 U.S.C. 6304)—

(A) by striking ''section 332(a)(5)'' and inserting ''paragraph (5), (6), (7), or (8) of section 332(a)''; and

(B) by striking ''section 332(a)(6)'' and inserting ''section 332(a)(7)''.

TITLE III—ENERGY INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

SEC. 301. ENERGY INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

(a) REQUIREMENT OF BENCHMARKING AND DISCLOSURE FOR LEASING BUILDINGS WITHOUT ENERGY STAR LABELS.—Section 435(b)(2) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17091(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)''; and

(2) by striking ''signing the contract,'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following:

''signing the contract, the following requirements are met:

''(A) The space is renovated for all energy efficiency and conservation improvements that would be cost effective over the life of the lease, including improvements in lighting, windows, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.

''(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), the space is benchmarked under a nationally recognized, online, free benchmarking program, with public disclosure, unless the space is a space for which owners cannot access whole building utility consumption data, including spaces—

''(I) that are located in States with privacy laws that provide that utilities shall not provide such aggregated information to multitenant building owners; and

''(II) for which tenants do not provide energy consumption information to the commercial building owner in response to a request from the building owner.

''(ii) A Federal agency that is a tenant of the space shall provide to the building owner, or authorize the owner to obtain from the utility, the energy consumption information of the space for the benchmarking and disclosure required by this subparagraph.''.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in collaboration with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall complete a study—

(A) on the impact of—

(i) State and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies, and any associated building efficiency policies, for commercial and multifamily buildings; and

(ii) programs and systems in which utilities provide aggregated information regarding whole building energy consumption and usage information to owners of multitenant commercial, residential, and mixed-use buildings;

(B) that identifies best practice policy approaches studied under subparagraph (A) that have resulted in the greatest improvements in building energy efficiency; and

(C) that considers—

(i) compliance rates and the benefits and costs of the policies and programs on building owners, utilities, tenants, and other parties;

(ii) utility practices, programs, and systems that provide aggregated energy consumption information to multitenant building owners, and the impact of public utility commissions and State privacy laws on those practices, programs, and systems;

(iii) exceptions to compliance in existing laws where building owners are not able to gather or access whole building energy information from tenants or utilities;

(iv) the treatment of buildings with—

(I) multiple uses;

(II) uses for which baseline information is not available; and

(III) uses that require high levels of energy intensities, such as data centers, trading floors, and televisions studios;

(v) implementation practices, including disclosure methods and phase-in of compliance;

(vi) the safety and security of benchmarking tools offered by government agencies, and the resiliency of those tools against cyber attacks; and

(vii) international experiences with regard to building benchmarking and disclosure laws and data aggregation for multitenant buildings.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—At the conclusion of the study, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the results of the study.

(c) CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DATABASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act and following opportunity for public notice and comment, the Secretary of Energy, in coordination with other relevant agencies, shall maintain, and if necessary create, a database for the purpose of storing and making available public energy-related information on commercial and multifamily buildings, including—

(A) data provided under Federal, State, local, and other laws or programs regarding building benchmarking and energy information disclosure;

(B) information on buildings that have disclosed energy ratings and certifications; and

(C) energy-related information on buildings provided voluntarily by the owners of the buildings, only in an anonymous form unless the owner provides otherwise.

(2) COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS.—The database maintained pursuant to paragraph (1) shall complement and not duplicate the functions of the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Portfolio Manager tool.

(d) INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS.—The Secretary of Energy shall seek input from stakeholders to maximize the effectiveness of the actions taken under this section.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the progress made in complying with this section.

Passed the Senate March 26 (legislative day, March 27), 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Today, we are considering S. 535, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015, a bill to address energy efficiency in Federal buildings, energy conservation through the continued use of grid-enabled water heaters, and energy information for federally leased commercial buildings.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) for working with us on this important legislation. Both sides of the aisle came together in this legislation, and I want to thank all of them and their staffs for the work that they have done.

Madam Speaker, the first title in this bill would establish a Tenant Star program—a voluntary certification and recognition program—within ENERGY STAR to promote energy efficiency in separate spaces. This program allows for a voluntary, market-driven approach to aligning the interests of commercial building owners and their tenants to reduce energy consumption. The DOE would also be required to complete a study on feasible approaches to improving the energy efficiency of tenant-occupied spaces in commercial buildings.

The second title in this bill relates to hot water heaters. There are approximately 250 electric cooperatives in 34 States that utilize large electric resistance water heaters in demand response programs to help with reliability and consumer costs during peak periods of energy use.

In March 2010, the Department of Energy issued new energy efficiency standards for large electric resistance water heaters that would, in effect, prohibit the manufacture of these water heaters that are 55 gallons or larger in favor of heat pump technology for water heaters of 55 gallons or larger. These standards took effect last week.

I might say that the American people from whom I frequently hear are totally frustrated by the micromanagement of the government in almost every aspect of their lives, and this regulation about water heaters is just one example.

At the hearing that we held on this regulation, the manufacturers testified that this regulation would basically double the cost of these water heaters. We have a situation in which many heat pump water heaters are not compatible with certain utility thermal energy storage and demand response programs that allow utilities to reduce or to shift their loads during certain periods of energy use. Title II would allow for the continued manufacture of large electric resistant water heaters above certain gallons specifically for use in these energy savings programs.

This is very common sense, Congress' responding to concerns by the general

public that the Department of Energy is trying to micromanage this small part of the energy sector in the United States.

I might mention that the third title of this bill requires that federally leased buildings without ENERGY STAR labels benchmark and disclose their energy usage data where practicable. Federally owned buildings are already subject to benchmarking requirements pursuant to section 432 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Title III simply requires the DOE to complete a study of best practices regarding State and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies for commercial and multifamily buildings in addition to the impact of utility policies for providing aggregated information to owners of multi-tenant buildings to assist with benchmarking programs.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation. It has passed the House and the Senate. The Senate bill was a little bit different than ours, so we are taking up their bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I thank the gentleman for his excellent work.

Today is a very good day in Congress and in our country as we send to the President's desk bipartisan legislation that will: one, lower energy bills for families and businesses; two, create good jobs in manufacturing American-made energy efficiency products; and, three, improve our environment by reducing carbon emissions. I am hopeful that the common ground we have found in this bill sets the stage for further cooperation by both parties and by both Chambers in addressing many of the challenges facing our country.

I want to thank Chairman UPTON and Chairman WHITFIELD, and I want to thank Ranking Member PALLONE and Ranking Member RUSH for working with us to advance this important legislation.

Thank you, especially, Representative MCKINLEY, for partnering with me this term and last on this issue. Your background as an engineer and as a small business owner has provided much-needed expertise to our committee, and I am grateful to you for your partnership and leadership on this issue.

The bill before us today, as Mr. WHITFIELD said, advanced by Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN in the Senate, also includes some very good ideas from many Members of this House, those from Representatives CRAMER, DOYLE, LATTA, LOEBSACK, CASTOR, and KINZINGER.

Thank you all for your contributions to this good, bipartisan bill.

Madam Speaker, I have long believed that energy efficiency is an issue that lends itself to looking past partisan differences to find common ground in our Congress. We may disagree on the causes of climate change and of the best fuel mix to meet America's energy needs, but we can all agree that using less of whatever energy source is more. We can all agree that creating demand for American-made, energy-efficient products will create good jobs, and we can all agree that cutting the energy bills of homeowners, businesses, and the Federal Government is a very good thing.

Vermont has been a leader for a long time in energy efficiency. We were the first in the Nation to establish an ''energy efficiency utility'' to provide assistance to homeowners and businesses that were seeking to lower their energy bills. In 2013 alone, the work of Efficiency Vermont yielded a lifetime customer savings of $206 million for Vermonters. That is real money.

The bill before us today takes an important step towards making America more energy efficient. It includes the Better Buildings Act, also known as Tenant Star, which will drive private sector innovation in the energy efficiency sector. Homes and buildings consume 40 percent of our energy in the United States. That is 40 percent. In commercial buildings, owners report that tenants consume up to 50 percent or more of the total building energy.

One of the challenges facing commercial buildings has been the issue of ''split incentives.'' Building owners and tenants are not always on the same page when it comes to energy performance. Part of the problem is that only one party is paying the energy bill. The other part of the problem is that, while we recognize energy-efficient buildings through our ENERGY STAR program, we have no similar recognition program for tenant spaces. Our bill creates a voluntary Tenant Star recognition program for separate spaces in commercial buildings.

When we combine ENERGY STAR buildings with Tenant Star rentals, we can optimize energy efficiency and shorten payback periods. A good example of this synergy can be found in the ENERGY STAR-certified Vermont Innovation Center, located in Burlington, Vermont. The Vermont Energy Investment Corporation is located in this building as well as my own district office.

The VEIC took aggressive action to optimize the efficiency of its tenant space in the building. It converted the overhead fluorescent lighting to highly efficient LEDs and applied 6 inches of spray foam insulation to the exterior walls. Making these improvements in an ENERGY STAR building optimized an already efficient tenant space. The VEIC expects to save nearly $11,000 a year in energy savings. However, there is no recognition program for these improvements, and we don't know what else VEIC could be doing to increase energy savings.

Under this bill, we will study the best ways to optimize commercial tenant spaces and to recognize such spaces with a new Tenant Star label. By combining energy-efficient tenant buildouts with ENERGY STAR buildings, we will double down on a successful program and optimize energy savings in commercial buildings, all through voluntary action.

In addition to Tenant Star, this legislation includes two other important efficiency provisions.

First, the bill makes much-needed changes to energy efficiency standards for large water heaters used in demand response programs. These water heaters act as residential energy storage devices and allow utilities to curb energy demand during peak hours.

Mr. WHITFIELD, thank you again for your leadership on this.

Second, the bill will require the disclosure of the amount of energy consumed in federally leased buildings and begin benchmarking their energy use.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass additional bipartisan energy efficiency bills, including a more expansive version of the McKinley-Welch-Shaheen-Portman legislation before us today. We should also pass legislation to encourage performance contracting in Federal buildings and streamline the Federal green schools efforts.

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Madam Speaker, energy efficiency is not a partisan issue. I am encouraged by the steps we are taking today and look forward to working with my colleagues on additional initiatives that cut energy bills, create jobs, and improve the environment. I urge Members to vote for this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. WELCH. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH).

Mr. RUSH. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 535, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015, and I want to join with my colleague, Mr. WELCH, in congratulating all in the leadership: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PALLONE, and the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. Speaker, this is a modest but, most importantly, a bipartisan piece of legislation that combines three separate energy efficiency titles. This bill was passed by unanimous consent out of the Senate just this last month.

The bill before us today is also similar to H.R. 2126, which passed out of this House in the last session of Congress on an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 375–36.

The first title of this bill, Madam Speaker, is the Better Buildings Act, which was introduced into the Congress by my friends and colleagues, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

This title simply directs the General Services Administration to develop model leasing provisions and best practices to encourage commercial building

owners and their tenants to invest in cost-effective energy efficiency measures. These model leasing provisions may then be used in Federal leases and, along with the best practices, Madam Speaker, shall be made available to all State and local governments.

Additionally, section 103 directs the Department of Energy to conduct a study on the feasibility of significantly improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings through the design and construction of separate tenant spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

Section 104 directs the EPA to develop a ''Tenant Star'' program within the ENERGY STAR program to promote energy efficiency in separate spaces leased by tenants in commercial buildings. This data can then be used to establish an ENERGY STAR rating system to recognize tenants in commercial buildings that voluntarily achieve high levels of energy efficiency in separate spaces.

Madam Speaker, title II of this bill, the Grid-Enabled Water Heaters bill, was introduced by my colleague and my good friend, Chairman WHITFIELD, along with Mr. WELCH, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. DOYLE. This section establishes a separate energy efficiency standard for grid-enabled water heaters, which are used in utility demand and thermal storage programs.

Finally, Madam Speaker, title III of this bill, the Energy Information for Commercial Buildings bill, which was introduced into Congress by my friend and colleague, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, requires Federally leased buildings without ENERGY STAR labels to benchmark and disclose their energy usage data in most cases.

It also requires the Department of Energy to complete a study of best practices for and impacts of, one, State and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies for commercial and multifamily buildings; and, two, utility policies for providing aggregated information to owners of multitenant buildings to assist with benchmarking programs. In addition, Madam Speaker, the DOE is required to maintain a database to store and make available public energy-related information on commercial and multifamily buildings.

Madam Speaker, in recent history, we have not been able to pass bipartisan energy legislation through both Chambers and into law, so it is important that we move this bill to the President's desk so that we can demonstrate once again to the American people that this Congress is still capable of functioning properly and legislating on their behalf.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I don't believe we have any additional speakers on our side, and I would like the opportunity to close, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time, and thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) not just for his remarks on this bill, but for his leadership on this issue and other issues in the committee over the years.

It is a good day when we can come together to do something constructive. This legislation finds that spot, energy efficiency, where we can join in embracing the enormous benefit of creating ways where homeowners and business owners of commercial buildings can figure out how to cut down on their bills. Whatever fuel source they use, if they have got a lower bill, that is a good thing.

To achieve that goal, we have to put Americans to work, a lot of tradespeople who have got real skills and need a place to use them. They are the ones who retrofit these buildings, commercial buildings and homes. There is an incidental benefit: We reduce carbon emissions since we are using less fuel. This is tremendous.

I want to thank the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) for all the good work that they did.

Madam Speaker, seeing no other speakers here, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle once again, specifically Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN, Congressmen MCKINLEY and WELCH, Mr. UPTON and Mr. PALLONE, and certainly Mr. RUSH of Illinois. All of them worked very diligently on this, and I know they are committed to efficiency.

I want to just say one more time that I am specifically pleased that this legislation will stop the Department of Energy's regulation that would prohibit the manufacture of heat-resistant water heaters above 55 gallons. If that regulation had been allowed to continue, it would have cost the American public a lot more money going to the heat pump technology. So this legislation has stopped that. It is going to improve efficiency. I would urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 535, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015. This is bipartisan legislation to promote energy efficiency that recently passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

S. 535—sponsored by Senators PORTMAN and SHAHEEN—is very similar to legislation reported last Congress by the Energy and Commerce Committee which passed the House with an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote. The bill addresses three main areas: energy efficient buildings, the grid-enabled water heaters, and energy benchmarking and information disclosure for federal buildings.

Title one is comprised of the Better Buildings Act, bipartisan legislation sponsored in the House by Reps. MCKINLEY and WELCH. Section 102 of the bill directs the General Services Administration to develop model leasing provisions and best practices to encourage commercial building owners and tenants to invest in cost-effective energy efficiency measures. It also ensures the model leasing provisions are available for use in federal leases and, along with the best practices, are available for state and local governments to also use. Additionally, Section 103 directs the Department of Energy (DOE) to study improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings through design and construction of separate tenant spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures. And, Section 104 directs EPA to develop a voluntary ''Tenant Star'' program within the Energy Star program to promote energy efficiency in separate spaces leased by tenants in commercial buildings and requires the Agency to establish an Energy Star rating system to recognize tenants in commercial buildings that voluntarily achieve high levels of energy efficiency in separate spaces.

Title two establishes a separate energy efficiency standard for grid-enabled water heaters, which are used in utility demand-response and thermal storage programs. This is substantially the same language included in H.R. 906, legislation sponsored by Chairman WHITFIELD, Mr. LOEBSACK and others that was reported without dissent last week by our committee. In addition to establishing a separate standard for these water heaters, the provision requires those units to have a built-in activation lock to ensure their participation in such a program.

Finally, title three is essentially the same as H.R. 1867, legislation sponsored by Reps. CASTOR and KINZINGER regarding energy information for commercial buildings. Section 301 requires federally-leased buildings without Energy Star labels to benchmark and disclose their energy usage data except in certain circumstances. It also requires DOE to complete a study of best practices regarding the impacts of state and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies for commercial and multifamily buildings, as well as utility policies for providing aggregated information to owners of multitenant buildings to assist with benchmarking programs. In addition, it requires DOE to maintain a database to store and make available public energy-related information on commercial and multifamily buildings.

S. 535 is a stripped down version of the Shaheen-Portman efficiency legislation that has taken far too long to pass either chamber. However, I am disappointed that—unlike the original Shaheen-Portman bill—the proposal before us does not contain provisions authored by Rep. ESHOO that would address the efficiency of federal data centers. This is an area where we can easily see a great gain in efficiency relatively quickly and easily and her proposal has good bipartisan support. So, I have to note with concern the fact that something as useful and bipartisan as that federal data center efficiency language could not make it into the final package, despite being something that enjoys support on both sides.

I hope that is an anomaly and not a harbinger of things to come, because we need to look at both sides of the equation—demand and supply, consumers and producers—to construct an energy policy for the future, one that is both economically and environmentally sustainable. And we need the resources of both sides of the aisle, both chambers of Congress and all branches of government to get there.

Today, the Obama Administration released the first installment of its Quadrennial Energy Review (QER) after a year-long, detailed examination of our energy needs. The QER is not exactly glamorous, but it is a serious, thoughtful and necessary look at how best to modernize America's energy infrastructure to create jobs and grow our economy in a manner that ensures our energy security and protects our environment. While I look forward to reviewing the complete report, I know that the progress updates we have received throughout the year have elicited positive and hopeful reactions from both sides of the aisle.

That's why I'm particularly pleased that the Administration is releasing this now while our Committee and our counterparts in the other body are considering the components of a possible bipartisan energy bill. We must meet consumers' need for reliable, affordable and, just as importantly, clean energy—one of the nation's most pressing issues. The QER looks to the future of our economy to take full advantage of American innovation and the new sources of domestic energy supply that are transforming the nation's energy marketplace. Just like efficiency, energy infrastructure—particularly with regard to size, scope, volume and siting—is critical to that endeavor. So, too, is the makeup—not just the volume—of the jobs that are created in modernizing that infrastructure; they must be jobs that are long-term, well-paying, and a gateway to the American dream for a diverse range of women and men.

As Chairman UPTON, Chairman WHITFIELD, Ranking Member RUSH and I continue to explore the potential for developing and moving a bipartisan energy bill during this Congress, I hope we will take advantage of the QER, as well as the best consensus ideas on both sides of the aisle here in Congress. That, to me, is the only successful path forward and it is the process embodied in the legislation before us today.

I urge my colleagues to support both the legislation before us and continuing the effort to build a broad, bipartisan partnership on energy issues. Only through this kind of cooperation can we enact energy legislation that truly powers our economy and our future.

Mr. PETERSON. Madam Speaker, I strongly support the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act, which will create a special category for large volume water heaters in the Department of Energy's new energy efficiency standards. Without this bill, manufacturers would no longer be able to make large volume water heaters, which are commonly used in Minnesota homes.

This legislation is necessary because the DOE failed to recognize the many benefits that large-volume water heaters provide, like bringing more renewable energy onto the grid, and allowing power plants to run more efficiently. The Department then made a problematic rule even worse by pulling a waiver for this technology three weeks before the rule went final this month.

This could have been where the story ended, but a diverse coalition of stakeholders had been working together to ensure that this technology can continue to be used.

They know that using electricity in a smarter way not only saves consumers money, but it is also good for the environment and helps to stabilize the grid.

That is why industry, environmental and energy efficiency stakeholders support these hot water heaters when used as part of demand response systems. I hope that with the passage of this bill, the Department can get quickly reverse course, and move forward.

This is good, reasonable legislation and I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 535.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENSURING PATIENT ACCESS AND EFFECTIVE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 471) to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 471

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 ''Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. REGISTRATION PROCESS UNDER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) FACTORS AS MAY BE RELEVANT TO AND CONSISTENT WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY.—Section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) In this section, the phrase 'factors as may be relevant to and consistent with the public health and safety' means factors that are relevant to and consistent with the findings contained in section 101.''.

(2) IMMINENT DANGER TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY.—Section 304(d) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 824(d)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''(d) The Attorney General'' and inserting ''(d)(1) The Attorney General''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) In this subsection, the phrase 'imminent danger to the public health or safety' means that, in the absence of an immediate suspension order, controlled substances will continue to be distributed or dispensed by a registrant who knows or should know through fulfilling the obligations of the registrant under this Act—

''(A) the dispensing is outside the usual course of professional practice;

''(B) the distribution or dispensing poses a present or foreseeable risk of adverse health consequences or death due to the abuse or misuse of the controlled substances; or

''(C) the controlled substances will continue to be diverted outside of legitimate distribution channels.''.

(b) OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN PRIOR TO REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION.—Subsection (c) of section 304 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 824) is amended—

(1) by striking the last two sentences;

(2) by striking ''(c) Before'' and inserting ''(c)(1) Before''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) An order to show cause under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) contain a statement of the basis for the denial, revocation, or suspension, including specific citations to any laws or regulations alleged to be violated by the applicant or registrant;

''(B) direct the applicant or registrant to appear before the Attorney General at a time and place stated in the order, but not less than 30 days after the date of receipt of the order; and

''(C) notify the applicant or registrant of the opportunity to submit a corrective action plan on or before the date of appearance.

''(3) Upon review of any corrective action plan submitted by an applicant or registrant pursuant to paragraph (2), the Attorney General shall determine whether denial, revocation or suspension proceedings should be discontinued, or deferred for the purposes of modification, amendment, or clarification to such plan.

''(4) Proceedings to deny, revoke, or suspend shall be conducted pursuant to this section in accordance with subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code. Such proceedings shall be independent of, and not in lieu of, criminal prosecutions or other proceedings under this title or any other law of the United States.

''(5) The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to the issuance of an immediate suspension order under subsection (d).''.

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON EFFECTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES ON PATIENT ACCESS TO MEDICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in coordination with the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate identifying—

(1) obstacles to legitimate patient access to controlled substances;

(2) issues with diversion of controlled substances; and

(3) how collaboration between Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies and the pharmaceutical industry can benefit patients and prevent diversion and abuse of controlled substances.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The report under subsection (a) shall incorporate feedback and recommendations from the following:

(1) Patient groups.

(2) Pharmacies.

(3) Drug manufacturers.

(4) Common or contract carriers and warehousemen.

(5) Hospitals, physicians, and other health care providers.

(6) State attorneys general.

(7) Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

(8) Health insurance providers and entities that provide pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a health insurance provider.

(9) Wholesale drug distributors.

(10) Veterinarians.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 471, the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015. This critical legislation combats inappropriate use of prescription drugs by bringing greater clarity and transparency to the requirements for safe and secure distribution of these medicines.

It accomplishes these goals by clarifying some key terminology in the Controlled Substances Act. This comprehensive approach to the legislation will result in better protections against diversion and abuse of controlled substances.

What it does is it provides the DEA with the clarity to collaborate with the very people responsible for ensuring that these medications get to the patients who need them without hurting and harming that distribution chain and while clamping down on diversions and abuse. These collaborations will lead to improved policies to prevent diversion while allowing legitimate patients to have access to the medications they need.

Now, like so many components and pieces and bills and parts of legislation, the best example of why this is needed is a story that comes from home. In the case of this bill, we had a constituent who called our office after one of the recent ice storms that we saw in middle Tennessee this winter. It seemed as if these storms would never stop. The ice would come, and then it would not melt.

We had a constituent who has a son who has a severe seizure disorder, and he takes three different medicines to control these seizures. Although his medicines are not opioids, two of them are controlled substances. So this mother, taking care of her son, decided she better get herself to the drugstore before the storm hit, and she did just that, to refill his prescriptions. She was anticipating that the prescriptions would run out before the ice melted and she would be able to get to the store.

At the drugstore, she was told that she could not refill them because it was too early. She explained the situation. The pharmacist sympathized, but the pharmacist went on to say if the prescription were to be filled early, there would be problems with the DEA and other agencies.

□ 1600

The pharmacist was worried that his license might be lost.

Our legislation is simply to ensure that patients who have a legitimate need for medications can receive them while we are battling diversion and abuse, which truly is a problem in this country.

So, Madam Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this effort.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, April 20, 2015.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: I am writing with respect to H.R. 471, the ''Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015.'' As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 471 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our Committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 471 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 471, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 471.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, April 20, 2015.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 471, the ''Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015''. As you noted, there are provisions of the bill that fall within the Committee on the Judiciary's Rule X jurisdiction.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo consideration of H.R. 471, and I agree that your decision is not a waiver of any of the Committee on the Judiciary's jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward. In addition, I understand the Committee reserves the right to seek the appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, for which you will have my support.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 471 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

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

I am pleased that the House is taking up again bipartisan action today to address the serious issue that impacts families in each of our districts: prescription drug abuse.

Vermont, like Tennessee and many States around the country, is grappling with a serious opiate epidemic. In addition to alarming increases in heroin abuse, admissions for treatment of prescription drug abuse increased 361 percent between 2005 and 2013.

As we have experienced in Vermont, we are most effective in dealing with this public health crisis when stakeholders—providers, public health officials, law enforcement, distributors, and pharmacists—come together to tackle the problem head-on.

Today, the distributors of prescription drugs, along with local pharmacies, are experiencing unpredictable enforcement from the DEA. This has led to disruptions in the supply chain which limit patient access to prescription drugs for legitimate uses, as was evidenced by my colleague's story.

The Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act will encourage collaboration between law enforcement, members of the supply chain, and public health providers and officials while ensuring patients have access to the treatment their doctor has prescribed.

It has been a pleasure to work with Representative MARINO, Representative BLACKBURN, and Representative CHU, who has been a major leader on this, and I thank them for their efforts and their leadership. I also thank Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE for making this issue a priority of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 471, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I think it is so important for us to note that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO) has been the primary author of this legislation and has brought to the table to work on this bill his experience of 7 years as a U.S. attorney—10 years prior to that as a district attorney—and has seen firsthand and dealt with drug diversion, drug enforcement issues, and the needs of the patient.

At this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO).

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, in early 2013, a pharmacist told me about a problem he was having accessing necessary prescriptions for his customers, many of whom were older cancer patients suffering with chronic pain.

What started out as a simple conversation with a constituent soon

turned into serious concerns about problems in the prescription drug supply chain—problems that we aim to address here today by passing H.R. 471, the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act.

Any legitimate business involved in distributing or dispensing prescriptions welcomes appropriate oversight and regulation. Further, we know these businesses value a collaborative working relationship with agencies like the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies alike are on the front lines every day in the fight to end the prescription drug abuse epidemic. They are making efforts to educate prescribers and patients about the safe use and disposal of prescriptions and working to implement prescription drug monitoring programs that will reduce the illegal diversion of powerful opioid pain relievers.

Despite a strong commitment to being part of the solution, distributors and pharmacists are finding that the unnecessary adversarial regulatory environment created by the DEA is putting effective enforcement outcomes in jeopardy.

As a former district attorney and United States attorney, I have fond memories of working with DEA agents to put away drug dealers. To say that I have the highest regard for the DEA and the work they do does not begin to convey my respect for the agency and its employees. That is why I am so passionate about this subject and why I think it is necessary to pass H.R. 471 today.

This bill will bring much-needed clarity to critical provisions of the Controlled Substances Act. In doing so, we will ensure that the DEA's authorities are not abused and threatened by future legal challenges; foster greater collaboration, communication, and transparency between the DEA and the supply chain; create more opportunities to identify bad actors at the end of the supply chain; and, most importantly, be certain that prescriptions are accessible to patients in need.

We are all in this together. We cannot enforce our way out of this epidemic. Education, treatment, and enforcement are all critical to addressing the problem, but so is collaboration.

The clarity that H.R. 471 brings will ensure that the current regulatory culture evolves into one that rewards cooperation and brings more successful diversion control efforts in the future.

I want to thank my friend, Congresswoman BLACKBURN, for working closely with my team and me to develop the bill. I want to thank our champions on the other side of the aisle, Dr. JUDY CHU and Representative PETER WELCH, for their leadership and efforts to bring us here today.

We could not have achieved this without the efforts of Chairman PITTS and Chairman UPTON and their staff on the Energy and Commerce Committee. I must thank House Judiciary Committee Chairman GOODLATTE for his forthright suggestions that made this a more effective, efficient measure worthy of consideration by this House.

Again, I want to stress the fact that this is bipartisan. The Democrats and the Republicans saw the importance in this and got together, and we worked it out, and I thank everyone involved.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU), one of the lead sponsors of this legislation.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, prescription drugs improve the quality of life for millions of Americans. They treat illnesses, alleviate pain, and help cure disease. But the ease of abuse has turned a solution into a problem.

Each year, nearly 15,000 overdose deaths are attributed to prescription pain relievers—more than heroin and cocaine combined. Our government and private entities in the prescription drug supply chain must do what they can to prevent drug abuse and diversion.

At the same time, we must ensure that pharmacists, who are our Nation's most accessible healthcare providers, are able to dispense drugs to patients who are in legitimate need and have proper prescriptions without groundless disruptions.

The bipartisan bill we vote on today that I am proud to have introduced with my colleagues would do just that. Our bill encourages collaboration between stakeholders and the Drug Enforcement Administration to ensure effective enforcement of abuse while also ensuring that patients will continue to have safe access to the drugs they need. This will lead to fewer disruptions for pharmacists and, in turn, ensure that patients will not be left behind.

I urge an ''aye'' vote on this very important bill.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY), one of our colleagues from the Appropriations Committee handling Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations.

Mr. JOLLY. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this commonsense measure that will help us more effectively fight prescription drug abuse while also ensuring that Americans are able to get their needed pain medications.

Florida has been at the epicenter of the debate concerning combating prescription drug abuse while ensuring legitimate patient access to critical pain medications.

Florida was one of the first States to be affected by the proliferation of ''pill mills'' and took strong action to shut them down, under the stellar leadership of our State attorney general.

We have seen similar challenges nationally, and DEA has taken action. Unfortunately, Federal agencies have not coordinated their efforts to ensure appropriate access to prescription controlled substances.

In Florida and elsewhere, we are seeing legitimate patients who are getting caught up in the efforts to stop prescription drug abuse.

My own father was one of those patients: an 80-year-old retired minister prescribed a legitimate medication for chronic pain and yet unable to fill that prescription at his local pharmacy. All of the best intentions in the world by all of the actors but, unfortunately, there were very unintended consequences for a patient who needed care.

The issue is largely due to DEA policies and extremely poor coordination between DEA and FDA.

The key to this legislation is collaboration and coordination. This bill requires HHS and DEA to collaboratively assess the obstacles patients like my own father face and more effectively coordinate those efforts to prevent diversion and abuse of prescription drugs, while including the input of private sector stakeholders who are vital to these efforts.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important and commonsense legislation.

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

I want to thank my colleagues, particularly Mr. MARINO. We have the practical application of a commonsense approach here, where, on the one hand, you have got this enormous health need that the people whom we represent can have some of their suffering alleviated if they can get access to the appropriate prescription drugs. On the other hand, we do have an abuse. Folks get stuck on them, and we have got law enforcement out there trying to make sure they are enforcing the laws.

The need for law enforcement and the need for proper access to prescription medication have to coexist. This practical presentation that was spearheaded by somebody who knows how law enforcement works and is committed to the principles of good law enforcement, I think, really gave this Congress a boost in coming up with a practical, bipartisan approach to finding the right balance.

So I thank my colleague, Mrs. BLACKBURN, as well as Mr. JOLLY, for what I thought was a very helpful statement, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO), a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee who has worked through this issue with some veterans.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 471.

We have all seen reports in our local newspapers about the fight against prescription drug abuse by our local law enforcement officials and the damaging effect that prescription drug abuse has

on families and communities across this country.

According to the CDC, since 1999, the amount of prescription painkillers prescribed and sold in the United States has quadrupled. There is, indeed, a trend in the abuse of prescription painkillers, which is, in part, attributed to the changes in how providers prescribe painkillers.

The best way to crack down on prescription drug abuse is to have a broad coalition of specialists, including supply chain stakeholders and regulators, to encourage a constructive dialogue to help minimize the impact of this serious public health issue. This legislation does just that.

Our Federal agencies will be required to consult with our local pharmacies and stakeholders on how best to prevent prescription drug abuse, while not taking away the access for individuals who rely on these drugs for medicinal needs.

I commend the efforts of Congressman MARINO and Congresswoman BLACKBURN to create a more constructive environment between manufacturers, wholesalers, retail pharmacies, and enforcement agencies to crack down on this epidemic.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, as our colleagues have heard today, this is a bipartisan effort, and Mr. MARINO has really worked diligently with his team and with all of us on this legislation to make certain that we got it right the first time and we didn't have to come back and revisit it.

I thank him, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU) for the efforts that they have put into this, and also Chairman PITTS and Chairman UPTON for the diligence that they have shown to the issue to make certain that we moved the bill through the process.

As I said earlier, this is about access to the supply chain and making certain that those with legitimate needs for these medicines have the ability to access them in a timely manner, also bringing our pharmacists and the DEA into a collaborative process, with clarity, so that they make certain that this supply chain remains open to those that need it and that the DEA has the ability to continue to fight diversion and drug abuse.

Prescription drugs kill more people than heroin. This is something we need to realize is a problem. At the same time, those that need these medicines, we need to make certain that supply chain is clear.

I thank my colleagues for their diligence and their work, and I encourage an ''aye'' vote.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 471, the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015.

Millions of Americans rely on prescription drugs to treat and cure illnesses and improve the overall quality of their lives. Unfortunately, we also have a significant problem in this country with abuse of prescription drugs.

H.R. 471 would help drug distributors, pharmacies, and others work with DEA to achieve the difficult balance between keeping controlled substance prescription drugs away from drug abusers, but not from patients who urgently need them.

It would achieve this goal by making several changes to the Controlled Substances Act. It would provide definitions for the phrases ''factors as may be relevant to and consistent with the public health and safety'' and ''imminent danger to the public health or safety.'' It would require DEA to provide registrants an opportunity to submit an action plan to correct any violations for which DEA is considering revoking or suspending their controlled substance registration. And it would require FDA, in consultation with DEA, to submit a report one year after enactment to Congress on obstacles to legitimate patient access to controlled substances and collaborative efforts to benefit patients and prevent abuse of these substances.

I want to thank Representatives BLACKBURN, MARINO, WELCH and CHU for introducing this bipartisan legislation and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 471, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 21) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 21

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR SOAP BOX DERBY RACES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association (in this resolution referred to as the ''sponsor'') shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, soap box derby races (in this resolution referred to as the ''event''), on the Capitol Grounds.

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on June 20, 2015, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment as may be required for the event.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make such additional arrangements as may be required to carry out the event.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, with respect to the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 21.

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

There was no objection.

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

H. Con. Res. 21 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the annual Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on June 20.

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for introducing this resolution. He has been a longtime supporter of this event and the children involved each year.

This event occurs annually on the Capitol Grounds. The soapbox derby encourages children to show off their dedication, work, and creativity as they compete for trophies. The winners of each division are qualified to compete in the national All-American Soap Box Derby held in Ohio.

I support passage of this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative HOYER for, every year, introducing this resolution on behalf of the Washington regional delegation, and I rise as an original cosponsor.

This annual competitive event encourages boys and girls, ages 9 through 16, to construct and operate their own

soapbox vehicles. The children that participate in these races come from all over the national capital region to participate in this really fun event.

The derby has become quite a tradition in Washington. The D.C. metropolitan area has hosted this tradition for over the last 20 years. It provides a terrific opportunity for children to appreciate the workmanship necessary to build the vehicles and for the thrill of competition.

Winners of this event go on to compete in the national competition in Akron, Ohio, where they compete against children from all over the world. On race day, every Greater Washington Soap Box Derby participant starts the race day with a chance to become a world champion.

The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby organizers will work with the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police to ensure the appropriate rules and regulations are in place and that the event remains free to the public.

I support this terrific opportunity for the children of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, and I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I may have one additional speaker, but I would like to say that the children who participate in this event do so with a lot of creativity and ingenuity. They spend an entire year designing their vehicles, then they test their vehicles; they experiment with their friends, and then they put them out on race day for the soapbox derby.

Now, I haven't had the privilege, Mr. Speaker, of participating in a soapbox derby, but they sure are fun to watch. Each year, Representative HOYER makes sure that all of our delegation in the Metropolitan Washington region gathers to organize to make certain that children, from ages 9 through 16, are able to construct those vehicles, operate them themselves, and compete in the competition.

As I have said before, Mr. Speaker, the great challenge is that, on race day, in the morning, all of the young people participating in the soapbox derby get up; and on that day, first thing in the morning, every single one of them is a champion, right up until the finish line. It is an exciting time for these young people.

Of course, they go on to compete in a competition in Akron, Ohio, where there are kids gathered from all over the world who also do the same thing: build those soapboxes and participate.

The Washington metropolitan region is really grateful to be able to host this soapbox derby and, of course, with the good graces of this Congress, to be able to do that on the Capitol Grounds with the cooperation of the Architect.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our whip.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I thank her for using some of the time so I could get up to the floor. I appreciate that very much. I also thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which I have sponsored for many Congresses, to permit the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to hold its annual race on the grounds of the United States Capitol. I am sure that both the chairman and the ranking member, Ms. EDWARDS, have already said that.

This year will be the 74th soapbox derby, held on June 20. On that day, young people from around Washington, D.C., will gather at the Capitol for an event that is both fun, educational, and a teacher of responsibility and making things in America.

The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby began in 1938 with Norman Rocca outmaneuvering 223 other racers to win the inaugural race. Each year since, dozens of boys and girls, ranging in age from 8 to 17, have competed in three divisions: stock, super stock, and masters. The winner in each will qualify to compete with racers from across the country in the All-American Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio.

Called ''the greatest amateur racing event in the world,'' America's soapbox derbies bring parents, children, and friends and neighbors together. They teach hard work, leadership, sportsmanship, and pride of achievement.

These values not only make great soapbox racers, but great American innovators and leaders in business, government, science, and the arts. Participants are often sponsored by community groups, police departments, fire departments, service organizations, and others who see future great promise in these children and teenagers.

Mr. Speaker, I have been sponsoring this resolution for 24 years because I am so proud of America's soapbox derby tradition and proud of those from Maryland's Fifth District who participate.

My district has celebrated a number of derby champions, including the winners from 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, and 2014. My district is sort of like John Wooden's UCLA or the Duke Blue Devils, maybe, or the Maryland Terrapins. The young Marylanders who won the Greater Washington race in 2007 and 2008 went on to win the national championship.

I want to thank my colleagues who have cosponsored this resolution: Representatives CHRIS VAN HOLLEN; GERRY CONNOLLY; DON BEYER; JOHN DELANEY; ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON; DONNA EDWARDS, who has brought this to the floor with the chair; and BARBARA COMSTOCK.

I hope all Members of this House will join in supporting our resolution, and they will come to watch the soapbox derby in action on June 20.

Again, I thank my colleague from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS), for making sure that I got here so that I could, once again, say how proud I am of those who participate in the soapbox derby.

Good luck to all of them.

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

Mr. Speaker, I just want to, once again, thank the gentleman from Maryland for his commitment to our youth and for, once again, introducing this great piece of legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 21.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 25

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the 34th Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service (in this resolution referred to as the ''Memorial Service''), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2014.

(b) DATE OF MEMORIAL SERVICE.—The Memorial Service shall be held on May 15, 2015, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate, with preparation for the event to begin on May 12, 2015.

SEC. 2. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL HONOR GUARD AND PIPE BAND EXHIBITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (in this resolution referred to as the ''Exhibition''), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to allow law enforcement representatives to exhibit their ability to demonstrate Honor Guard programs and provide for a bag pipe exhibition.

(b) DATE OF EXHIBITION.—The exhibition shall be held on May 14, 2015, or on such

other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsors of the Memorial Service and Exhibition shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the events.

SEC. 4. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsors referred to in section 3(b) are authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment, as may be required for the Memorial Service and Exhibition.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the events.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

□ 1630

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H. Con. Res. 25.

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

There was no objection.

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

H. Con. Res. 25 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service and a National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition. I am pleased to be the sponsor of this resolution, along with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON).

These events are held each year as part of Police Week, to honor the men and women who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. This year, over 125 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers will be honored for their ultimate sacrifice: giving their lives in the line of duty. Four of these officers are from Pennsylvania, including one from near my district, Corporal Bryon Dickson II of the Pennsylvania State Police.

Corporal Dickson was killed in September of 2014 after he and Trooper Alex Douglass were shot during an ambush targeting police officers outside the Blooming Grove barracks in northeastern Pennsylvania. The suspect, Eric Frein, cowardly hid in the woods while local, State, and Federal law enforcement searched for him. He was finally captured after a 7-week manhunt.

Corporal Dickson was a United States Marine Corps veteran and served with the Pennsylvania State Police for 7 years. He left behind a wife and two young sons.

Three other Pennsylvania officers will also be honored, including Officer Richard Champion of the Perryopolis Borough Police Department, who was killed during a vehicle pursuit in December; Trooper David Kedra of the Pennsylvania State Police, who was accidentally shot during a training exercise; and Sergeant Sheryl Pierce of the South Londonderry Township Police Department, who died from a deadly illness contracted while carrying out her duties.

The sacrifices of these officers and the sacrifices of those like them should not be forgotten. These tragic episodes should serve to remind all citizens of the dangerous jobs our men and women of law enforcement courageously volunteer for. They put their lives on the line to protect us daily, and for that we should always remain grateful.

I support passage of this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 25 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service on May 15 and a National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition. Both events will be coordinated with the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police.

The National Peace Officers Memorial will honor law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty in 2014. According to preliminary estimates, over 125 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty just this last year, a 24 percent increase over the 102 officers killed in 2013.

Firearms-related incidents were the leading cause of death among law enforcement officers in 2014, with 50 officers slain by firearms. The second leading cause of death among law enforcement officers was traffic-related fatalities, with 49 officers killed in that manner.

In the State of Maryland, there was one law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty in 2014, Officer Jamel Claggett from the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we are honoring and recognizing peace officers who were killed in the line of duty in 2014, but I would like to make a personal note that in the State of Maryland alone, just since the beginning of this year, three officers were killed and one police dog was also killed in the line of duty:

Just a couple of weeks ago, Federal Protective Service Officer Lawrence Buckner was killed outside of the Census Bureau on April 9; just a few weeks before that, Prince George's County Police Officer Brennan Rabain was killed in an automobile accident on March 7; just prior to that, in January, a police officer from Baltimore, Craig Chandler, was also killed in a vehicle accident; a canine, Bella, from the Maryland Division of Correction in Maryland was killed in a fire incident also just a few weeks ago.

It is a stark reminder of the jeopardy that officers place themselves in and a reminder of what they do every single day to protect each and every one of us. I have such a deep admiration and appreciation for the fallen officers who will be honored on May 15 and the ultimate sacrifices they have made on behalf of all of our local communities. I urge Members to join me in supporting this tribute to our law enforcement officers across the country who died in the line of duty in 2014.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 25, which authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we do this.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is the nation's monument to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

Dedicated on October 15, 1991, the Memorial honors federal, state and local law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of our nation and its people.

Carved on its walls are the names of 20,538 officers who have been killed in the line of duty throughout U.S. history, dating back to the first known death in 1791.

Added to the Wall this year will be the names of the 117 police officers killed in the line of duty in 2014.

Mr. Speaker, enshrined on the Memorial Wall of Honor also are the names of 1,695 fallen peace officers from the state of Texas, the most of any state, including 114 members of the Houston Police Department who gave their lives to keep their city safe.

I ask unanimous consent to include a list of these fallen heroes from Houston, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, today there are more than 900,000 law enforcement personnel serving the people of our country, the highest amount ever.

About 12 percent of them are female.

These brave men and women risk their lives to keep the peace and keep us safe but they are too often taken by the violence they are working to prevent.

Every year, a law enforcement officer is killed somewhere in the United States every 60 hours, and there are also 58,930 assaults against our law officers each year, resulting in 15,404 injuries.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Law Enforcement Caucus I am proud to represent the people of the 18th Congressional District of Texas in paying tribute to the 117 fallen heroes who will be joining the 20,538 gallant

men and women who gave the last full measure of devotion to the communities they took an oath to protect and serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of the officers whose names will be added to the National Peace Officers Memorial Wall of Honor.

HOUSTON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIALIZED ON THE WALL OF HONOR

1. Timothy Scott Abernethy, End of Watch: December 7, 2008, Houston, Texas, P.D.
2. Charles H Baker, End of Watch: August 16, 1979, Houston, Texas, P.D.
3. Johnny Terrell Bamsch, End of Watch: January 30, 1975, Houston, Texas, P.D.
4. Claude R Beck, End of Watch: December 10, 1971, Houston, Texas, P.D.
5. Jack B Beets, End of Watch: March 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.
6. Troy A Blando, End of Watch: May 19, 1999, Houston, Texas, P.D.
7. James Charles Boswell, End of Watch: December 9, 1989, Houston, Texas, P.D.
8. C E Branon, End of Watch: March 20, 1959, Houston, Texas, P.D.
9. John M Cain, End of Watch: August 3, 1911, Houston, Texas, P.D.
10. Richard H Calhoun, End of Watch: October 10, 1975, Houston Texas Police Department
11. Dionicio M Camacho, End of Watch: October 23, 2009, Harris County, Texas, S.O.
12. Henry Canales, End of Watch: June 23, 2009, Houston, Texas, P.D.
13. Frank Manuel Cantu Jr, End of Watch: March 25, 2004, Houston, Texas, P.D.
14. E C Chavez, End of Watch: September 17, 1925, Houston, Texas, P.D.
15. Charles Roy Clark, End of Watch: April 3, 2003, Houston, Texas, P.D.
16. Charles Robert Coates II, End of Watch: February 23, 1983, Houston, Texas, P.D.
17. Pete Corrales, End of Watch: January 25, 1925, Houston, Texas, P.D.
18. Rufus E Daniels, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.
19. Johnnie Davidson, End of Watch: February 19, 1921, Houston, Texas, P.D.
20. Worth Davis, End of Watch: June 17, 1928, Houston, Texas, P.D.
21. Keith Alan Dees, End of Watch: March 7, 2002, Houston, Texas, P.D.
22. Reuben Becerra Deleon Jr, End of Watch: October 26, 2005, Houston, Texas, P.D.
23. William Edwin Deleon, End of Watch: March 29, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.
24. Floyd T Deloach Jr, End of Watch: June 30, 1965, Houston, Texas, P.D.
25. George D Edwards, End of Watch: June 30, 1939, Houston, Texas, P.D.
26. Dawn Suzanne Erickson, End of Watch: December 24, 1995, Houston, Texas, P.D.
27. J C Etheridge, End of Watch: August 23, 1924, Houston, Texas, P.D.
28. James E Fenn, End of Watch: March 14, 1891, Houston, Texas, P.D.
29. E D Fitzgerald, End of Watch: September 30, 1930, Houston, Texas, P.D.
30. C Edward Foley, End of Watch: March 10, 1860, Houston, Texas, P.D.
31. Joseph Robert Free, End of Watch: October 18, 1912, Houston, Texas, P.D.
32. Guy P Gaddis, End of Watch: January 31, 1994, Houston, Texas, P.D.
33. James T Gambill, End of Watch: December 1, 1936, Houston, Texas, P.D.
34. Florentino M Garcia Jr, End of Watch: November 10, 1989, Houston, Texas, P.D.
35. Ben Eddie Gerhart, End of Watch: June 26, 1968, Houston, Texas, P.D.
36. G Q Gonzalez, End of Watch: February 28, 1960, Houston, Texas, P.D.
37. Charles R Gougenheim, End of Watch: April 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.
38. Carl Greene, End of Watch: March 14, 1928, Houston, Texas, P.D.
39. Leon Griggs, End of Watch: January 31, 1970, Houston, Texas, P.D.
40. Maria Michelle Groves, End of Watch: April 10, 1987, Houston, Texas, P.D.
41. Gary Allen Gryder, End of Watch: June 29, 2008, Houston, Texas, P.D.
42. Antonio Guzman JF, End of Watch: January 9, 1973, Houston, Texas, P.D.
43. Howard B Hammond, End of Watch: August 18, 1946, Houston, Texas, P.D.
44. James Donald Harris, End of Watch: July 13, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.
45. David Michael Healy, End of Watch: November 12, 1994, Houston, Texas, P.D.
46. Timothy A Hearn, End of Watch: June 8, 1978, Houston, Texas, P.D.
47. Oscar Hope, End of Watch: June 22, 1929, Houston, Texas, P.D.
48. Elston M Howard, End of Watch: July 20, 1988, Houston, Texas, P.D.
49. David Huerta, End of Watch: September 19, 1973, Houston, Texas, P.D.
50. James Bruce Irby, End of Watch: June 27, 1990, Houston, Texas, P.D.
51. Bobby L James, End of Watch: June 26, 1968, Houston, Texas, P.D.
52. John C James, End of Watch: December 12, 1901, Houston, Texas, P.D.
53. Rodney Joseph Johnson, End of Watch: September 21, 2006, Houston, Texas, P.D.
54. Ed Jones, End of Watch: September 13, 1929, Houston, Texas, P.D.
55. P P Jones, End of Watch: January 30, 1927, Houston, Texas, P.D.
56. Frank L Kellogg, End of Watch: November 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.
57. S A Buster Kent, End of Watch: January 12, 1954, Houston, Texas, P.D.
58. James F Kilty, End of Watch: April 8, 1976, Houston, Texas, P.D.
59. Kent Dean Kincaid, End of Watch: May 23, 1998, Houston, Texas, P.D.
60. Louis R Kuba, End of Watch: May 17, 1967, Houston, Texas, P.D.
61. J D Landry, End of Watch: December 3, 1930, Houston, Texas, P.D.
62. Robert Wayne Lee, End of Watch: January 31, 1971, Houston, Texas, P.D.
63. Fred Maddox Jr, End of Watch: February 24, 1954, Houston, Texas, P.D.
64. Eydelmen Mani, End of Watch: May 19, 2010, Houston, Texas, P.D.
65. A P Marshall, End of Watch: November 8 1937, Houston, Texas, P.D.
66. Charles R Mcdaniel, End of Watch: August 4, 1963, Houston, Texas, P.D.
67. E G Meinke, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.
68. Harry Mereness, End of Watch: October 18, 1933, Houston, Texas, P.D.
69. Noel R Miller, End of Watch: June 6, 1958, Houston, Texas, P.D.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 25.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION ADVISORY BOARDS ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials on the bill, H.R. 1195, to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 200 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. 1195.

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

□ 1637

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. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee 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 Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, today the House considers H.R. 1195, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act. This bill is essential to provide small businesses a voice in the regulatory process and to help ensure community banks and credit unions continue to have a voice at the CFPB going forward.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, yet our regulatory system silences these hard-working Americans. Regulations meant for large corporations trickle down and have disproportionate impacts on Main Street businesses. We must remember that these businesses are, by and large, owned and operated by our neighbors and friends. They represent a life's work and a vision of the American Dream.

The CFPB was created to protect consumers in the financial marketplace, and it would seem impossible to responsibly undertake this endeavor of protecting the American consumer without consulting institutions that are most closely associated with the American consumer: small businesses and community financial institutions.

H.R. 1195 is a straightforward and bipartisan piece of legislation. It would amend the Dodd-Frank Act to create a small business advisory board to advise the CFPB. This bill would also codify two other advisory committees created by Director Cordray: the Credit Union Advisory Council and the Community Bank Advisory Council.

Under H.R. 1195, each board or council would advise the CFPB regarding concerns of its established membership. The Director of the CFPB would be required to appoint at least 15, but not more than 20, members to each board or council.

This bill is publicly supported by the following organizations: the Credit Union National Association, the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, the Texas Land Title Association, the American Land Title Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Independent Community Bankers of America.

Mr. Chairman, this is a truly a commonsense and bipartisan bill. Last Congress, an identical piece of legislation passed the House by voice vote. This Congress, H.R. 1195 passed out of the committee by a vote of 53–5. The ranking member, who is with us today, has voted for this bill two times, yet we find ourselves here today debating the merits of providing a voice for small businesses and community financial institutions.

This week, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was questioned about the health of American businesses. She said she was ''surprised'' to learn that small businesses were struggling.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1195 is just one small and commonsense step to providing a voice for our small businesses and community financial institutions in the regulatory process. It helps ensure that politicians and Washington bureaucrats aren't surprised to learn of the plight and struggles of these Main Street pillars. It gives these hardworking Americans a voice and a seat at the table.

Now, Democrats are going to say that our disagreement is with how the bill is paid for. Well, let me address that for a minute.

House rules require that any increase in mandatory spending be offset with a reduction in mandatory spending elsewhere. The CBO says H.R. 1195 will cost $9 million, in total, over the next 10 years. Republicans simply reduced the maximum amount that the CFPB can draw from the Fed over the same 10-year period to offset this cost.

To put this into perspective, the CFPB, by statute, can draw approximately $6.7 billion over the next 10 years. This offset that we are debating today amounts to 0.1 percent of this amount. If Democrats really want to claim that a 0.1 percent reduction in the $6.7 billion that CFPB can spend over the next decade really threatens the Bureau's mission, perhaps it is time to examine the Bureau's current spending practices. I am quite confident that we can debate spending problems at the CFPB for the rest of the afternoon, should we need to.

Just to reiterate, H.R. 1195 will not cut spending on consumer protection. Let me repeat that. Just to reiterate, H.R. 1195 will not cut spending on consumer protection. It will provide a voice for small businesses.

Let's help our small businesses succeed. Let's help Main Street prosper, and let's vote today to move H.R. 1195 forward.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want the Members of the House to pay very close attention to this bill today because this bill represents tricks and games in ways that people don't often understand. But this is a prime example of how you take a good idea and mess it up. So I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1195, a measure that is, again, a shining example of how far Republicans will go to squander compromise, consensus, and good faith to advance an ideological anticonsumer agenda.

The bill before us today is just the latest instance of Financial Services Committee Republicans snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

□ 1645

It makes clear their commitment to do all they can to undercut the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Let me say that again. They have spent so much time—amendment after amendment, attempt after attempt—to try and gut and dismantle the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and they have gone so far with this bill to undermine our efforts to be of assistance to small businesses and include them in a stronger advisory way to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau because they hate the Bureau so much.

Well, again, they do all they can to undercut this Bureau, an agency with an extraordinary record of success protecting consumers, reining in bad actors, and ensuring that we do not return to the predatory practices that put this Nation on the verge of economic collapse less than 10 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, as originally written, H.R. 1195 was a good and decent measure offered by my colleague, Mr. HECK from Washington State, and, again, I applaud him for his leadership. The straightforward proposal offered by Mr. HECK would codify two of the advisory boards that the CFPB voluntarily created related to community banks and credit unions, while also creating a new small business advisory board for small businesses. Along with many other requirements of the Bureau, these boards create additional avenues for input from the entities that they have been given the power to regulate under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act.

So here is what we are talking about. The Bureau itself had created a number of advisory committees. Mr. HECK saw room for strengthening the ability of small businesses to have an advisory role, and so he created this bill. But, because, again, my friends on the opposite side of the aisle, the Republicans, hate the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau so much, they decided that they were going to play tricks and games and create an opportunity to reduce the funding so they could try and limit the Bureau's ability to do its work by adding all of these amendments. I am going to point out the tricks of these amendments as we go along here today.

So in a rare show of bipartisanship, the Financial Services Committee passed H.R. 1195 by a vote of 53–5. Many of my Democratic colleagues supported the proposal, just as we have supported the many efforts of the CFPB to be responsive to the unique needs of small businesses, community banks, and credit unions. But, as usual, that bipartisanship was short-lived, as Chairman HENSARLING added an amendment designed to pay for this measure by undermining the CFPB's authority and independent funding.

I find it ironic that this House has determined now is the time to offset the cost of legislation. Don't forget, we have the pay-for kings and queens on that side of the aisle. They said, they worked for, and they made a big issue that everything must be paid for, except when they decide to try and slip something in that they don't pay for. And they have done that on this floor with some of these bills that we will be talking about.

But with this bill, they decided a new kind of trick; and that is, let's find a way to take it from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau because not only will this pay for it, but this will reduce their ability to do their job paying for other things.

Just last week, the House majority voted to repeal the estate tax without paying for it at a staggering cost of $269 billion. At a time when far too many Americans are struggling with stagnant wages and historic income inequality, my Republican counterparts seem all too willing to add to the Nation's deficit in order to pass giveaways for the richest 0.2 percent of Americans.

Yet when it comes to a reasonable bill to enhance the voice of small businesses, community banks, and credit unions, which they claim to care so much about, the Republicans insist that the only way to pass the legislation is by cutting the CFPB—an agency that 84 percent of small-business owners support, according to polling from the small-business majority.

The truth of the matter is that, after several years of attempting to cap CFPB funding, the Republicans have chosen to transform Mr. HECK's bill into a vehicle to make drastic cuts to the CFPB's budget.

While my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will claim otherwise, the CFPB itself estimates Chairman HENSARLING's poison pill amendment will cut its budget by about $45 million over the next 5 years and by $100 million over the next 10 years, capping it substantially less than the amount that they are currently able to request.

That means this vote is one to weaken an agency with the explicit mission of standing up for consumers and taxpayers who have been subject to the deceptive practices of unscrupulous corporations.

The chairman's amendment guarantees that this otherwise bipartisan proposal will never become law, garnering significant opposition in the Senate and a veto threat from the Obama administration, who said this measure was ''solely intended to impede the CFPB's ability to carry out its mission of protecting consumers in the financial markets,'' and further, they said, ''could result in, among other things, undermining critical protections for families from abusive and predatory financial products.''

Mr. Chairman, Republicans could have chosen any number of offsets to account for the cost of this proposal or, as they have done so many times before, waive their CutGo rules. Make no mistake about the intent of the Hensarling amendment. It is designed to back Democrats into a corner by attaching an unacceptable provision cutting CFPB's budget to a proposal that Democrats supported in committee.

The important work of the CFPB will not be undermined on our watch, and this backdoor attempt to cut its budget sets a dangerous precedent of using bipartisan bills as a way to sneak through measures that undermine the Bureau's independence and its ability to protect consumers.

Mr. Chairman, we don't understand on this side of the aisle why it is that our Republican friends hate the CFPB so much and have done so much to undermine them, to undercut them, and to try to reduce their funding. They know as well as we know that prior to the establishment of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that we put into Dodd-Frank's reforms, consumers had no protections in the Government of the United States of America. Our regulatory agencies were not doing their jobs.

They say they were focused on safety and soundness. But who was working for the consumers? Nobody.

And so now we have a Bureau working for the consumers that is doing a wonderful job. And here we have every attempt that you can dream of, every scheme that you can think of, being levied by our friends on the opposite side of the aisle because they want to kill the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. As I have said, this is not going to happen on our watch. They can try any trick that they want. We are on to it.

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, I would just remind the ranking member that the Republicans, during the Rules Committee hearing, asked if they had a pay-for that they would like to offer in substitute for that, and they chose not to. So I think what we are hearing is that the minority is choosing to say that small businesses in this country aren't worth $9 million. And what $9 million is is, in 3 minutes, that will be the increase in our national debt in this country. So Republicans do take our deficit seriously, and we take the rules of this House seriously because the rules of the House require that when you have an increase in mandatory spending, you have to have an offset for that. What Republicans were trying to do is follow the rules of the House.

It is now my pleasure, Mr. Chairman, to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER), one of the primary sponsors of this legislation.

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Chairman, I do rise today in support of H.R. 1195, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau continues to issue regulations designed for massive, systemic-risk financial institutions without considering how those same rules harm small businesses, community banks, and credit unions.

That is why my good friend and colleague, Congressman DENNY HECK, joined with me to establish a small business advisory board within the CFPB. The goal is simple: to advise and consult with the CFPB on how any proposed regulations would impact the small-business community. Members of the small business advisory board must represent a small business dealing with financial services products. The legislation also encourages the CFPB Director to ensure participation of women- and minority-owned small businesses when appointing members to the board.

H.R. 1195 also makes permanent the Credit Union Advisory Council and the Community Bank Advisory Council, both of which are currently voluntary and can be eliminated at any time at the discretion of the CFPB Director.

Credit unions and community banks are struggling under enormous compliance burdens designed for too-big-to-fail banks. They are hiring compliance officers instead of loan officers, meaning less access to capital for small businesses to grow and to create jobs.

Clear and open communication between the CFPB, small businesses, community banks, and credit unions will improve rulemaking and lead to better outcomes for consumers.

H.R. 1195 is supported by the Credit Union National Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Land Title Association, and the independent community bankers association. This legislation also enjoys strong bipartisan support, having passed out of the Financial Services Committee by a vote of 53–5.

Allow me a moment to address the concern that was raised by the ranking member and other Democrat colleagues in their objection to how we propose to pay for the advisory boards. The CBO estimates this legislation will cost taxpayers $9 million over a 10-year period. In those same years, the CFPB will have access to $6.7 billion in operating funds.

We propose making a very small reduction—just 0.1 percent—in the amount the CFPB is allowed to draw, which will pay for the advisory boards without additional cost to taxpayers. If the CFPB can't find $9 million in savings over 10 years out of a total potential draw of $6.7 billion, then they need another advisory board of small-business owners who will travel to D.C. and teach the CFPB how to budget.

Mr. Chairman, our economy is growing today at a tepid pace of 2.2 percent. We have in reality about 12 percent unemployment when you consider the underemployed and when you consider those who have given up. Small banks and other lending institutions are under enormous compliance restrictions and guidelines, the same as the major banks. They need a voice at the table. We need opportunity. We need people to be able to expand their businesses, and yet they can't get capital through these small banking lending institutions.

That is what this bill is all about. It is all about jobs. It is all about families and people's lives and their futures.

The CFPB is supposed to be focused on protecting consumers, not protecting bureaucratic fiefdoms and perks. Our commonsense, bipartisan legislation helps focus the CFPB on their sole, core mission of benefiting consumers.

Small businesses create jobs. Bureaucrats create rules. Please join me in supporting H.R. 1195 so that heavy-handed D.C. regulators are forced to take time to consider how their burdensome and unnecessary regulations negatively impact small business and make necessary adjustments to protect consumers while allowing small businesses, credit unions, and community banks to help grow the economy and create good-paying jobs.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK). He is the next gentleman that you are going to hear from this side of the aisle. He is the author of the legislation that certainly would have given small businesses a seat at the table of the CFPB. He worked very hard on this bill, and he is one of those persons on our committee who reaches across the aisle all the time on bipartisan efforts.

□ 1700

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, in a gesture of reaching across the aisle, let us be clear that prior to this bill's arrival at the Rules Committee, it was Mr. PITTENGER and myself who worked in a collaborative and in a bipartisan way, hard for nearly the last 2 years, to get it to this point where we might have an opportunity to vote upon it.

I cannot exaggerate to you how saddened I am, how much I regret, and

how surreal I find it that I stand here now and ask my colleagues to please vote ''no'' against my bill, oppose the bill that I have worked so hard on for nearly 2 years.

Its content, prior to its arrival in Rules, had been laid out commonsensically: codify the Credit Union Advisory Council; codify the Small Community Bank Advisory Council; and create a nonbank advisory board for the appraisers, the title insurers, the real estate agents, escrow company, all people that the Bureau regulates and with whom they should have an iterative conversation going with respect to the proposed regulations.

It wasn't easy getting here even before Rules. There was a lot of back and forth, a lot of compromising along the way. We had to allay fears from the consumer groups that this was a Trojan horse. We accepted amendments; we broadened the bill; we did a lot of things together, but with a collaborative spirit and the support of the ranking member, we did pass the bill out of committee 53–5, and then a torch was put to it. A torch was put to it.

As has been described, the bill now includes a so-called pay-for amendment to lower the cap of available funds to CFPB by $45 million by the year 2020 and $100 million by the year 2025. It is bad policy; it is bad precedent, and it is completely unnecessary.

The amendment was inserted under color of being a pay-for. Well, I have got a couple problems with that. The first is obvious. CBO projection is $9 million. We are talking about a cap that cost $45 million and $100 million. It is a multiple of it—or $75 million to $100 million by last count.

The second, of course, is the fact about how the rule is applied, which has been heralded here, and, in fact, genuflected as an important rule to provide for pay-fors when there are expenditures caused by proposed legislation.

The motivation is, frankly, inscrutable to me. I honestly don't know how you do it with a straight face. Literally, a matter of hours ago, voting for $300 billion, with a ''b,'' with no PAYGO or pay-for and to stand up here and say, Well, we absolutely have to have a pay-for for $9 million over 10 years, but $300 billion was okay, I say sincerely: I don't know how you do that with a straight face.

Frankly, there is so much about this that I find surreal. Much in the debate was about questioned architectural practices by the agency. The truth of the matter is GSA took over construction, what, 2-plus years ago? If that is the issue, write an amendment to the GSA budget; don't punish CFPB.

It has been argued that this funding is unique; therefore, it has to be curtailed, unrelated to the underlying purpose of the bill. Maybe that is true. Check the history. It was a Republican who wanted it funded by the Fed—Mr. SHELBY, I believe. That may be unique in that way.

It has been suggested CFPB is nonbudgeted—again, unrelated to the underlying purpose of the bill. Well, guess what, so is every other bank, regulator, agency in the Federal Government: the FDIC, the OCC, the Fed itself, FHFA, and NCUA. They are all nonbudgeted; but, no, let's pick this one out of the pack and punish it.

There is so much about this that is surreal to me. I believe that there is a bit of a trial under way here today, and we are laying a marker down on April 21 on whether or not we are actually going to be able to function in a bipartisan way. We did. It took hard work, 18-plus months with Mr. PITTENGER, 53–5 in committee; and now, as I say, we are putting a torch to it.

We are going to decide. This is a test. Are we going to use the CFPB as a piggybank to pay for all other manner of agendas? Are we going to ask them to swallow this poison pill in the goal of getting a bipartisan bill passed?

It is a test of whether or not we are going to do that. It is an experiment to see how radically—and it is radical—we can change bills and still keep ''yes'' votes in the name of consistency, although there is certainly no consistency between the pay-fors provided in this proposed legislation and that for legislation that passed last week.

By the way, in addition to the estate tax and the sales and use tax totalling over $300 billion, we did two CFPB bills last week, too. Nobody offered pay-fors on those, so it isn't consistent.

This is surreal, standing here, asking you to oppose the bill that I have worked so hard on with Mr. PITTENGER. It is surreal. I am reminded of my favorite passage in ''Through the Looking Glass.''

> If I had a world of my own, everything would be nonsense. Nothing would be what it is because everything would be what it isn't. And contrariwise, what is, it wouldn't be. And what it wouldn't be, it would. You see?

This is surreal; but I say my strongest assertion that what is the most sad about this—and I have said this in Rules, and I am going to say it now—you know, you know you are killing this bill.

You are killing it and evidently don't care, 18 months of hard work out the window to do something good and worthwhile, but you know you are killing the bill. You know you are killing it because you are not passing here veto-proof; and the administration has, as the ranking member suggested, already issued the Statement of Administration Policy.

I will go one further. This bill will never see the light of day in the United States Senate. You are killing the bill that we worked on for 2 years to help nonbank businesses have a better structured institutionalized relationship, which is as it should be, and you are doing it by inconsistently applying a House rule for which you grant waivers left and right when you were of a mind.

This is good legislation. My friend from North Carolina has worked hard. Frankly—and I will say it—he deserves better than this. This bill deserves better than this. The businesses that are regulated by CFPB deserve better than this, than to kill this bill, which is what you are assuredly doing.

Vote ''no'' on my bill.

The CHAIR. The Chair reminds Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

I appreciate the gentleman's comments. I just want to remind him that the GSA only took over the management of the project, not the budget, so GSA doesn't have control over this entity's budget.

I think the thing that is troubling to me is my colleagues are talking about a drastic cut. You have got an entity that can draw $6.7 billion over a 10-year period, and $7 million is a drastic cut.

Basically, the CBO says that this bill now is revenue neutral, and these numbers that are coming of $45 million, those are CFPB's numbers, but these are the nonpartisan CBO numbers.

I think one of the things we have to do is we have to deal in the facts and reality here, and this is a very small amount of money.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD).

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding the time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act.

I want to thank my friend from North Carolina for his work, and I want to thank my friend from Washington for his work as well on what really should be a bipartisan bill. Honestly, I think the American public, Mr. Chairman, will take a look at what is happening here on the floor and are going to be baffled by it as well.

As a small-business owner, let me just tell you, Mr. Chairman, there are nearly 29 million small businesses in our Nation; 99 percent of all employer firms in the United States are considered small businesses; over 56 million Americans work in these small businesses; and two-thirds of all net new jobs.

Last I checked, the labor force participation rate is near a three-decade low, so the net new jobs that we are looking for are created by small business. Two-thirds are created by small business.

This is a bill that would basically say to the CFPB: we want you to have a small business advisory board.

With all of the businesses that are out there, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an agency in Washington that sets the rules and regulations with far-reaching impacts into our economy, completely fails to ensure that small businesses have a permanent seat at the table when the CFPB is making decisions, making decisions that impact the lives of millions of Americans and businesses across the land.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation. If we are going to talk about small businesses, my goodness, please, let's talk about having small business representation at the table.

Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of decisions that get made in this Chamber. There are a lot of decisions that get made in Washington. I have to tell you, one of the things that I try to do is I try to surround myself with people that it impacts.

If we are going to talk about health care, I try to surround myself with physicians and patients and nurses, to try to get their input in terms of how this bill or how a bill that comes to the floor would impact them. Surround yourself with people that might know more about a topic than you do; educate yourself.

The fact that the CFPB doesn't already have a small business advisory board or small business voice at the table is unacceptable—unacceptable in today's day and age.

This is something that we need to support. Frankly, I want it to be a bipartisan bill. I think the underlying substance of it is bipartisan, and only at the last minute are we talking about not making this a bipartisan bill over the pay-for.

Mr. Chairman, I want you to think about this for a second as a business that gets regulated time and again. They don't come with a pay-for there. Basically, they say: this is what we need you to do, and you find a way to pay for it.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. DOLD. This body is, in essence, saying to the CFPB, Mr. Chairman, to the CFPB and Director Cordray, we are saying: please get small business input into what you are thinking.

In order to do that, the dollars that are out there, Mr. Chairman, are talking about trying to fly people in, small businesses in. That is where the dollars are coming from.

We think the CBO has scored this at about $9 million out of nearly a $7 billion budget over 10 years. Surely, this can't be the thing that is killing the bill. There has got to be something bigger that is killing the bill because, frankly, the American public, Mr. Chairman, are going to roll their eyes and say: you have got to be kidding me.

We are going to disregard small businesses from being able to come in and weigh in on something that is going to drastically impact the economy because they don't want to take what could potentially be $9 million in airfare and other things to try to make sure they can get the small business advisory board to come to Washington.

If we find that there is a problem, I will be the first one to reach across the aisle to say we need to fix this. This is a problem that we need to solve, and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill to get small businesses engaged.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chairman, I first need to remind the gentleman from Illinois that Mr. HECK worked hard to put small business advisory at the table and to codify the other businesses that the CFPB had already put at the table. They snatched it right away from the table. They took away small business.

I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), who is the cochair of the Progressive Caucus and a member of the Financial Services Committee.

□ 1715

Mr. ELLISON. I would like to thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Mr. Chairman, I will just remind my colleagues that, yes, the bill was bipartisan, but the amendment was not. The amendment, which was rigidly partisan, is what has put this good idea in a space of being very partisan on this House floor.

You would have thought that after the hard work that Mr. HECK had put into this bill that maybe somebody would have listened to him and would have said, ''Mr. HECK, you have put your time in on this bill. We are not going to do this to your bill. We are going to stick with that bipartisanship that we had all along,'' but that kind of consideration has gone missing in this place.

The truth is, Mr. Chairman, that the Republican leadership has brought us another bill in a long series of bills to weaken the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and no small-business person who is listening to this debate should be bamboozled, tricked, or led astray in believing that the rhetoric on this floor is about helping them. The fact is that a lot of small-business people are protected by predatory lenders that the CFPB stops. A lot of small-business people open their businesses with a credit card. They rely on the CFPB to keep the predation away from them. They, in fact, are the beneficiaries of the work of the CFPB's.

All of these bills to attack the CFPB harm the American people. These bills make it easier to steer customers into costly loans that strip their wealth and limit their economic mobility. These bills divert CFPB resources from protecting consumers to costly, unnecessary, bureaucratic activities.

Last week, we had a bill to repeal the CFPB rules that protect buyers of manufactured homes from what had been before Dodd-Frank a predatory market. Enough Democrats voted ''no'' on H.R. 650 to sustain the President's veto. That is a good thing. We should not remove consumer protections for high-cost loans that are targeted at buyers of manufactured homes. Also last week, the GOP brought another bill which would weaken the CFPB protections against controlled business arrangements in real estate transactions.

Today, the Republican majority considers what is a good idea. H.R. 1195 would require the CFPB to establish a small business advisory council. It is a pretty fair idea. You could argue that it is already there, but if you don't believe it is, it is not at all a highly objectionable bill. In fact, it has merit. What is wrong with a little bit more input from small business? That is a good thing. The fact of the matter is that it is a Trojan horse that is being used to attack the CFPB all over again.

My question is this: Why would you want to destroy an organization that has identified $5.3 billion, which is the approximate amount of relief to consumers ordered by the CFPB enforcement actions? It is $5.3 billion that hard-working Americans have saved from predatory lenders. Why in the world, unless you favor predation in financial markets, would you be against the CFPB? There are 15 million consumers who receive relief because of the CFPB, and I hope they let their voices be heard all across the United States against these people who relentlessly try to rip down the CFPB. $208 million is the amount of money that has been ordered to be paid in civil penalties as a result of CFPB's enforcement actions against people who do not help the market but who distort the market.

The CFPB helps business because good, honest, decent businesses—and America is full of them, the ones that play by the rules—get harmed when a cheater goes without being punished. When a business that cuts corners and abuses consumers does not get eliminated from the market or punished because of its bad behavior, it means that playing by the rules is no longer profitable or the thing to do. The CFPB makes the market work as it should.

There were 145 banks and credit unions under the CFPB's supervisory authority as of June 2014. That is a good thing. There are 30 million consumers with debts in collection, and larger debt collection companies are now under Federal supervision for the first time because of the CFPB. The CFPB is a good institution. Vote ''no'' on this Trojan horse bill.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

I am delighted to hear that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are concerned about $9 million. I wish they had been as concerned when we had hearings and we found out that the CFPB is going to spend $216 million on the luxury renovations of a building that they do not own and when we found out that the taxpayers are also going to get to fund a two-story waterfall that falls into sunken gardens and that has a four-story glass staircase. How about the spending of $14 million on marketing and advertising? How about the $61.3 million they spent on management consulting fees?

It should be an affront to small businesses around the country that an organization that can't control its spending is being asked not to spend an additional $9 million so that small businesses can have a voice at the table.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER).

Mr. PITTENGER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, really what we are talking about are the merits of entitling this enormous agency, the largest in the history of this country, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, to be accountable to nobody, not to be accountable to the executive branch and not to be accountable to the Congress. They are able to do whatever they want to do. They make all of their own rules. They determine the winners, and they determine the losers. They have zero accountability.

Let's discuss their funding of $6.7 billion over a 10-year period. Yes, what we are talking about is an offset to pay for an advisory board to protect small business—$9 million. That is 0.1 percent. Let's look at the priorities then of the CFPB's.

Truly, would any of us lease a building, not own it, and spend $260 million on renovations? That is more per square foot than of any luxury hotel in Las Vegas.

Yes, how about a two-story waterfall into a sunken garden? How magnificent. Is that more important than an advisory board that is for small business to ensure that we can create jobs?

How about a green roof and a four-story glass staircase? It costs millions. Is that more important than an advisory board for small business?

How about a tree bosk and a timber porch—how lovely—so that employees can have a place of restful contemplation and meditation? Do bureaucrats really need a serene place to rest while they are on the job? Are they that concerned about their plight?

My goodness. Here are struggling, hardworking, tax-paying Americans who are trying to build their businesses, who are trying to find capital, who are looking to community banks that are under siege with burdensome regulations. It is the same as the major banks. This isn't right. This makes no sense. This is not fair. We need to get priority where priority is due.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE). She serves on the Financial Services Committee and is a strong supporter of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's.

Ms. MOORE. Thank you so much, Madam Ranking Member.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1195 and not because I don't think it is a wonderful idea that Mr. HECK has come up with, along with his colleague from the Republican side, for a small business advisory panel within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Prior to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, we had example, after example, after example of Wall Street's preying on consumers and treating working class Americans just like an ATM in order to feather their bonuses; but here, today, we find yet another not so veiled attempt to defund the CFPB.

I guess I could take the PAYGO rules a little bit more seriously if just last week we had not repealed the estate tax to the tune of $270 billion for the 6,000 wealthiest Americans. It is a tax from which only 6,000 people will benefit. I am certainly not looking for a pay-for. I am just pointing out the hypocrisy of the notion that we have got to offset this $9 million for the CFPB. As has been mentioned, the CFPB has returned $5.3 billion to more than 15 million consumers who have been harmed by financial fraud, and I think PAYGO is just more of a convenient excuse to cut the CFPB than an actual principle that we follow here.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for American consumers. Oppose these attempts to attack the CFPB and to expose our constituents to these emboldened financial fraud centers. Let's reject H.R. 1195.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on both sides.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 11½ minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from California has 5 minutes remaining.

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

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

Ms. EDWARDS. I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I came to this floor opposed to this version of H.R. 1195, and as I have listened to the debate, I have become even more opposed to the legislation. Most fifth graders know a Trojan horse when they see one, and today's legislation is, indeed, a Trojan horse. Let me tell you why.

Once again, Republicans are trying to roll back and limit consumer protections. Once again, they are attacking the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau by adding burdensome legislation that replicates what the Bureau is already doing and by stripping funding from the CFPB in future years. Let's remember that this was the agency that was created to prevent the very abusive practices that led to the 2008 financial crisis; yet here they go, pretending to help small businesses and community banks and credit unions but are gutting the agency that is responsible for protecting consumers.

Just 6 years ago, we saw the fallout of the financial crisis right in my district in Prince George's County and in Baltimore City, where homeowners lost their homes. It was Black and Latino families who suffered the most in Prince George's County and Baltimore City, and it is not over for us. Many of those homeowners were small-business owners, and they used their homes to leverage their businesses. They can't do that anymore because they are still underwater and because the rules are still set against them.

We are still in crisis, and we need a robust, unencumbered, unburdened Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to protect consumers, homeowners, and small businesses that are still struggling and are vulnerable. We need a robust lifeline CFPB as our credit unions and community banks are struggling. They need real relief that is hidden behind this Trojan horse legislation.

Many of my Republican colleagues have long opposed the CFPB, and they have long sought to dismantle it. This legislation is no different, and it needs to be defeated. If they want bipartisan legislation, we need to start all over again and do something that really is in the interest of consumers.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, we have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think that we have done a very good job on this side of the aisle of exposing what is happening on the opposite side of the aisle as simply an attempt to try and gut and demean the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

□ 1730

Let me just deal with this argument that they made about the cost of renovation for the CFPB.

Bloomberg Businessweek, in an article, entitled, ''Republican Attacks on a CFPB Office Renovation Don't Add Up,'' found that Republicans took liberties with their math. Using data from a report prepared by the CFPB's inspector general, Bloomberg found that renovation would only cost $421 per square foot, if you inflate the price by including rental of temporary space and paying for movers, compared to the GOP claim of $590. Actual construction costs are only $283 per square foot, half of what the Republicans claim.

However, and I think this is very interesting, there is one very expensive renovation happening in Washington, D.C., right now. It is the Cannon House Office Building, which houses Members and committees of the House of Representatives. All end costs for the renovation of the Cannon Building approved by Speaker BOEHNER will be $753 million, or $911 per square foot, much pricier than the Bellagio or the Burj Khalifa. If we want to talk about what is high cost, take a look at ourselves right here in Congress for what we are doing.

Having said that, I just wonder why the continued attempts on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Maybe it is because somebody else is being protected.

Let's look at some of the work of the Bureau: a January 2015 settlement

against J.P. Morgan and Wells Fargo for $35.7 million after uncovering a scheme where loan officers illegally referred customers to affiliated businesses in exchange for cash and marketing services.

Look at a July 2014 settlement against Rome Finance for $92 million for a predatory lending scheme that targeted servicemembers by hiding finance charges, withholding information from billing statements, and engaging in illegal debt collection practices.

Another settlement from July 2014 against payday lender ACE Cash Express for $10 million for intentionally trapping consumers in a cycle of debt, a practice formalized in their employee training materials, as well as illegal debt collection practices, including harassment.

I could go on and on and on how the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has taken on some of the biggest corporations, the biggest businesses in this country to protect consumers. What is it you are afraid of? What is it you are worried about? Why are you trying to kill the agency that is protecting consumers rather than applauding them for making sure that the consumers don't continue to be taken advantage of the way they were prior to 2008 when we didn't have any consumer protection? I ask you to question yourselves about why you hate the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau so much.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I have read H.R. 1195. Let me tell you what it doesn't do first.

It doesn't shut down the CFPB. It doesn't keep the Bureau from carrying out its mission of consumer protection—so all of those things that the other side has been saying that the CFPB has been doing in a positive way, they can continue to do that—nor will the employees of CFPB have to take a pay cut, nor will the construction project and the other consulting fees that they keep passing out be impacted in any way.

So the charge on the other side that somehow Republicans are trying to kill CFPB, I think you need to go back and read the bill. The bill doesn't say anything about killing the CFPB.

What does H.R. 1195 do? It provides a voice for small businesses in this country, the number one job creators in America, the people that are day in and day out on the front line in our communities. It allows them to have a voice with an agency that has a huge impact on the future of this country. It also codifies and makes sure that community banks and credit unions have a voice at the table in the future.

One of the bill's sponsors said he was sad. I am sad. I am sad that people today are on this floor arguing that paying for a program that will provide a voice for our small businesses is a point of contention, that somehow we are not acting in a bipartisan way. This is a bipartisan bill. It passed by voice vote in the last Congress. It passed overwhelmingly, I think 55–5, in the Committee on Financial Services just a week ago.

I think we have to focus on what this bill does. This bill does make sure that small businesses have a voice moving forward.

If we have a government that doesn't listen to the people, then we do not have good government. So this bill is about good government. It is about saying to the American people: Hey, the bureaucrats may not have all the answers, so it is good to bring the people that have been out there that are running businesses that have some expertise in those areas that this agency is trying to regulate and set precedence for, it is good for government to listen to the people.

So, Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to pass and vote for H.R. 1195.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chair, as originally introduced, H.R. 1195 was that rare piece of legislation with bipartisan support. It supported the simple proposition that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) could benefit from the guidance of advisory councils comprised of representatives from small businesses, credit unions, and community banks.

As introduced, the legislation would have required the CFPB to hear from small business representatives regarding the impact of proposed rules on financial products used by consumers for family and household purposes. The bill also encouraged the CFPB to ensure the participation of credits unions and community banks that serve traditionally underserved communities.

The CFPB—and all relevant government agencies—should continue to focus on expanding banking opportunities in underserved communities, which are too often subjected to the worst forms of predatory financial practices.

According to the Corporation for Enterprise Development, my hometown of Baltimore, Maryland, is one of the top ten unbanked large cities in the country—13.9 percent of residents have no checking or savings account, and more than one in four residents is underbanked. Too many of these folks rely on alternative financial services like check-cashing stores, rent-to-own agreements, or pawnshops.

While Maryland has instituted a 33 percent usury cap and storefront payday lending operations do not exist in the state, Maryland residents with small-dollar credit needs have continued to turn to on-line lenders—lenders that are too often perpetrating fraudulent and abusive practices.

But this does not need to be the reality in Baltimore or any American city.

According to the Urban Institute, the small-dollar credit market in the United States reached approximately $21.4 billion in 2012. Credit unions and community banks across the country have begun to tap into this market by experimenting with small-dollar, short-term loans that help consumers stretch their monthly budgets or pay for emergency expenses without trapping them in a cycle of debt.

The CFPB has taken a critical first step toward reforming the small-dollar industry by releasing proposals for a potential rule that would require short-term lenders to either ensure borrowers have the ability to repay their loans or to provide affordable repayment plans. This is why I was so disappointed by a recent amendment to H.R. 1195 from the Rules Committee that would pay for the new advisory councils the bill would create by capping or reducing the CFPB budget by $45 million over five years and $100 million over ten years.

In contrast, the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the new councils would cost only $9 million over ten years—confirming that the new amendment is nothing more than an attempt to slash the CFPB budget.

By transforming a simple bill into a major budget cut, this amendment is simply another in a series of continuing attacks on the work of the CFPB, which has provided $5.3 billion in relief to consumers since its creation.

Just as the CFPB embarks on its latest effort to protect consumers from predatory and abusive practices, we simply cannot afford a weakened consumer protection agency.

As amended, H.R. 1195 is not only a disappointment—it's an insult to the same underserved communities the bill would have helped the CFPB to better serve. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and its attempt to undercut protections for working American families.

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 amendment printed in part C of House Report 114–74 shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1195

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 ''Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act''.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY BOARDS WITHIN THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 is amended by inserting after section 1014 (12 U.S.C. 5494) the following new section:

''SEC. 1014A. ADVISORY BOARDS.

''(a) SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish a Small Business Advisory Board—

''(A) to advise and consult with the Bureau in the exercise of the Bureau's functions under the Federal consumer financial laws applicable to eligible financial products or services; and

''(B) to provide information on emerging practices of small business concerns that provide eligible financial products or services, including regional trends, concerns, and other relevant information.

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(A) NUMBER.—The Director shall appoint no fewer than 15 and no more than 20 members to the Small Business Advisory Board.

''(B) QUALIFICATION.—Members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be representatives of small business concerns that—

''(i) provide eligible financial products or services;

''(ii) are service providers to covered persons; and

''(iii) use consumer financial products or services in financing the business activities of such concern.

''(C) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In appointing members pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Director is encouraged to ensure the participation of minority- and women-owned small business concerns and their interests, without regard to party affiliation.

''(3) MEETINGS.—The Small Business Advisory Board—

''(A) shall meet from time to time at the call of the Director; and

''(B) shall meet at least twice each year.

''(b) CREDIT UNION ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish a Credit Union Advisory Council to advise and consult with the Bureau on consumer financial products or services that impact credit unions.

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Director shall appoint no fewer than 15 and no more than 20 members to the Credit Union Advisory Council. In appointing such members, the Director is encouraged to ensure the participation of credit unions predominantly serving traditionally underserved communities and populations and their interests, without regard to party affiliation.

''(3) MEETINGS.—The Credit Union Advisory Council—

''(A) shall meet from time to time at the call of the Director; and

''(B) shall meet at least twice each year.

''(c) COMMUNITY BANK ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish a Community Bank Advisory Council to advise and consult with the Bureau on consumer financial products or services that impact community banks.

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Director shall appoint no fewer than 15 and no more than 20 members to the Community Bank Advisory Council. In appointing such members, the Director is encouraged to ensure the participation of community banks predominantly serving traditionally underserved communities and populations and their interests, without regard to party affiliation.

''(3) MEETINGS.—The Community Bank Advisory Council—

''(A) shall meet from time to time at the call of the Director; and

''(B) shall meet at least twice each year.

''(d) COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members of the Small Business Advisory Board, the Credit Union Advisory Council, or the Community Bank Advisory Council who are not full-time employees of the United States shall—

''(1) be entitled to receive compensation at a rate fixed by the Director while attending meetings of the Small Business Advisory Board, the Credit Union Advisory Council, or the Community Bank Advisory Council, including travel time; and

''(2) be allowed travel expenses, including transportation and subsistence, while away from their homes or regular places of business.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'eligible financial product or service' means a financial product or service that is offered or provided for use by consumers primarily for personal, family, or household purposes as described in clause (i), (iii), (v), (vi), or (ix) of section 1002(15)(A); and

''(2) the term 'small business concern' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1014 the following new item:

''Sec. 1014A. Advisory Boards.''.

SECTION 3. BUREAU FUNDING AUTHORITY.

The Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, under section 1017 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010, may not request—

(1) during fiscal year 2020, an amount that would result in the total amount requested by the Director during that fiscal year to exceed $655,000,000; and

(2) during fiscal year 2025, an amount that would result in the total amount requested by the Director during that fiscal year to exceed $720,000,000.

The CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part D of the report. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as 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 MS. KUSTER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part D of House Report 114–74.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk, amendment No. 1, and I offer that amendment at this time.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, beginning on line 19, strike ''is encouraged to ensure the participation of'' and insert ''shall include members representing''.

Page 5, beginning on line 12, strike ''is encouraged to ensure the participation of'' and insert ''shall include members representing''.

Page 6, beginning on line 6, strike ''is encouraged to ensure the participation of'' and insert ''shall include members representing''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 200, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Chair, my amendment is straightforward.

The underlying bill encourages but does not require the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to include women-owned small businesses and minority-owned small businesses in the membership of the small business advisory board. The bill also encourages the Director to include financial institutions predominantly serving traditionally underserved communities in the membership of the Credit Union Advisory Council and the Community Bank Advisory Council.

My amendment would simply change the underlying bill to make the inclusion of these groups a requirement, to ensure that a broad and diverse range of voices are included in these bodies. Federal regulators should listen to stakeholders when writing new rules for our economy, and this amendment will help ensure that these advisory boards are more representative of the American people.

I urge support for my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, the underlying language in this bill was a bipartisan agreement that was worked out in the last Congress. When we were marking up this bill previously, it was brought up that minority representation would be important to this bill, and so the chairman of the committee, Mr. HENSARLING, actually stopped the deliberation there and worked in a bipartisan way across the aisle with Ms. WATERS to make sure that we put language in the bill that would encourage the Director to make sure that women and minorities' business concerns on the small business advisory board were taken into consideration.

We have addressed that, and we kept that language that was agreed to and, by the way, was passed by a voice vote. Mr. PITTENGER accepted that amendment, and the bill reported out of the committee 53–5. So, basically, we have kept our word and kept in the spirit of the agreement that was negotiated in the previous Congress, and that language is in this underlying bill.

I would encourage folks not to vote for this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER).

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

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. KUSTER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part D of House Report 114–74.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, amendment No. 2. I offer that amendment at this time.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 20, strike ''minority- and women-owned'' and insert ''minority-, women-, and veteran-owned''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 200, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Chair, the underlying bill before us today authorizes a small business advisory board to advise the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on small business concerns and practices.

I agree that small businesses must have a seat at the table when Federal regulators make decisions with wide-ranging consequences for our economy, and I appreciate that this legislation already encourages the participation of women-owned and minority-owned small businesses on the board. Women and minority entrepreneurs often have unique perspectives and concerns, and the CFPB would be well served by seeking and heeding their input.

Similarly, as a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I believe that veteran entrepreneurs have unique perspectives and experiences in the economy, and I believe that the small business advisory board would be strengthened by the inclusion of veteran small-business owners. To that end, my amendment simply encourages the CFPB Director to also include veteran-owned small businesses in the membership of the small business advisory board.

After fighting to protect the American Dream for all of us, many veterans have realized that same American Dream by starting their own business upon their return to civilian life. We owe it to our returning heroes to support their success.

I urge support for my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. FOXX). Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA).

Mr. GUINTA. I would like to thank Chairman NEUGEBAUER for yielding me this time.

Madam Chair, it is an honor to stand alongside my fellow Granite State colleague in support of her amendment.

Our State of New Hampshire has one of the highest populations of veterans per capita in the United States. Because of this, both the gentlelady from New Hampshire and myself understand the importance of working together to support our Nation's veterans and veteran-owned businesses. There are hundreds of veteran-owned businesses just in New Hampshire alone, and we need to ensure that our commitment does not end with their term of commitment to our military.

I thank the gentlelady from New Hampshire for her amendment. I urge my colleagues both on the committee and in the full House to support this amendment. I would encourage them to support H.R. 1195, despite the objections of the 0.0015 percent in the pay-for that was earlier discussed.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that we support this. It is a thoughtful amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1745

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS).

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment.

I would like to thank the gentlewoman from New Hampshire for offering this measure, which will ensure that the concerns of our Nation's veteran-owned businesses are represented on the small business advisory board this legislation creates.

Madam Chairman, our Nation's veterans heroically put their lives on the line for this country. And when they come home and decide to start a small business, they are carrying forth that patriotic duty by taking another risk for the betterment of our Nation.

Just as our Nation has a responsibility to care for those who return from battle, we too have a duty to ensure those who have served in our Armed Forces have a voice at the table, in whatever vocation they enter.

Early on, the CFPB recognized the unique needs of servicemembers, veterans, and their families by creating an office targeted to address their needs. Likewise, small businesses owned by veterans comprise a subset of our Nation's economic backbone that should not be ignored. This amendment ensures that the CFPB is made aware of their views, perspectives, and interests in the same manner as all small-business owners.

But Madam Chairman, while I support this amendment and believe in its goals, I remain strongly opposed to the underlying bill, which would impose cuts to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and would set a precedent that could ultimately lead to a time when the Nation's leading consumer advocate is cash-strapped, underfunded, and financially unable to ensure that the views of veteran business owners—or any other business owners—are appropriately taken into account.

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GUINTA) having assumed the chair, Ms. FOXX, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114–28)

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

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the ''Act''), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (the ''Agreement''). I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement, and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. (In accordance with section 123 of the Act, as amended by Title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–277), two classified annexes to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately.) The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretaries of State and Energy and a letter from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed. An addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of China's export control system with respect to nuclear-related matters, including interactions with other countries of proliferation concern and the actual or suspected nuclear, dual-use, or missile-related transfers to such countries, pursuant to section 102A(w) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(w)), is being submitted separately by the Director of National Intelligence.

The proposed Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the nonproliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States.

The proposed Agreement provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful

nuclear cooperation with China based on a mutual commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. It would permit the transfer of material, equipment (including reactors), components, information, and technology for nuclear research and nuclear power production. It does not permit transfers of any Restricted Data. Transfers of sensitive nuclear technology, sensitive nuclear facilities, and major critical components of such facilities may only occur if the Agreement is amended to cover such transfers. In the event of termination, key nonproliferation conditions and controls continue with respect to material, equipment, and components subject to the Agreement.

The proposed Agreement would obligate the United States and China to work together to enhance their efforts to familiarize commercial entities in their respective countries about the requirements of the Agreement as well as national export controls and policies applicable to exports and imports subject to the Agreement. It would have a term of 30 years from the date of its entry into force. Either party may terminate the proposed Agreement on at least 1 year's written notice to the other party.

Since the 1980s, China has become a party to several nonproliferation treaties and conventions and worked to bring its domestic export control authorities in line with international standards. China joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1992 as a nuclear weapon state, brought into force an Additional Protocol to its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement in 2002, and joined the Nuclear Suppliers Group in 2004. China is a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which establishes international standards of physical protection for use, storage, and transport of nuclear material, and has ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention. A more detailed discussion of China's civil nuclear program and its nuclear nonproliferation policies and practices, including its nuclear export policies and practices, is provided in the NPAS and in two classified annexes to the NPAS submitted to you separately. As noted above, the Director of National Intelligence will provide an addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of the export control system of China with respect to nuclear-related matters.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested departments and agencies in reviewing the proposed Agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the proposed Agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the 30 days of continuous session review provided for in section 123 b., the 60 days of continuous session review provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 21, 2015*.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 162]

YEAS—410

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Norcross
Nunes
O'Rourke
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)

Speier	Turner	Welch
Stefanik	Upton	Wenstrup
Stewart	Valadao	Westerman
Stivers	Van Hollen	Westmoreland
Stutzman	Vargas	Whitfield
Swalwell (CA)	Veasey	Williams
Takai	Vela	Wilson (FL)
Takano	Velázquez	Wilson (SC)
Thompson (CA)	Visclosky	Wittman
Thompson (MS)	Walberg	Womack
Thompson (PA)	Walden	Woodall
Thornberry	Walker	Yarmuth
Tiberi	Walorski	Yoder
Tipton	Walters, Mimi	Yoho
Titus	Walz	Young (AK)
Tonko	Waters, Maxine	Young (IA)
Torres	Watson Coleman	Young (IN)
Trott	Weber (TX)	Zeldin
Tsongas	Webster (FL)	Zinke

NOT VOTING—21

Barton	Gutiérrez	Ribble
Brady (TX)	Hastings	Rohrabacher
Butterfield	Hurd (TX)	Smith (WA)
DesJarlais	Jackson Lee	Wagner
Duffy	Neal	Wasserman Schultz
Fincher	Nolan	
Graves (MO)	Nugent	
Grijalva	Olson	

□ 1855

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 162 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 707

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name from H.R. 707.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

□ 1900

HONORING ANNA ''MICKEY'' PETERS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Recently, the Pennsylvania State University Agricultural Extension honored Anna ''Mickey'' Peters for her more than half century of volunteerism to Penn State Extension's 4–H volunteer youth program.

This was just the latest honor for Mickey, who, last year, was inducted into the National Association of Extension 4–H Agents Hall of Fame. This honor was only granted to 14 individuals from across the Nation who best embodied the award motto: ''Making the Best Better.'' Mickey was the sole recipient from Pennsylvania.

Since the early 1960s, this dairy farm wife and mother of four has been a mentor and a trainer, exhibiting outstanding citizenship and leadership. Mickey has been recognized through numerous awards, including the National 4–H Salute to Excellence award, the President's Volunteer Service Award, and the Centre County Council of Human Services Extension award. During her years with the Extension, Mickey has worked with over 500 members and has mentored over 30 4–H leaders.

At age 83, Anna ''Mickey'' Peters continues to help us all understand that every person has the best within himself and that we all have the capacity to make the best better.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF END OF WORLD WAR II

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

We are at a critical juncture in America's rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region, and I really believe that further cooperation between the United States, Japan, and Korea will play a pivotal role towards peace and prosperity throughout the world.

Next week, Japanese Prime Minister Abe will make a historic visit to Capitol Hill as the first ever Japanese Prime Minister to deliver an address to a joint session of Congress. That address must be honest. That address has to address Japan's wartime history. It has to honestly address Japan's atrocities and enslavement of thousands of women who have been forced to work as sex slaves, or comfort women.

To ignore past atrocities, Mr. Speaker, is to ensure a very troubling future. These wounds need to be closed, and they need to be healed. Prime Minister Abe can attain that closure, can attain that healing by exposing those wounds to the light of the truth—and an apology. I am hopeful that he will do this on this floor when he addresses us next week.

TPA PUTS AMERICAN BUSINESSES ON LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support legislation that will benefit American manufacturers, farmers, and workers.

By passing Trade Promotion Authority, we can establish fair and strong rules that hold other nations accountable for their unfair trade practices, and we can tear down the barriers that block our goods from foreign markets.

Passing TPA is critical to ensuring that we can get the best deal available from our trading partners that will benefit hard-working Americans. Studies have shown that jobs supported by trade earn, on average, more than 18 percent more than other jobs. In Minnesota, 775,000 jobs are connected to trade. We can build and improve on that by lowering regulatory barriers and allowing access to emerging markets.

Today, with over 95 percent of the world's consumers living outside of the United States, we need to create a system of fair rules and enforcement so that American products and services are able to compete on a level playing field.

Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to enact meaningful trade deals that will build a stronger and a healthier economy, and it begins with TPA.

CYBER WEEK

(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, it is Cyber Week in the House again. Tomorrow and Thursday, the House will be considering two very important pieces of information-sharing legislation, and I commend the leadership of the Intelligence and the Homeland Security Committees for their bills.

As co-chair of the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus, I am glad that the House is, once again, taking the lead to protect our networks—both public and private—from attack as well as looking to protect privacy and civil liberties. I am also hopeful that, unlike in the last two Congresses, my colleagues in the other Chamber, in the Senate, will take up their proposals so that we can get a bill on the President's desk.

It is particularly important that we codify an information-sharing framework so that we can turn our attention to other challenges in the cyber domain. From data breach to critical infrastructure protection, our ever more connected world ensures that there will be a further demand for congressional action.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership of the committees for their attention to this issue.

HONORING THE BRAVERY OF WILLIAM RAMIREZ AND OFFICER ROSNY OBAS

(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 today to shine the spotlight on a Miami constituent who courageously risked his life for a stranger.

Last Tuesday, on his way to work, William Ramirez witnessed Miami Police Officer Rosny Obas become pinned down under a hail of gunfire. Mr. Ramirez bravely swerved his van into the line of fire to shield Officer Obas, then was able to get the officer to safety.

When asked why he did it, William humbly said, ''How could I not?''

I say William Ramirez is a hero.

South Florida is blessed by the service of patrolmen like Officer Obas, who

work every day to keep us safe, and we are further strengthened by residents like William Ramirez, who sometimes add heroic action to their everyday routines because it is simply the right thing to do.

How could we not?

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

(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 speak about the importance of the ambitious investment in water infrastructure in every community across our great Nation.

I recently wrapped up a tour of several water systems in upstate New York, and what I saw was infrastructure in urgent need of attention—broken pipes, flooded communities, and a lack of technical support for our municipalities. I have spoken with colleagues on both sides of the aisle here in the House, and I have heard similar problems.

We as a Nation must always keep an eye on our debt and on our deficits, both current and those years down the road. To that end, we must realize that investment is needed now to save dollars in the decades to come. We live in a world in which we upgrade our phones, our TVs, our cars, and other personal items almost every 2 years. It is time to apply that same mentality to the delivery systems that move around our most precious commodity—water.

To my colleagues who haven't already done so, I urge them to get involved in this issue within their own communities because it is not just H20 flooding out of those broken pipes just under our feet; it is water plus taxpayer dollars—hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

STOPPING TSA ABUSES ACT

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

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, we saw disturbing news of two TSA screeners who allegedly conspired to sexually assault passengers. This was not the first we have heard about screeners exceeding their authority to abuse passengers. We have read about the pat-downs and strip searches of young children, senior citizens, and cancer patients. Instead of reining in screeners, TSA has unilaterally given them the appearance of even greater authority—metal badges, blue uniforms, and the title of ''officer.''

When you dress someone up like a policeman and call him ''officer,'' you are misleading passengers about his actual authority. Most people see a badge and a uniform, and they comply with the screener's demands even when those demands are abusive. That has to end.

I have introduced the Stopping TSA Abuses Act to prohibit the TSA from giving screeners metal badges, police-like uniforms, and the title ''officer.'' It reserves those rights for sworn officers who have actually completed law enforcement training.

When you see someone wearing a Federal badge and uniform, you should have the faith that he actually has received the proper training. This bill is an important step towards that goal.

MAYOR PRADEL

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor A. George Pradel of the city of Naperville, Illinois.

A lifelong Naperville resident, Mayor Pradel has spent his life in service to the community that he loves.

George was born and raised in Naperville, and after a 3-year detour in the Marine Corps, he returned home to become a police officer. Known around town as ''Officer Friendly,'' he served on the force for 30 years. One of his proudest achievements during his time as an officer was the dedication of Safety Town, a miniature town that teaches children about public safety and how to avoid danger.

In 1995, he was first elected and has served as mayor for a record-setting 20 years, during a time of great expansion and growth for the city. The mayor has led Naperville with his signature mix of charm and compassion. His annual tradition of delivering the State of the City Address in a tuxedo and silk tophat will certainly be missed.

Mayor Pradel is also a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Pat, and is a dedicated father to his children and foster children.

Mayor Pradel, as you step down and spend time with your family, know that your dedication to the community and know that your energy and enthusiasm for serving Naperville will never be forgotten.

IN CELEBRATION OF SAN JACINTO DAY

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, today is a very special day for us Texans. Today, we celebrate San Jacinto Day, which marks the day Texas won its independence at the Battle of San Jacinto.

On this very day in 1836, General Sam Houston's army decisively defeated Mexican President Santa Anna and his forces at the Battle of San Jacinto while famously shouting, ''Remember the Alamo. Remember the Goliad.''

In the U.S. Congress, I am honored and proud to represent this historic battlefield, which now lays home to the San Jacinto Monument. This monument is a staggering and stunning piece of architecture that proudly pays tribute to Texas' victory at the Battle of San Jacinto. Since its completion in 1939, the San Jacinto Monument has served as a symbol of pride, sacrifice, and honor to not only Texas but also to our local community.

As we celebrate 179 years of freedom, let us remember the brave Texas heroes who conquered the Mexican forces at the Battle of San Jacinto on this day.

May we also remember the significant sacrifices made by so many during the Texas Revolution to achieve the freedoms and liberties that we proudly enjoy today in the Lone Star State.

COMFORT WOMEN

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as the United States continues to work with Japan to promote peace and prosperity throughout the Asia-Pacific region and the broader global community, it is my hope that Prime Minister Abe's visit next week will lay the foundation for healing and humble reconciliation by addressing the historical issue of the comfort women.

I look forward to hearing from the Prime Minister for Japan is a close friend and ally, as is South Korea. We want to encourage our close friends and allies to communicate and to foster an ability to work together productively.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor resolutions in the United States Congress to urge the Japanese Government to formally acknowledge and apologize for their Imperial Military's coercion of young women into sexual slavery during the thirties and forties. The recognition of these events by the Japanese Government, through the report released last year on the Kono Statement, takes a step backward in taking full responsibility for the immeasurable pain and incurable wounds suffered by the comfort women.

As a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, I will continue to work every day to ensure that our children and our children's children will inherit a world where these types of atrocities are a thing of the past.

Mr. Speaker, MIKE HONDA, who will be speaking in a little while, has kept this hope alive.

CONSTITUENT CASES AT THE PHILADELPHIA VA

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as a Veterans' Affairs Committee member, tomorrow we will have a hearing on the abuses at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Regional Office. We are going to hear a lot about

the volume of mismanagement, and I want to talk about one individual constituent just to highlight that we are talking about individual lives, individual veterans, who have sacrificed and who have not been treated fairly by the VA regional office.

My constituent has had to file numerous claims for service-connected disabilities. His initial claim was filed in the mid-1990s, and he has gone through five appeals. He has provided additional evidence per the VA's request and has followed their wishes in responding in a timely manner. However, per a court order by the Veterans' Appeals to handle my constituent's case in an expeditious manner, the Philadelphia VA failed to respond until well after 6 months.

The Philadelphia VA failed to provide the Lebanon VA medical doctor's copies of his records for his C&P exams, further holding up his claims. On two occasions, once for an asbestos claim and another for his hearing loss claim, he was seen by a doctor who had to rely on his explanation of diagnosis instead of on his actual file.

Many times, the VA has miscalculated his disability ratings, and due to the VA's lack of timeliness, his claims have been subjected to denials because of errors made by the Philadelphia VA's intake units concerning the misplacement of documentation, medical records, and ignoring requests by the Court and Veterans' Appeals Boards. It is time for accountability.

□ 1915

JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES SHOULD MOVE FORWARD

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman HONDA and all the Members who are asking that the Prime Minister of Japan try to restore the integrity that has been built up to this great nation since the war.

Having been a combat soldier, I know, history will dictate that people are not particularly proud of what viciousness can come out of physical combat. Without getting into the years of occupation that Japan has caused so many Koreans to suffer before the end of World War II, we now have found that these two nations have rebuilt themselves into being our strongest security and trading partners, and so we should remove the stigma of lack of credibility from the Government of Japan.

Certainly I think that most Americans who remember Pearl Harbor, Corregidor, and Bataan—I was a kid, but all I knew was that the Japanese had attacked us. I can't begin to tell you the visions that they tried to have us have. But today they are our friends. Let's try to get this behind us and move forward.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1560, PROTECTING CYBER NETWORKS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1731, NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PROTECTION ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114–88) on the resolution (H. Res. 212) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1560) to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1731) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the ongoing horror and nightmare that is violence against women. Whether in times of conflict or disaster, too often we see the worst battles fought on women and girls' bodies.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize one woman who has survived unspeakable violence. She is a survivor. At 87 years old, she traveled all the way from South Korea. Her name is Lee Yong-Soo, known to everyone as Grandmother Lee. She has become the voice of justice, peace, and reconciliation.

In 1944, 16-year-old Yong-Soo Lee of Tasegu, Korea, was lured by a friend of hers to meet with an older Japanese man. The man took the two of them and three other teenaged girls by train, then ship to Taiwan. There, the girls were forced into sexual slavery, serving four to five Japanese soldiers every day for a year.

Ms. Lee suffered beatings and torture, was infected with venereal disease, was fed paltry amounts, faced temperatures so cold that ice formed on her body, and was never allowed outside. Only the end of World War II brought her relief.

Ms. Lee is just one example of the over 200,000 women from Korea, China, the Philippines, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, and East Timor who were kidnapped and sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

These so-called comfort women suffered serious physical, emotional, and psychological damages as a result of their ordeal. Of her 200,000 sisters, Grandmother Lee is but one out of a handful of survivors across Asia Pacific still alive. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was right when she reportedly called these victims, rather than ''comfort women,'' ''sex slaves.''

When Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addresses a joint meeting of Congress next week on April 29, he has the opportunity to do right by these women. He can make a full, unequivocal, and formal apology on behalf of the Japanese Government.

The Prime Minister's visit is indeed a historic one. He will be the first Japanese Prime Minister to address a joint meeting of Congress. He will address this institution on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the 50th anniversary of the normalization between Korea and Japan.

Prime Minister Abe will address this hallowed Chamber, where President Roosevelt delivered an address to our body as America entered war. There is much to be expected and anticipated in next week's address.

According to yesterday's editorial by The New York Times, the success of Prime Minister Abe's visit ''depends on whether and how honestly Mr. Abe confronts Japan's wartime history, including its decision to wage war, its brutal occupation of China and Korea, its atrocities and its enslavement of thousands of women forced to work as sex slaves or 'comfort women' in wartime brothels.''

Mr. Speaker, in 2007, the House of Representatives sent a profound message to the Government of Japan by passing H. Res. 121, which I authored. The resolution stated:

''That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan:

''(1) should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as comfort women, during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II;

''(2) would help to resolve recurring questions about the sincerity and status of prior statements if the Prime Minister of Japan were to make such an apology as a public statement in his official capacity;

''(3) should clearly and publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the comfort women for the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces never occurred; and

''(4) should educate current and future generations about this horrible crime while following the recommendations of the international community with respect to the comfort women.''

And yet the Japanese Government has continued to fail to address this resolution.

To be fair, the Government of Japan has made important and appreciated efforts to face its history. In 1993, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono issued a statement saying the Japanese military was involved in establishing the comfort stations. He said the women-girls, really from Korea and elsewhere, had been recruited against their own will. This was based upon many documents.

In 1995, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, then Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama admitted Japan's ''colonial rule and aggression caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations.

''In the hope that no such mistake be made in the future, I regard, in a spirit of humility, these irrefutable facts of history, and express here once again my feelings of deep remorse and state my heartfelt apology.''

Yet in 2006, during Abe's first term as Prime Minister, he unleashed an international firestorm of criticism when he undermined the 1993 Kono Statement, incorrectly alleging that no documentary evidence existed of Japan's complicity in setting up and running the comfort women stations.

There was, in fact, plenty of evidence, including the extensive personal testimonies of the survivors, who spoke of being raped 10, 20, up to 50 times per day. In addition, many international bodies have issued recommendations and conclusions on Japan's history and actions.

In 2003, the U.N. committee that evaluates Japan's compliance with the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment expressed concern regarding inadequate remedies for the victims of sexual slavery and violence, particularly survivors of Japan's military sexual slavery practice during World War II.

This committee also recommended that Japan ''provide education to address the discriminatory roots of sexual and gender-based violence violations, and provide rehabilitation measures to the victims.''

In 2008, the committee that accesses Japan's implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights concluded that Japan should ''accept legal responsibility and apologize unreservedly for the 'comfort women' system . . . and take immediate and effective legislative and administrative measures to adequately compensate all survivors . . . educate students and the general public about the issue, and to refute and sanction any attempts to defame the victims or deny the events.''

Talking about educating students, the books, the textbooks in Japan, still do not address the history of the military action in Asia during World War II.

Following the passage of H. Res. 121, many countries followed suit and passed their own resolutions: Taiwan, Canada, Netherlands, the European Union, and South Korea.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more important right now than for a democratic country like Japan to apologize for its past mistakes. A government is a living, breathing organism that is responsible for its past, present, and its future. Yet, as The New York Times editorial said, ''history should have been settled. That it is not settled is largely the fault of Mr. Abe and his right-wing political allies who keep questioning history and even trying to rewrite it.''

Last year, I, along with 17 of my House colleagues, wrote to the Ambassador of Japan to the U.S., calling the timing and context of the Japanese Government report on the Kono Statement regrettable, unfortunate, unacceptable, and destabilizing.

Also, last year, the Abe administration tried and then failed to get the United Nations to partially retract the authoritative 1996 report, which called on Japan to apologize to the victims and pay reparations to the survivors who had been forced into sex slavery during the war.

Most notably, this year, the Japanese Government tried unsuccessfully to change passages in a history textbook about the comfort women during World War II. I believe the budget of Japan Prime Minister Abe was able to secure almost half a billion dollars to effect that kind of change wherever they deemed necessary.

Now, some say that Japan has apologized enough and it is time to move on. To those people I would say, given these continued revisionist attempts, for every step forward toward peace and reconciliation, the Government of Japan takes two steps backwards. Enough is enough. Seventy years later, it is time for Prime Minister Abe to be clear and unequivocal and issue an irrefutable apology, something that carries the weight of his government.

The German Chancellor Angela Merkel has urged Prime Minister Abe to face Japan's history. Germany knows something about this. After World War II, it engaged in a painful national coming to terms with the past that ripped open old wounds so that they could properly heal.

In 1970, on a cold and wet day in Warsaw, then-German Chancellor Willy Brandt laid down a wreath at the memorial of the Jewish ghetto. Then he fell to his knees in front of the memorial. As a reporter who witnessed this event wrote later:

''If this man, who wasn't responsible for the crime, who wasn't there in those years, now decides to walk through the former Warsaw ghetto and to kneel down—then it's clear he doesn't kneel there for his own sake . . . he confesses a guilt that he doesn't have to carry, and he asks for a forgiveness that he himself doesn't need. Then he kneels there for Germany.''

□ 1930

And so 70 years later, Grandmother Lee and the hundreds of thousands of souls of the departed continue to wait for their justice and peace.

As someone who was put into an internment camp as an infant, I know firsthand that governments must not be ignorant of their pasts.

In 1942, during World War II, my country, my government, put aside the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans and systematically incarcerated thousands of us—120,000. We were U.S. citizens, but we also looked like the enemy.

Decades later, we, the Japanese American community, fought for an apology from our own government. In 1988, Congress passed and President Ronald Reagan signed into law H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. This was a formal apology to United States citizens of Japanese ancestry who were unjustly put into internment camps during World War II. Our government made a mistake, but they apologized for it and healed many wounds as a result.

Even though 40 years have passed, it still warmed my heart to hear my government say, ''We're sorry.'' Japan must now do the same. They must show the maturity of a democratic country, apologize for their mistake, and thereby gain the trust of their sister Asian nations.

Violence against women continues today. According to the World Health Organization, women aged 15 to 44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than cancer, car accidents, war, and malaria.

By 1993, the Zenica Centre for the Registration of War and Genocide Crime in Bosnia-Herzegovina had documented 40,000 cases of war-related rape. Of a sample of Rwandan women surveyed in 1999, 39 percent reported being raped during the 1994 genocide, and 72 percent said they knew someone who had been raped.

An estimated 23,000, to 46,000 Kosovar Albanian women are believed to have been raped between August 1998 and August 1999, the height of the conflict with Serbia.

In 2003, 74 percent of a random sample of 399 Liberian refugee women living in camps in Sierra Leone reported being sexually abused prior to being displaced from their homes in Liberia. Fifty-five percent of them experienced sexual violence during displacement.

Even today, the U.N. labeled the Democratic Republic of Congo as the ''rape capital of the world.'' There are rape camps that are destroying the lives of babies, young people—boys and girls—and women and men. In the DRC, 48 women are raped every hour.

In addition, according to a recent Human Rights Watch report, the extremist group ISIL has carried out systematic rape and other sexual violence against Yazidi women and girls in northern Iraq.

ISIS forces took several thousand Yazidi civilians into custody in northern Iraq's province in August 2014, according to Kurdistan officials and community leaders. Witnesses said that fighters systematically separated young women and girls from their families and other captives and moved them from one location to another inside Iraq and Syria.

The 11 women and 9 girls Human Rights Watch interviewed had escaped between September 2014 and January 2015. Half, including two 12-year-old girls, said they had been raped—some multiple times and by several ISIS fighters. Nearly all of them said they had been forced into marriage; sold—in some cases, a number of times; or given as ''gifts.'' The women and girls also witnessed other captives being abused. Violence against women must stop.

Today, there are fewer than 100 surviving Comfort Women women across the Asia Pacific. Each year, this number declines. The survivors are dying by the day. They deserve the justice that has been due to them for the past 70 years. They deserve the justice that has been denied them. These women want and deserve an official apology.

In 1991, with the swift courage of Kim Hak-sun, she brought to light her story of being a sex slave to the Japanese Imperial Army. Her story was the spark that ignited the flames of justice.

Since then, we have the courageous survivors, such as Grandmother Lee, who continues to be a voice for the voiceless. We also have the courage of Ms. Jan Ruff O'Herne, who now resides in Australia.

Ms. O'Herne was born in Java in the former Dutch East Indies, known today as Indonesia. When she was 19 years old, Japanese troops invaded Java. They were interned in Japanese prison camps.

Two years later, she was selected, along with several other girls, and was told by the Japanese military that they were there for the sexual pleasure of the Japanese military.

As Ms. O'Herne relayed during the 2007 House Foreign Affairs hearing on Protecting the Human Rights of Comfort Women, a Japanese officer ran his sword all over her body and forced himself on her.

The trauma these women—these girls—endured is unimaginable. That is why my patience for securing justice for the dignity of these victims is running out.

The opportunity to speak to a joint session of Congress is an honor that is reserved for the heads of state of our closest allies. It is my sincere hope that, for Ms. O'Herne's sake, for Kim Hak-sun's sake, for Grandmother Lee's sake, Prime Minister Abe will take the privilege to address the joint meeting of Congress and finally and firmly apologize and commit to educating the future generations honestly and humbly. The spirit of these women—these girls—deserves no less.

In closing, I am going to quote Grandmother Lee's comments when she testified before our subcommittee in 2007. She said:

> If you cannot apologize to me, give me back my youth.

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

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern for women around the world who are targeted victims of violence. It is estimated that 1 out of every 3 women around the world will be beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Women in areas of conflict are in even more danger. We know that rape and sexual assault are tools of war used around the world to terrorize entire communities. Displaced, refugee and stateless women are at an increased risk of violence, and they are often forced to exchange sex for food and humanitarian supplies. These tactics are not new, they have been used as tools of war throughout the centuries and these despicable practices have been ignored for far too long.

Today, sitting in the House Gallery, is Grandmother Yong Soo Lee, a courageous survivor of war. In the 1930s and 1940s, women and girls were forced to provide sexual services for Japanese soldiers. These women are known as comfort women, and Grandmother Lee is one of the few remaining survivors still alive.

Every country, including our own, has made mistakes in the past. At one time or another, each country has had to apologize for actions unbefitting its values and principles.

Since the end of World War II, Japan has been one of the United States' most important allies and we have enjoyed a successful partnership based on respect and cooperation. However, the historical record on comfort women must be universally accepted, without wavering on the horrific details.

In 1993, the Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono apologized to the victims and admitted responsibility by the Japanese military. Despite this apology, in the past twelve years, government officials have made statements that seem to call the Kono Statement into question. These discrepancies are an impediment to a successful tri-lateral relationship between the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Prime Minster Shinzo Abe's scheduled address to a joint meeting of Congress next week is a landmark moment for U.S.-Japan relations. I look forward to hearing Prime Minister Abe speak and it is my hope he uses this opportunity to clarify any remarks that have been interpreted as a revocation of the Kono Statement.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman HONDA for hosting this very important Special Order this evening.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury for women in America.

More often than not, cases of violence against women go unreported.

Over 80% of women who were victimized experienced significant short-term and long-term impacts related to the violence and were more likely to experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and long-term chronic diseases such as asthma and diabetes.

Every year in the United States, 1,000 to 1,600 women die at the hands of their male partners, often after a long, escalating pattern of battering.

In 2009, 111 women were killed by their former or current husband, intimate partner or boyfriend in the State of Texas.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury for women in America.

Every nine seconds a woman in the United States is assaulted or beaten by stalkers or her partner.

Another form of violence against women is sex trafficking.

Trafficking ensnares millions of women and girls in modern-day slavery.

According to the FBI, sex trafficking is the fastest-growing business of organized crime and the third-largest criminal enterprise in the world.

More than 300,000 American children are at risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking annually in what is estimated to be a $9.8 billion industry.

Women and girls represent 55 per cent of the estimated 20.9 million victims of forced labor worldwide and 98 per cent of the estimated 4.5 million forced into sexual exploitation.

Similar to current sex trafficking crimes is the past atrocity of the crimes that were committed towards the Korean women.

The ''comfort women'' system of forced military prostitution by the Government of Japan, considered unprecedented in its cruelty and magnitude, included gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death, or eventual suicide in one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th century.

Today, there are now only just 59 known survivors that were comfort Korean victims.

There are about 200,000 women are estimated to have worked as comfort women in Japan's military brothels.

Today, the comfort women issue remains taboo and controversial topic, just like other violent crimes committed to women.

These women are not victims but also survivors, survivors from a brutal crime.

The comfort women issue is not just about the past, but it is very relevant today.

The world's strength to oppose killing today is made greater by accountability, for actions present, but also past.

It's weakened by denial of accountability and obfuscation of past acts.

History is a continuum that affects today and tomorrow.

Women everywhere should not be victims of such an atrocity.

It's much harder to get tomorrow right if we get yesterday wrong.

Today, we call on to the Japanese government to apologize to the few women who continue to live with the shame of the crimes committed against them.

SAN JACINTO DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ABRAHAM). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today is April 21, 2015. April 21 is an important day. It is an important day not

only in Texas history, but I think in world history. But it is more important to my mother. Because today, Mr. Speaker, my mother is 90 years young.

When I was growing up in Texas, April 21 was a holiday. We did not go to school on April 21 in Houston. And my mother told me the reason we did not go to school was because it was her birthday and everybody got off from school on her birthday.

Of course, I believed her—and she still says that is the reason we get off—but it wasn't until I took fourth-grade Texas history that I learned there was another reason why April 21 was an important day and a holiday. It is called San Jacinto Day, Mr. Speaker.

San Jacinto Day is based upon Texas history that occurred on April 21, 1836—179 years ago. That was the day that the Battle of San Jacinto took place on the marshy plains where Buffalo Bayou meets the San Jacinto River, near the Gulf of Mexico, in a place that we now call Harrisburg, which is near Houston, Texas. It was a battle that was successful for liberty and freedom for people who lived in Texas.

The Battle of San Jacinto was won by Sam Houston defeating the invading Mexican army led by Santa Anna. And I will get back to that in a moment. I think it is important, though, we have a little history lesson so we understand why this battle for freedom is so important to all people who believe in freedom.

Texas, Mr. Speaker, was wanted by a lot of folks. The French claimed Texas. Of course, the Comanches, the Apaches, and a lot of other Native American tribes claimed Texas—and wanted Texas.

But Spain controlled Texas for a great number of years. From 1690 to about 1821, Texas as we know it was part of Spain. In fact, we still have Spanish land grants in Texas, where people own land that they can trace back to the Spanish when they controlled Texas.

In about 1821, a portion of Spain—Spanish Texas and Spanish Mexico, if you will—decided they wanted independence from Spain. So, Mexico as we now know it had their war of independence from the European power of Spain, and they were successful in defeating the Spanish and declaring independence and becoming a democratic republic south of the border called the Republic of Mexico. That was 1821. Texas was a part of that revolution and that rebellion. Texans fought in those battles.

And all went well until about 1835, when a person by the name of Santa Anna took over the Presidency of Mexico—a republic, a democracy—and made himself a military dictator. He abolished the Constitution—dictators have a habit of doing that, even to this day—dismissed the assembly or Congress, and he was in total control of Mexico.

Now, this did not set well with people in Mexico, which includes what we now know as Texas.

Here is a map of the region in about the time of 1821 to 1836. This portion here was Texas. It was part of another state in Mexico called Coahuila.

When dictator Santa Anna took control of this entire area, 11 of the states rebelled. They wanted their own independence from their dictator, who destroyed the democracy, or the democratic Republic of Mexico.

Several of the states rebelled. In fact, some were somewhat successful. The Republic of Yucatan lasted for a while, went back to Mexico, gained independence again, and was a republic for about 7 years in the 1840s, and then joined Mexico again.

There were several other states—and I will put in the RECORD the names of those states—that wanted independence from Mexico, to go their own way, and some were more successful than others.

And what Santa Anna did is assemble his army. He went through Mexico, retaking this land, putting down the rebellion of all of the individuals who were trying to be independent from the Mexican dictator.

After he had successfully done that, he moved across the Rio Grande River, where those Texans were causing the same type of controversy of wanting freedom and independence. And what started the actual fighting between the people of Texas—and they were of all races. Tejanos is a special unique name of Texans of Spanish or Mexican birth. Tejanos, Anglos, and Blacks in that area wanted independence. Not all, but many of them did. And there was a controversy, and there were political disputes with the Mexican government. But what set it all off occurred in a small, little town of Gonzales, Texas.

In Gonzales, Texas, they had a cannon. It wasn't really much of a cannon, but it was a cannon. And it was to protect themselves from the Karankawas, the Apaches, and other folks.

□ 1945

The Mexican Government decided they were going over to take that cannon away from the settlers. The settlers objected. They said, You can't have it. They made themselves a flag that said, ''Come and take it.'' We still have that flag. ''Come and take it.'' It had a cannon with the words ''Come and take it.''

So the Mexican military shows up. The settlers have a skirmish with the Mexican military. Shots were fired. I don't think anybody was really hurt too bad, but the Mexican Army retreated. They left Gonzalez, but they left without the cannon.

It is an interesting note that the Texas war of independence started because government tried to take the firearms, the weapons, the guns of the people. If you recall American history, Mr. Speaker, which I know you know quite well, there is a little place called Lexington and Concord, up in Massachusetts, where the British tried to take the guns from the colonists, to take the guns from the armory at Lexington and Concord. The colonists objected.

The shot heard around the world started the American war of independence, successful just like the Texas war of independence was successful, but the fighting started when the government showed up to take the weapons of the settlers.

In any event, the Battle of Gonzalez took place. The fighting was on. Texans moved into Bexar, which is now San Antonio, which was the central city in the Republic, or in Texas, and took that away from the Mexican military that was there, ran them out of town, and that was toward December of 1835.

Then we get to early part of 1836, and this part of history is what most Americans are aware of: Santa Anna now is coming across the Rio Grande River with his three armies to retake Texas and make it part of Mexico again, as he had done with these other rebellious states in Mexico.

He showed up at a little place, a beat-up old Spanish church that was over 100 years old at the time, in February of 1836. We call it the Alamo, the cradle of Texas liberty.

Assembled at the Alamo, in Bexar—San Antonio, if you will, same place—were 187 Texas volunteers. Now, most of them were not from Texas. In fact, the only natives there were the Tejanos. Eleven Tejanos fought in the Texas revolution at the Alamo, but they were from all the States, 13 foreign countries, and of all races, volunteers, led by my favorite person—William Barret Travis, a South Carolina lawyer—came to Texas; and he is 27, the commander of the Alamo.

Santa Anna's army, historians disagree on how many thousands there were, but there were a lot of them; and, after 13 days—we all know the rest of the story. After 13 days of holding the Mexican Army at bay and Santa Anna, Santa Anna was able to breach the walls and kill all of the defenders, all the volunteers at the Alamo.

After that occurred, people who lived in Texas started moving from that direction of central Texas towards the east, towards Louisiana. It is called the Runaway Scrape.

Why were they running? Because the Mexican armies have invaded Texas and are coming after the settlers in that portion of the State, that portion of Texas—so Sam Houston, who had already come to Texas, was building an army to fight and defend the State of Texas and to fight and defend, from the invaders, Texas liberty. He was building this army.

It is interesting how he got to Texas. Sam Houston was famous in his own right before he made it to Texas. He was from Tennessee. He was an attorney general, Member of Congress—twice elected to Congress—and Governor of Tennessee.

He eventually left the Governorship and came back to Washington, Mr. Speaker, and advocated on behalf of the Cherokee Indians who he was living with in what is now Oklahoma.

He got into a dispute with an Ohio Congressman named Stanbery. Stanbery had impugned the integrity of Sam Houston, and Sam Houston didn't like that. That conversation, apparently, by Stanbery occurred on this House floor.

One morning, Sam Houston is coming out of his home, his dwelling over here on Pennsylvania Avenue, and he sees Stanbery. Sam Houston carried a cane. You may see the pictures of Sam Houston with his cane. Sam Houston comes upon—I get all choked up telling the story, Mr. Speaker.

Sam Houston comes up on Stanbery. He is walking down the street. Sam Houston, remembering the bad things that Stanbery said about him on the House floor, and he starts to thrash Stanbery with his cane, beats him pretty bad.

Stanbery had a pistol. He pulls it out of his vest. He pokes the pistol in Sam Houston's chest and pulls the trigger. The gun misfired; and, therefore, Sam Houston lived. He was tried on this House floor for demeaning a Member of Congress. The Supreme Court sat in judgment of him. The trial lasted a month. Sam Houston took the House floor and talked over a full day, defending himself.

After the trial was over, Sam Houston was found guilty, ordered to pay a $500 fine for demeaning a Member of Congress. Sam Houston was represented by Francis Scott Key—yes, the same lawyer that wrote our Star-Spangled Banner.

Rather than pay the fine, rather than deal with Congress anymore and Mr. Stanbery, he left Washington and ended up in Texas and became a political figure there. They loved Sam Houston when he came to Texas. They didn't care about his troubles here in Washington, D.C., and he was made general of the Texas Army.

So the Alamo takes place. William Barret Travis, the commander, they were all killed. Sam Houston builds his army, and he is ready to defend Texas against the invading army from Santa Anna.

That brings us to April 21. Sam Houston did not engage Santa Anna quickly. In fact, he kept moving east. He got as close as he could to Louisiana, and then he moved south, down towards the Gulf of Mexico. Santa Anna is chasing him.

Finally, Sam Houston stopped on those marshy plains of San Jacinto, where Buffalo Bayou meets the San Jacinto River—Santa Anna's army, about 1,800; Houston's army, 700, 800—outnumbered.

Remember, Santa Anna's armies had yet to be defeated, in all those battles in Mexico, Alamo, a place called Goliad, where Santa Anna killed all the Texas defenders, yet to be defeated. Sam Houston has yet to fight a battle.

They assemble there, April 19, 1836. Most battles, even today, are fought when the sun comes up, sunrise; and they were then. They were for thousands of years. Everybody expected battle on April 22 at sunrise, but the Texas Army did not want to wait, so on the afternoon of April 21, there was a council of war. Sam Houston decided that now is as good a time as any.

Well, less than a mile away was Santa Anna's army, but it is in the afternoon. Many of the soldiers in Santa Anna's army were taking a siesta.

Legend has it that Santa Anna was occupied with a mixed-race lady by the name of Emily Morgan. She was keeping him busy during this time. I don't know if that is true or not. We believe it is true. We named buildings after Emily Morgan. We call her the Yellow Rose of Texas. We still honor ladies in Texas by calling them the yellow rose.

But anyway, so he is busy. The Texans line up in one column. There weren't a lot of them; there were only 700 or 800 of them. They didn't have uniforms. They were wearing buckskins and frontier clothes. They have bowie knives and pistols in their belts, tomahawks, rifles.

Juan Seguin, Hispanic Tejano, his cavalry are riding the flanks, protecting the flanks, also didn't have uniforms. So that the Texans would not mistake them for the enemy, Juan Sequin had all of his cavalry put in their sombreros, their hats, a playing card so they would know that these are the good guys and they wouldn't mistake them for the enemy.

They are marching in a single file, if you can imagine this, this odd-looking bunch of folks. Leading them was a fife guy—a fifer, on a fife—another person carrying a flag. It was Miss Liberty that they were carrying the flag of.

Miss Liberty was a partially nude female with the word ''liberty'' written across her. The fifer, he only knew one song. It was called ''Come to the Bower.'' The Bower was a house of ill repute, so he is playing this house of ill repute song on his fife, and the Texas Army is marching down the hill, ready.

The Mexican Army, not prepared, no scouts, no lookouts, no one is watching; and they charge in broad daylight in the middle of the afternoon, when battles are never fought.

Santa Anna was caught napping. The Mexican Army was caught by surprise. In 18 minutes, a lot shorter time than I have already talked, Mr. Speaker, the battle started, and it was ended. Half the Mexican Army was killed, the other half captured. More were captured than were in the Texas Army. Texas casualties, nine were killed. The enemy was caught by total surprise. They were caught fleeing.

Santa Anna changed his clothes, took off his fancy general, Presidential uniform and put on the uniform of a Mexican private, but he was caught, and he was brought to Sam Houston, who happened to be one of the few that were wounded. He was shot in the ankle off his horse.

The Texans wanted to hang Santa Anna right there from the closest oak tree. Sam Houston was not about to have a lynching of the enemy leader, and he held him for bargaining power later, to get a better deal for Texas independence.

The Texans at San Jacinto, like at the Alamo, all volunteers, they came from every place. They were of all races. They came from several foreign countries. They came from many of the States. One was from Rhode Island, another from Vermont; several were from New York.

In fact, several New Yorkers helped in Texas' independence, at the Alamo and at San Jacinto, but from most of the States and, as I said, foreign countries as well.

□ 2000

They succeeded in defeating Santa Anna.

Texas declared independence earlier that year, on March 2, 1836, about 6 weeks before the Battle of San Jacinto, declared independence from Mexico. And it was won. It was successful on April 21, 1836, which we call San Jacinto Day today.

After that battle was over with, military historians say it was one of the most decisive battles in Western Hemisphere history because of the massive amount of land that changed hands because of one battle.

After the Battle of San Jacinto, you can see what modern-day Texas looks like right through here, this area. Texas not only claimed what is now modern-day Texas, but it claimed parts of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, and all the way up to Wyoming.

This was the Republic of Texas in April of 1836. This land was all claimed by Texas. Texas established a constitution, a government, and became an independent, free nation that lasted for 9 years. Sam Houston, of course, was the President of the Republic of Texas and got elected twice to the Republic of Texas.

The Republic of Texas, as I said, lasted for 9 years, and then the majority of Texans wanted to join the United States. It was not an easy task. Many people in the United States didn't want Texas in the Union.

Primarily the way for Texas to get into the Union was a treaty because Texas was a country. The United States is a country. There would be a treaty, and Texas would come in as a State. As we know, those folks down the hallway in the Senate, it takes two-thirds of them to approve a treaty.

Two-thirds of the States in the United States would never have approved Texas coming into the Union, so how did Texas become a part of the Union? They changed it to a joint resolution. It just takes a majority vote to get a joint resolution passed in the Senate. So Texas came into the Union

after several tries unsuccessfully when, apparently, a Louisiana Senator changed his vote from ''no'' to ''yes,'' and Texas came in under a joint resolution. Thus, the Republic of Texas was no more and became a State in the Union in 1845, in December of 1845.

When it came into the Union, Texas was allowed to fly its flag at the same height as the United States flag. If you come to Texas, you will notice there are a lot of Texas flags flying at the same level as the American flag.

Texas is allowed to divide into five States. We are not going to do that. People would debate who would be called Texas and what would the other four be called. So we are not going to divide into five States. But we have the ability, and we have the right to decide and to divide into five States.

But going back to Texas and the way it was when it came into the Union, what happened to all this land? Well, Texas had mounted a lot of debt and, to pay off its debt to the United States and to its creditors, sold this land to the Federal Government and wiped the slate clean. Therefore, Texas now looks like what we all know it looks like. The rest of that land went to the Union.

I mentioned and talked to you tonight, Mr. Speaker, about San Jacinto Day, not so much because it is really San Jacinto Day, but about the people who were there 179 years ago. I mentioned there were all types of folks. But similar to our ancestors in the colonial days who said ''no'' to oppression, they weren't going to tolerate it. We still have oppression throughout the world. We have governments and dictators, military dictators oppressing their people. A lot of times, they can't do anything about it, those people. They would like to be free and independent, but they are not.

Those folks back in 1836 made a decision that it was more important to them to be free than it was to be safe, secure in their own personal life. So they were willing to give their life for freedom. That is not a trite statement. We have had people from all over the United States who have done that since then, have fought for America, fought for liberty, fought for freedom, even for other people. They have sacrificed their lives so that other people can enjoy those words that most people have never enjoyed, ''freedom'' and ''liberty.''

And when a dictator or any other powerful government shows up, some people have the ability to step up and say: I am not going to take it. I will give up my life so that there can be a free nation.

So we are grateful for those folks in 1836, on San Jacinto Day, and the ones at the Alamo who all died and the others who died and the ones that fought and lived, sacrificed their land to make sure that freedom rings in our State.

Texans are proud of their history. I mentioned that I learned about San Jacinto Day in Texas history. Kids growing up in Texas today have to take Texas history twice, in the fourth grade and the seventh grade, where they learn about the history of our State.

Our history is different than the Thirteen Colonies' history. It received its independence, but it was not from England; it was from a Mexican dictator.

And we appreciate that. We appreciate those folks—Sam Houston, William Barret Travis, Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie—all those many men and women who sacrificed life and their well-being so that we could be an independent nation that tyrants will not rule. They will not be successful. They will be defeated. And we should admire people like that. I think we do here in the House of Representatives and in the United States. We have had people like that in all of our history. That is what makes us a unique nation, because we can go all the way back to the American War for Independence and trace all of the history; and in much of it, the United States was at war and fighting for our liberty, and we thank those people.

We are still involved in war throughout the world today, the people fighting for America. So we are grateful for them, and we are grateful for those folks—Sam Houston and all of his boys of summer and boys of spring—that fought at the Battle of San Jacinto.

One hundred years after the battle, Texans built a monument similar to the one down the street, the Washington Monument. We have all seen the Washington Monument. If you come to the battlefield of San Jacinto, you will see a similar monument, but it has a big star on the top of it. It is taller than the Washington Monument because it is in Texas, and the star makes it taller than the Washington Monument.

As a side note, the Texas State capitol is also taller than this Capitol. That was built later.

And we honor those folks with that monument. We honor them on San Jacinto Day, today. It is not a holiday anymore. Kids don't get out of school.

But it is still my mother's birthday. I don't know if she is watching or not, but she is certainly celebrating her birthday down in Texas.

So on behalf of those of us here, we commend those folks at the Battle of San Jacinto. And I also want to wish my mom a happy birthday on this April 21, 2015.

And that is just the way it is, Mr. Speaker.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 22, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

1215. A letter from the Principal Deputy, Reserve Affairs, Office of the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's STARBASE Program 2014 annual report, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2193b(g); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1216. A letter from the Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office, transmitting a reissued report entitled ''Defense Acquisitions: Assessments of Selected Weapon Programs'' (GAO-15-342SP) to reflect changes made to the quantities of one of the programs used in the Office's calculations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1217. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a statement, pursuant to Sec. 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended, on a transaction involving Hainan Airlines Co., Ltd. of Haikou, China; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1218. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Possession by Conservators and Receivers for Federal and State Savings Associations (RIN: 3064-AE17) received April 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1219. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Rules of Practice and Procedure and Amendments to FDIC Rules and Regulations (RIN: 3064-AE08) received April 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1220. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Removal of Section 235 Home Ownership Program Regulations [Docket No.: FR-5829-F-01] received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1221. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Major final rule — Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System; Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities [EPA-HQ-RCRA-2009-0640; FRL-9919-44-OSWER] (RIN: 2050-AE81) received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1222. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Vermont: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [EPA-R01-RCRA-2015-0195; FRL 9926-54-Region 1] received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

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

1223. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Oklahoma [EPA-R06-OAR-2008-0063; FRL-9926-50-Region 6] received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1224. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Charlotte; Base Year Emissions Inventory and Emissions Statement for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard [EPA-R04-OAR-2015-0209; FRL-9926-47-Region 4] received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1225. 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; Rhode Island: Prevention of Significant Deterioration [EPA-R01-OAR-2011-0148; A-1-FRL-9926-51-Region 1] received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1226. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, OC/OPPLA/OP/RPMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Performance Standards for Ionizing Radiation Emitting Products; Fluoroscopic Equipment; Correction [Docket No.: FDA-2015-N-0828] received April 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1227. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's FY 2014 annual report and data, pursuant to Secs. 203(a) and (b) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1228. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1229. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1230. A letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Office of Special Counsel, transmitting the Office's FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1231. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — 2015 Annual Determination To Implement the Sea Turtle Observer Requirement [Docket No.: 140829733-5046-02] (RIN: 0648-BE35) received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1232. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's ''Detainees Not Seeking Asylum'' report for FY 2013, pursuant to Sec. 904 of the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1233. A letter from the Designee of the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the monthly report to Congress on ''Adjustments of Status Granted Under Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957'', Pub. L. 85-316, for February 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1234. A letter from the Designee of the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the monthly report to Congress on ''Adjustments of Status Granted Under Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957'', Pub. L. 85-316, for January 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1235. A letter from the Designee of the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the monthly report to Congress on ''Adjustments of Status Granted Under Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957'', Pub. L. 85-316, for January 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1236. A letter from the Designee of the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the monthly report to Congress on ''Adjustments of Status Granted Under Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957'', Pub. L. 85-316, for December 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1237. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; GA 8 Airvan (Pty) Ltd Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1123; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-037-AD; Amendment 39-18120; AD 2015-06-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1238. A letter from the Deputy Director, ODRM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program; Right of Appeal for Medicare Secondary Payer Determinations Relating to Liability Insurance (Including Self-Insurance), No-Fault Insurance, and Workers' Compensation Laws and Plans [CMS-6055-F] (RIN: 0938-AS03) received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

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. COLLINS of Georgia: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 212. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1560) to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1731) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–88). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia (for himself and Mr. LABRADOR):

H.R. 1897. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to make technical corrections to law governing grazing permits and leases on National Forest System lands; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. BERA, Ms. ESTY, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. BEYER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 1898. A bill to provide for investment in innovation through research and development and STEM education, to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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 Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself and Mrs. BUSTOS):

H.R. 1899. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend to all veterans with a serious service-connected injury eligibility to participate in the family caregiver services program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 1900. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARCHANT (for himself, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PERRY, Mr. FLORES, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. SCALISE):

H.R. 1901. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phaseout and repeal the credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources, to reduce the corporate income tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1902. A bill to ban hydraulic fracturing on land owned by the United States and leased to a third party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. LEWIS):

H.R. 1903. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to eliminate the consumptive demand exception to prohibition on importation of goods made with convict labor, forced labor, or indentured labor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JONES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 1904. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to establish, or expand upon, master's degree or doctoral degree programs in orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JONES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 1905. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to award grants to fund research on orthotics and prosthetics; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 1906. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include recreational therapy among the therapy modalities that constitute an intensive rehabilitation therapy program in an inpatient rehabilitation hospital or unit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 1907. A bill to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MOORE, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. HAHN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana):

H.R. 1908. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to discount FHA single-family mortgage insurance premium payments for first-time homebuyers who complete a financial literacy housing counseling program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 1909. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GUTIÉRREZ:

H.R. 1910. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to convene a panel to solicit recommendations for and select a portrait of a woman to be used in a redesign of the $20 Federal Reserve note; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. JOYCE):

H.R. 1911. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase certain veteran funeral benefits; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HURT of Virginia:

H.R. 1912. A bill to exempt smaller public companies from requirements relating to the use of Extensible Business Reporting Language for periodic reporting to the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 1913. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to develop guidance and procedures for the recovery of refunds relating to tax return preparer fraud; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1914. A bill to terminate certain toll authorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Mr. BRIDENSTINE):

H.R. 1915. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to carry out activities relating to the research, development, test, and evaluation and procurement of the David's Sling weapons program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, 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. LEVIN:

H.R. 1916. A bill to reauthorize trade enforcement and trade facilitation functions and activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 1917. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to establish congressional procedures for the termination of economically harmful free trade agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. POLIS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. O'ROURKE):

H.R. 1918. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for clarification as to the meaning of access without authorization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS (for herself and Mr. SCALISE):

H.R. 1919. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MENG (for herself and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota):

H.R. 1920. A bill to require the Secretary of State to provide relevant Foreign Service officers with training related to medical graduates in the countries in which such officers are serving, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MENG (for herself and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota):

H.R. 1921. A bill to facilitate the expedited review of applications of aliens applying for admission to the United States under section 101(a)(15)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act who are coming to the United States to participate in a program under which they will receive graduate medical education or training, require the Secretary of State to provide relevant Foreign Service officers with training regarding such aliens, 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. NADLER:

H.R. 1922. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to the use of dispersants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. JOYCE, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 1923. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to appoint a coordinator for issues relating to harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SERRANO (for himself, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. HAHN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. VELA, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. LEE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SIRES, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 1924. A bill to provide for the establishment of a program by the National Science Foundation to support undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education at Hispanic-serving institutions; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. BARTON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DOLD, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YODER, Ms. LEE, Mr. HONDA, and Mrs. BUSTOS):

H.R. 1925. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Balazs ''Ernie'' Bodai in recognition of his many outstanding contributions to the Nation, including a tireless commitment to breast cancer research; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.J. Res. 46. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States giving Congress power to regulate campaign contributions for Federal elections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself and Mr. ROYCE):

H. Con. Res. 40. Concurrent resolution encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MARINO, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRAYSON, and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida):

H. Res. 213. A resolution condemning the April 2015 terrorist attack at the Garissa University College in Garissa, Kenya, and reaffirming the United States support for the people and Government of Kenya, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LEE, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. HAHN, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. POLIS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H. Res. 214. A resolution supporting efforts to ensure that students have access to debt-free higher education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LATTA:

H. Res. 215. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that any comprehensive plan to reform our national energy policy must promote the sustainable use of renewable and alternative energy sources; increase our domestic refining capacity; promote conservation and increased energy efficiency; expand research and development, including domestic onshore and offshore exploration; and enhance consumer education; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 216. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2015 as ''National Campus Sexual Assault Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California:

H. Res. 217. A resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of Henry Thomas Segerstrom and expressing condolences on his passing; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin):

H. Res. 218. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the conditions for the United States becoming a signatory to any international agreement on greenhouse gas emissions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

14. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of New Mexico, relative to House Memorial No. 119, recognizing and commending the longstanding traditions of tolerance and inclusion in Azerbaijan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 1897.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution states, ''The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . .''

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1898.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 1899.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 1900.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MARCHANT:

H.R. 1901.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Art. I Sec. 8 cl. 1, under the ''Power To lay and collect Taxes'';

Amd. 16, under the ''power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration''; and

Art. I Sec. 8 cl. 18, under the power to ''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. POCAN:

H.R. 1902.

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. KIND:

H.R. 1903.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 1904.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 1905.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 1906.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; and including, but not solely limited to Article I, Section 8, Clause 14.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 1907.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 1908.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 1909.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. GUTIÉRREZ:

H.R. 1910.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 6, Congress has the authority to coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 1911.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for the 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. HURT of Virginia:

H.R. 1912.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 1913.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 1914.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.
By Mr. KILMER:
H.R. 1915.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. LEVIN:
H.R. 1916.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. LIPINSKI:
H.R. 1917.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 permitting Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign nations.
By Ms. LOFGREN:
H.R. 1918.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS:
H.R. 1919.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce as enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 as applied to providing for the general welfare of the United States through the administration of the Medicare program under Title 18 if the Social Security Act.
By Ms. MENG:
H.R. 1920.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. MENG:
H.R. 1921.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. NADLER:
H.R. 1922.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, clauses 1, 3, and 18.
By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:
H.R. 1923.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
''The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.''
By Mr. SERRANO:
H.R. 1924.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States
By Ms. SPEIER:
H.R. 1925.
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 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. SCHRADER:
H.J. Res. 46.
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 V of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 21: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 25: Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 91: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mrs. COMSTOCK.
H.R. 93: Mr. MARINO.
H.R. 131: Mr. FORBES, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 167: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, and Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 232: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 235: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 258: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 270: Mr. JONES and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 271: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 343: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 402: Mr. RIGELL.
H.R. 430: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 432: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 448: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 456: Mr. MARINO.
H.R. 484: Mr. BERA and Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 509: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 526: Mr. TROTT and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 528: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 531: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 551: Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. DOLD.
H.R. 588: Mr. BERA and Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 590: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 592: Ms. LEE and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 600: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 602: Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 606: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 610: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 649: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 662: Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 697: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 721: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. KLINE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 732: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 735: Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 738: Ms. LEE, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 745: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 748: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 767: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. CLAY, and Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 771: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 775: Ms. ESTY and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 776: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 812: Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 817: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 821: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 825: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 839: Mr. NEAL, Mr. TURNER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 842: Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BRIDENATINE, and Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 849: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 855: Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 863: Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. NOEM, and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
H.R. 881: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 885: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 887: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 912: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 927: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 928: Mr. ZELDIN and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 932: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
H.R. 953: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 963: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 970: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 971: Mr. NUGENT and Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 972: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 980: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 985: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 986: Mr. RATCLIFFE and Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 997: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 999: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 1002: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 1016: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 1019: Mr. LONG, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 1048: Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 1057: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 1062: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. NOEM, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LONG, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. RUSSELL, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1063: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 1086: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 1089: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 1090: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. DOLD.
H.R. 1096: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 1111: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 1117: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 1120: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1141: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1147: Mr. MESSER.
H.R. 1150: Mrs. BLACK, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 1170: Mr. MASSIE, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 1171: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Mr. ABRAHAM.
H.R. 1174: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 1190: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 1192: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 1197: Mr. PAYNE, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 1199: Mr. KLINE and Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 1210: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 1211: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 1221: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. POCAN, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1233: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. PETERSON, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 1234: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 1247: Mr. PETERS and Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 1249: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 1258: Mr. DOLD, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1261: Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 1263: Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 1269: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 1275: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. LEE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. FARR, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 1276: Mr. FARR, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. PETERS, Mr. Pierluisi, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1277: Mr. KEATING, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 1278: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 1288: Mr. FORBES, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1298: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 1301: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 1309: Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 1331: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1338: Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. STEWART, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. OLSON, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 1340: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. DOLD.
H.R. 1342: Mr. POMPEO, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LEE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mrs. LUMMIS.
H.R. 1343: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1349: Mr. MOULTON and Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 1356: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 1365: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 1369: Mrs. NOEM and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 1375: Ms. NORTON, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 1383: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1384: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1387: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 1388: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 1389: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 1399: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. DOLD, Mr. STEWART, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1416: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 1421: Ms. ESTY.
H.R. 1424: Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 1464: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1466: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1475: Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 1476: Mr. WESTERMAN and Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 1479: Mr. WHITFIELD and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 1482: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 1486: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 1496: Miss RICE of New York and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 1498: Ms. GABBARD and Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 1515: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 1516: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. YODER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1517: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1559: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1567: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 1572: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 1600: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 1602: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 1607: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. JONES, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1610: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mrs. LOVE.
H.R. 1614: Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. COLE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1616: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 1618: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 1621: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 1624: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 1627: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 1635 Mr. BUCK and Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 1636: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 1650: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 1654: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1658: Mr. HILL and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 1664: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 1674: Ms. EDWARDS and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1680: Mr. WALKER and Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 1684: Mr. POSEY, Mr. JONES, and Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 1688: Mr. JONES, Miss Rice of New York, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 1706: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 1713: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 1714: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 1718: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 1737: Mr. GIBBS, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 1739: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 1740: Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 1764: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 1769: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. YODER, and Mr. Zeldin.
H.R. 1779: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 1814: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 1846: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1854: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 1860: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 1861: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 1862: Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 1863: Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 1866: Ms. SINEMA and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1886: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 1887: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.J. Res. 9: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
H.J. Res. 43: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. YOHO, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. ROBY, and Mr. MESSER.
H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. POSEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H. Con. Res. 19: Ms. MOORE.
H. Res. 12: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H. Res. 15: Mr. CAPUANO.
H. Res. 28: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. COSTA.
H. Res. 56: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. CHABOT.
H. Res. 102: Mr. PETERS.
H. Res. 111: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. HENSARLING.
H. Res. 112: Mr. HECK of Nevada and Mr. GOODLATTE.
H. Res. 130: Mr. ZELDIN.
H. Res. 154: Mr. BUCK.
H. Res. 179: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 181: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Res. 208: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. COOPER.
H. Res. 210: Mr. CHABOT.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative NUNES, or a designee, to H.R. 1560, Protecting Cyber Networks Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

The amendment to be offered by Representative MCCAUL, or a designee, to H.R. 1731, National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 707: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.